

# YOUTH ASSEMBLY MESSAGES

(2013- 2022)

- 2014 - No Assembly (Ebola Virus)
- 2015 - Save Yourself From This Untoward Generation
- 2016 - Casting All Your Cares Upon God Almighty
- 2017 - Come Out From Among Them And Be Ye Separate
- 2018 - Beware Of Quick Riches
- 2019 - Youth In God's Purpose
- 2020 - No Assembly (Covid-19 Virus)
- 2021 - God's Word, The Guide For A Lost And Dying World".
- 2022 - Resisting The Pressure To Conform To This World

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# THE DANGER IN BEING SPIRITUALLY CARELESS

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**GOD'S KINGDOM SOCIETY (GKS)**

*(The Church of The Living God)*

Youth Assembly 2023

## THE DANGER IN BEING SPIRITUALLY CARELESS

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*Being the full text of the address of the President of God's Kingdom Society (GKS) – The Church of the Living God, Brother Felix Ekundayo Adedokun to the Annual GKS Youth Fellowship Assembly holding in Nigeria and Abroad on Friday, August 18 – Sunday, August 20, 2023.*

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My Dear Youths in Christ,

### **HAIL JEHOVAH AND JESUS CHRIST!**

On this occasion of the Annual GKS Youth Fellowship Assembly, I give immense gratitude, glory and honour to the Almighty Father, Whose Holy name is **JEHOVAH**, through our Redeemer and King Jesus Christ, for the enablement accorded us to be part of this year's Annual Assembly by His grace. According to the words of Jeremiah the prophet, "It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness." – Lamentations 3:22, 23.

My address to you in this year's Youth Assembly is entitled: THE DANGER IN BEING SPIRITUALLY CARELESS. The word "danger" means exposure

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Finally, Apostle Peter declared: "But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer." - 1 Peter 4:7.. See also 1 Peter 5:8,9; Titus 2:11-14.

It is my earnest prayer therefore, that the Almighty Father continues to shower His mercies on you, grant you perfection "in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen."

**Felix Ekundayo Adedokun,  
President, GKS.**

Dated: August, 2023.

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In the light of the above, it is important for you, as youths in Christ, to be circumspect by taking heed to yourselves, “lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth.” (Luke 21:34, 35) Our Saviour added: “Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.” (Luke 21:36)

There is no better time to amplify the need for sober mindedness than this age, when the devil is intensifying his efforts to weaken the resolve to serve God. See Romans 13:11-14; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-8. Saint Paul warned: “See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit”. (Ephesians 5:15-18) We cannot afford to live as if we do not have the knowledge of God to warn us against sin. Apostle Paul instructs: “Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.” - 1 Thessalonians 5:6, 8.

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or vulnerability to harm, injury, evil or loss. To be “careless” means not giving sufficient attention or thought to avoiding harm or errors. Thus, spiritual carelessness means to be negligent, indifferent or nonchalant and paying no attention or thought to the things that pertain to God and His righteousness.

The need for the children of God to be spiritually vigilant and careful especially in this age of the end of the world cannot be overemphasised. As a roaring lion and “the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience”, Satan the devil is bent on promoting violence, godless ideologies, vanities and pleasures of sin, in order to dissuade the gullible ones from the worship of the True God. (1 Peter 5:8; Ephesians 2:2) It is therefore imperative for you, as a peculiar people, to stand yourselves out, from an untoward generation, among whom you shine as lights by God's grace. - Acts 2:40; Philippians 2:15.

This noble and laudable feat is attainable when you equip yourselves with the necessary biblical principles to guard you against spiritual carelessness. Admonishing his disciples not to be spiritually careless, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ charged them thus: “Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore

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wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.” (Matthew 10:16) That Jesus Christ likened his disciples to “sheep in the midst of wolves” shows the gravity of the danger that surrounds them because a sheep cannot survive in the midst of wolves which are crafty, ravenous, violent and greedy animals. However, Christ counselled that cultivating the wisdom and circumspection of the serpent coupled with the innocent and harmless nature of the dove would guarantee our safety, survival and salvation by the grace of God.

#### **This Evil World in Prophecy**

The Holy Bible clearly indicates that in this age of the end of the world, mankind will experience a lot of evils at the instance of Satan the Devil - the god of this world. (2 Corinthians 4:4) That the rate of godlessness and wickedness in the world has risen to an unprecedented height, is a fact staring us in the face. (1 John 5:19) It is disheartening to note that mankind has degenerated to such a sorry state, that, to use the words of Eliphaz the Temanite, man has “abominable and filthy” and “drinketh iniquity like water”. (Job 15:16) Many people delight themselves in being used by the devil to fulfil “the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life” which are of the world. (1 John 2:15-17) Some give themselves to vices which scriptural prophecies highlight as signs of the last days. See 2 Timothy 3:1-5, 12.

