

Chapter 18: Even Youths Grow Tired and Weary
Life Application Verses:

Isaiah 40: 27-31. Why do you complain, Jacob? Why do you say, Israel, “My way is hidden from the LORD; my cause is disregarded by my God”? Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

This flower that you see is the bloom of a rose bush that my wife and I planted in 1991, some 22 years ago. When it was planted, it was a magnificently hearty bush, full of the most beautiful blooms, and as Glorious as a radiant forest displaying God’s Glory in Nature. Twenty-two years later, like me, this rose bush is showing serious strains of aging. It’s a “shell” of its former self when it was a rose bush in its youth. Recently, while cutting the grass, and being careful not to damage the bush while mowing or eating-the-weeds (more commonly known as weed-eating; not sure why, cause I’ve never taken a bite of any weeds when I ‘weed-eat’), I was truly surprised to see this bloom because it had been a few summers since it had produced this type of beautiful flower. Just goes to show you, we old folks—excuse me – we Senior Citizens and Senior Rose Bushes—still have some tricks up our sleeves. Remember—we were young and youths once!

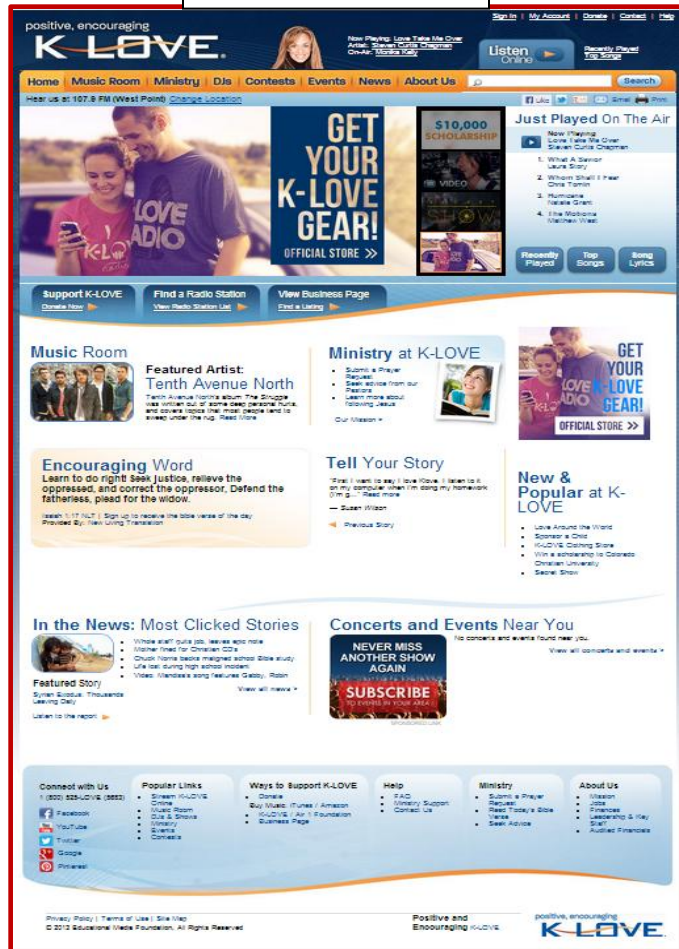


This rose bush has been through drought; cutting (*by accident, I remind you*) with the weed-eater; faced ant mounds around its roots; a scorching by the hot sun; and its surrounding fauna has grown up so, you can barely see it at times—until the hedge trimmer and weed-eater come out. Yet, it still produces what God gave it in His ‘programming’ of our natural surroundings. In all of this, the rose bush never gave up. It has a lesson for us: be always Heavenly Minded so that we never give up on our striving to fulfill His Will to do Earthly Good—and in particular with our youth of today. As it is noted in the Life Application Verses, “Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD

will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.”

There is a radio station in Montgomery that I love to listen to. It is 107.9FM (may be different in your area) and it is a contemporary Christian station. But that’s only part of what they do. They offer Ministry, Prayer, Programs, Missions, and if you visit their web page, <http://www.klove.com/>, you will see the vastness of what this radio station entails in Christian Ministry. One of their DJ’s recently traveled to various countries and he reported on what he saw in these nations in terms of their children. It broke my heart, because there is so much need in our world to help those who are truly less fortunate, and these needs include our youth. When I say youth, I refer to our children who are born, live, and grow up in families or those who come from broken homes. As the rose bush was planted, we nurtured it, kept the ‘bugs and critters’ from attacking it, and it

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produced mighty fruit—such gorgeous big red roses that you just look up to Heaven and declare the Glory of a Mighty God in His Love to us by granting us the beauty from His Storehouse of Blessings. But it takes work on our part to nurture, teach, and love our children.

