



Youth's Response

Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them. – Eccles. 12:1

It is to share in all the sacrificial service, in joy and sorrow, in pain and weariness, and to boldly witness, even unto martyrdom, and to final triumph that God is calling youth always and everywhere.

But before He calls youth to share in such high enter-prise, He calls them to repentance, to separation, to heart purity. They are to be partakers not simply in His work and warfare, but of His nature, His love, and His Spirit – His holiness.

And to those who hear His call and open the door, He comes in and enlightens, transforms, purifies, sanctifies, and empowers.

The call to holiness comes with special appeal to youth, and from youth it has had its most generous and fruitful response.

It came to Joseph in Egypt, to Joshua, Samuel, David, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel, John, and Paul, when they were but boys and young men. It came to Francis of Assisi as a boy, to Savonarola and Luther, to Fox and Wesley, and his young Oxford friends, who lifted the moral life of England, purified the spiritual atmosphere of the world, and modi-fied the course of history.

It came to Jonathan Edwards, and 15-year-old William Booth who founded The Salvation Army, which in the beginning was an Army of young enthusiasts and to this day is largely officered by youths and striplings. And it came to the great exemplars and leaders of the holiness movement in America and all lands. It came to them and found glad and full response when they were but youths.

*Saviour, while my heart is tender,
I would yield that heart to Thee;*



*All my powers to Thee surrender,
Thine and only Thine to be.
Take me now, Lord Jesus, take me,
Let my youthful heart be Thine;
Thy devoted servant make me,
Fill my soul with love divine.*

– JOHN BURTON, JR.