

Let's be the torchbearers

Empowering the youth means to empower the society, to improve the world around us. Youth is filled with vigor and potential. With these capabilities, there always remains a possibility to go wayward. As it is said that "with great power comes great responsibility", the same can be said for the youth these days. That is "with great potential, with great energy comes a great responsibility to make good use of it". No doubt, youth are always full of energy; indicating that the direction has a major role to play. The direction which this energy takes decides whether they are an asset or a liability for society. The essence of spirituality and God-knowledge provides this much-needed direction to this tremendous energy.

Spirituality acts like a GPS for mankind, especially youth. Like a GPS navigates us through the shortest and faster path to our destination, spirituality guides us through the thick and thin of life. As the use of GPS saves our fuel and helps to utilize energy in the right way, spirituality channelizes the energy of the youth showing the correct path in life. It makes us cautious of our deeds and prevents us from going astray. It also makes us efficient so that we focus only on the important things in life.

There are hundreds of choices we make every day, starting from our eating habits, dressing habits, or our small or big deeds. Every action of ours is driven by a choice-making phenomenon that runs in our brain. This phenomenon determines who we become as a person. Youth today has so much to choose from, too many options to spend their time on, and so many activities to indulge in. With the advent of modernization, these choices are growing each passing day. Among all this, it becomes of utmost importance to develop wisdom which is governed by God-knowledge. A wisdom that gives us the freedom to choose anything in this world but also bounds us at the important boundaries. A wisdom that motivates us to pursue all the worldly adventures but also permits us to dig deeper into our own selves. Such a wisdom cannot be borrowed or bought, it can only be developed with years and years of practice. As it is said that "*binn satsang vivek na hoye, ram kripa bin sulabh na soye*". This wisdom only gets developed in the company of awakened saints and by the blessings of the True Master. Once this wisdom starts playing its role in our thought process, all choices we make turn out to be correct. All actions we do turn out to be humble and we eventually grow as a responsible human being.

It is often observed that youngsters today want to remain occupied. They continuously want to indulge in some sort of activities and feel very uneasy to sit idle. Also, every individual wants to have their own representation, their individuality, and personality. If this desire gets channelized in the right manner, it can do wonders. This result has been observed in all the socio-spiritual activities of the Sant Nirankari Mission, where the entire youth family joined their hands, humbly following the commandments of the elders to make a fruitful change in the society. Be it blood donation camps, cleanliness drives, tree plantations, or automobile rallies, the youngsters of the mission have always remain motivated to put in their efforts. Initiatives like these give the right platform to the youth to leverage their potential to the maximum while also having their voices heard, their individuality respected.

I remember attending one of the Nirankari Youth Symposiums this year in India. After the program ended, all the participants were seen in a state of bliss. All of them said the same thing: "We felt this was something special as if we were doing something much beyond our capabilities. As if we were taking strength directly from the True Master sitting in front of us. As if She was holding us and guiding us throughout". I could personally feel the emotions in

their voices and love in their hearts towards the Lord Master. Every tourist in this world seeks a guide when lost. We, humans, are similar to a tourist who gets overwhelmed with all the complications and complexities of this materialistic world. As a grace, we have this ever-present, all-pervading guide in the form of our True Master, who leads us from the front and guides us at every step. They make sure the path is well lit and the devotees are aligned. They help us by sacrificing everything of their own to nurture us, shelter us and love us. It is important for tourists like us, to listen to this guide as only She can lead us to the destination. Let's become the torchbearers of Her divine light and make the vision of a global family a reality.

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