I am broken-hearted when I see young people who commit crimes, with a trend—regardless of what statisticians would have us believe—that is spiraling towards more crime and depravity of the Heart. I have taught for 29 years, been involved in K-20 for those years, and have seen first-hand our youth as they mature from young people into adults. Now, please understand—it’s not hopeless yet, but I believe that unless our world, and our nation, calls

upon God for revival in the Hearts of the Christians and Christians take action as never before in the annals of Christianity, our youth will become adults and their fruit will not be positive (in general terms). IN other words, “Even [the lost] youths grow tired and weary, and young men [who don’t believe in Jesus will] stumble and fall [from a viewpoint that is of this world]; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength [because Christians have renewed their commitment to the children and youth of this nation]. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. [They will become the Generations to carry The Word of God to a lost and dying world].” (May God Approve my words.)

SO, what am I saying? While those of us who have matured in the Faith become even more-matured, we must not give up—just as that rose bush never gives up. We must first be the Voice and Feet and Hands of God in our own families to our children. If there is someone reading this chapter who does not have children of their own, ***I Pray that God will Bless you in ways that you cannot even begin to comprehend.*** Consider Ephesians 6: 4: “Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.” Let me return to the example of the rose bush: what if my wife and I had pruned the rose bush from its planting to be a thorn bush by the ‘misconduct of intentional **or** unintentional omission?’ IN other words, what if our instruction, discipline, and nurturing of the rose bush had been to ignore the roses it had potential to produce? As we nurture our own children in the admonition of the Lord, it is our responsibility to guide them, offer discipline (not mental or physical abuse), and Love them as the most precious gift (only superseded by the Gift of Christ Jesus) that God has ever given to this world. SO, again – what am I saying? I am saying that one day our Youth will grow up and they will grow weary and tired. Unless we reach them for God in Christ Jesus, they will not have hope as we have hope in our God and our Lord and Savior; they **will** grow tired and weary and stumble and fall. But what will they grow tired and weary from? And when they stumble and fall, will they be like “those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint?.” Or will they look at their world and curse it because they are lost?

That rose bush looked weary and tired; it appeared at any moment that it would stumble and fall and I would have to remove its worn out roots. You could say, “Oh, come on Ken, it’s just a rose bush!” NO, my dear brothers and sisters in Christ—that rose bush is yet another example of God’s Hand at work in our world if we but take the time to consider what He is teaching us in His wonders that surround us. His examples in Nature have Life Lessons. In this chapter, I titled it, *Even Youths Grow Tired and Weary*. That is truth (veritas) that will come to all of us at one time or another—youth, middle-aged, or in our senior years of life (like me—oh, my aching back! Lol lol lol...etc.). When I saw that rose in the yard, I was amazed and giving God Glory because it gave me example of reality—His reality. God gave me the connection that just as that rose bush produces fruit, so our youth will produce fruit. What fruit will it be? When they become leaders, what type of leader will they be? What did we do in their youth and early years to shape them into the adults that they have become? Is our job going to be a difficult job and will we grow tired and weary? Yes and probably. But the alternative is horrifying and Hell is a real place. Living apart from Christ as Lord and Savior is a warm-up for Hell, but according to God’s Words, this warm-up “ain’t even close” to the real thing.

SO, what am I saying? I am saying that our children are more precious than all the oil, gold, and precious metals on this planet. I am saying that the Christians of this nation must be as hearty and stout as my rose bush (allegory only here, please). Before our youth grow tired and weary, we must give them a home that shows ‘best practices’ (to use the vernacular) in teaching them God’s Way of Living, not the world’s misguided and skewed way of surviving. We must give our youth (who become youth from young children) the model of what it means to live a Heavenly Minded, Earthly Good life before their eyes—AND EARS! We MUST point them to the Cross and demonstrate the Salvation that the Cross offers and the LIFE that it gives us once the Salvation has taken hold. We MUST use ‘Preventative Christianity’ to enable them to prepare to be weary and tired, but to LOOK UP to Heaven and Praise God in Christ Jesus for Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness—and for Salvation (preventative = anti-worldly.)