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will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.” - Acts 17:30, 31.

#### **Sobriety and Spiritual Vigilance**

Sobriety and Spiritual Vigilance are indispensable qualities that will enable you as youths in Christ not to be spiritually careless. Sobriety means to be sober or to be in a calm and serious-minded, sensible state without any intoxication or excesses. Spiritual vigilance, on the other hand, has to do with the ability of one, based on the knowledge of the word of God to observe the times, and guard oneself from pressures and temptations in the world that lure mankind to sin.

We live in a period when, as the Bible says “men shall be lovers of their own selves, without natural affection, incontinent, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying the power therefore. (2 Timothy 3:1-5) We need therefore to be very careful as attempts to satisfy such ungodly desire lead to sin and death. “But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. Do not err, my beloved brethren.” – James 1:14-16.

### **Dangers of Spiritual Negligence**

Spiritual negligence can lead to purposelessness, emptiness, and despair. It is very important therefore for us to pay earnest heed to the words of God as contained in the Holy Bible and be regular at all Church gatherings in order to hear and learn more of God's word, and grow in the practice of His righteousness by His grace. (Hebrews 10:25; Romans 10:17) In contrast, anyone who insists on engaging in works of darkness, as enumerated in 1 Corinthians 6:9, 10 and Galatians 5:19-21 would not be saved. The prophet Zephaniah, under inspiration of God, highlights the grave consequences of turning back from following the Lord. (Zephaniah 1:6) He went on to describe the day God will destroy the wicked as "the great day of the LORD...a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness..." (Zephaniah 1:14-18) So intense would be the devastation of the wicked, that the prophet Amos pronounced "woe" on those who desire that day. - Amos 5:18-20.

The vengeance of God will surely come upon the wicked. It was Apostle Paul who declared thus: "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent: Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he

Many youths are so engrossed with worldly and sinful pleasures that "they say unto God, Depart from us; for we desire not the knowledge of thy ways. What is the Almighty, that we should serve him? and what profit should we have, if we pray unto him?" (Job 21:14, 15) I have the firm belief that, by the grace of God, no godly youth would for any reason, have such rebellious thoughts in his heart as to be carried away with the world and its godlessness. The Bible warns: "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." – Romans 12:2. See also James 1:27.

### **Examples**

It is because many fail to imbibe the godly tenets and principles conveyed in the Holy Bible that evil is going on unabated. It was St. Paul who wrote: "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope." - Romans 15:4. See also 1 Corinthians 10:6, 11.

**Nadab and Abihu**, the sons of Aaron, were spiritually careless as they did not take heed to the instructions God had given in regard to putting on fires in the tabernacle. They offered a strange fire to the Lord contrary to God's commandment. For this

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they died. (Exodus 30:9, 10; Leviticus 10:1-4) Therefore, as children of God, we should serve and worship God in the way that is pleasing and acceptable unto Him and not the way we want. “Thou hast commanded us to keep thy precepts diligently.” – Psalm 119:4. See also Deuteronomy 15:5.

**Samson:** Another example is that of Samson. In Judges chapter 13, it is stated that the angel of God appeared to Manoah and his wife and told them that she would conceive and bear a son and that during the pregnancy, she should not drink wine, strong drink or eat any unclean thing. They were also instructed that the son they would give birth to would be a Nazirite from birth. (Judges 13:2-5; Compare Numbers 6:1-27; Amos 2:11,12) To their credit, Manoah and his wife kept to the instructions given them.

When Samson became a man, time came that he wanted to marry a daughter of the Philistines called Delilah. The lords of the Philistines prevailed on her to find out from him the source of his strength - but he refused to tell her. Then “...she pressed him daily with her words, and urged him, so that his soul was vexed unto death: That he told her all his heart...”. (Judges 16:16-19) Knowing that her motives were sinister, Samson should have kept

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strictly to the Lord's instructions. It is evident that it was when he revealed his secret to her and his hair was shaved off that the Philistines were able to overpower him. “...And he awoke out of his sleep, and said, I will go out as at other times before, and shake myself. And he wist not that the LORD was departed from him”. - Judges 16:20.

However, in the course of his travails in the hands of the Philistines, Samson realized his grievous error, his hair grew back and when he prayed to God, his prayer was heard. See Judges 16:21-31; James 4:8; 2 Chronicles 15:1,2.

**Amnon**, one of the sons of King David, was spiritually careless in that he allowed himself to be filled with lust for his half-sister, Tamar. He paid heed to the ungodly counsel from Jonadab, the son of Shimeah, David's brother, to defile Tamar. This ungodly act led to his death at the instance of Absalom, who is from the same mother as Tamar. (2 Samuel 13:1-39) Godly youths should shun immorality and any enticement to engage in immoral acts as the consequences are severe and at the end leads to death. – Proverbs 4:23; Ephesians 5:3-5; Galatians 5:19-21.