My own granddaughter is an example. She is four at this writing, and I have been talking to her—as my wife and her mommie have also been talking to her—about God and Jesus. She understands at the age of 4 to her level of God-given understanding, that God and Jesus love

her more than anyone. She knows this because she is told this and she is taught 'Preventative Christianity' to hear about God and Jesus. We have claimed her for Christ before the Throne of Mercy and Grace to be used by God as He guides her when she is able to make her decision for Salvation in Christ Jesus. One day, when she grows older, and as a youth, she will become tired, weary, question life, get frustrated with friends, and all that stuff youth encounter. Our family is preparing her now for her future so that when she is tired and weary, she will be able to look up to Heaven and 'see the Face of God in the Spirit' and know that He loves her, and Jesus Christ is her Savior, Lord, and Friend. SO, what am I saying? I think I just said it...in terms of Heavenly Minded, Earthly Good.

Well, let me add a few things also. Remember when you read the Prologue? (I hope you read it... 😊). It noted that this book is for us "every day, ordinary, caring, Faithful" Christians. Those of us Christians who fit the profile (if that is an acceptable word today) of being ordinary every day, yet caring and Faithful in our walk with our God, are the Heart and Soul of our nation. NO, come on—we aren't 'better' than other people, which is an Enemy's ruse to keep us from thinking about ourselves as 'good citizens, parents, and employees.' We Christians do our best—and we fail like everyone else, okay!—yet, we seek God's forgiveness and we continue on the path set before us (Read Isaiah 30: 21). ON this path, we encounter children—our own, others, and in our extended families. I am asking all Christians to look ahead to the day when these children will become young people, if they haven't already. What challenges will they face? If you miss this test question, I may need to suggest remedial courses to bring you up to speed on contemporary issues. You KNOW what they will face: peer pressure, bullies, heartbreak, those red, bumpy things that show up on their face (ugh, I can't even bring myself to say it!), 'clicks', drugs, gangs, drinking-and-driving, texting, YouTube, Twitter, and Facebook. UGH, I can't even bring myself to continue this list!!!

Just like my rose bush, what foundation will our young people base their lives on? The rose bush has the Natural Laws of God; our young people will need the Spiritual Laws of God. Look----- if you are standing in quicksand, 'you gonna sink.' You standing on a rock, 'you gonna keep standing.' You get it? We, Christians and Christian parents, ----- WE are the preventative treatment for our young people. WE must reach our children often and early to bring them

into the knowledge of God in Christ Jesus. Seems like I heard something about training up a child in the ways of the Lord and when they are old—from youth on—they will not depart from it! In terms of absolutes, I must—and DO—Trust God to keep watch over my granddaughter. I have made God and Jesus known to her and given her instruction and an overabundance of our love as God guides me. Now, when she becomes a youth/young person/young adult/middle-aged adult/ and drum roll... senior citizen, when she grows tired and weary, she will not faint but look to God for Grace, Mercy, and a future Heavenly Home --- the epitome of Heavenly Minded, Earthly Good. Here is my open letter to you:

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It has been brought to my attention from my Heavenly Father that I needed to persuade you to be the Light of Heaven to your children. Shine brightly in His ways before your children. Let not your tiredness nor your weariness become a stumbling block to our little people, who will much too soon become grown people. Speak daily of the Love of God, model the Ways of the Lord, and guide your children to knowledge in the Word of God—which will be a Light unto their path and a Lamp unto their feet as they walk-about in this world. Hug them so often that they become disappointed when you forget (don't forget!), and tell them you love them so often that they develop Love-callouses on their ears. Discipline them in the Holy Love of God, teach them the Ways of God, and remember that they will leave our 'nest' long before we are ready. **Talk with them often, not at them even seldom.** Give them a place they can be themselves, not as their peers 'push them to be.' When they "go prodigal", remember to look in the mirror before you condemn them. NEVER stop praying, for in so doing, you have Lifted them up to God who ALWAYS answers prayer in His Holy Time. Best regards, DrK

A Question of Curiosity:

The most precious gift of Life is the Son of God, Christ Jesus. After Jesus, what is more precious than our children? IF this is a mystery, you can demystify this Truth with your Bible open and in front of you.

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"Children are our most valuable resource." ~ *Herbert Hoover, 31st U.S. president* ~

"I can complain because rose bushes have thorns or rejoice because thorn bushes have roses."
~ *Anonymous* ~

"If I could relive my life, I would devote my entire ministry to reaching children for God!"
~ *Dwight L. Moody, evangelist* ~

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