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The Secret Formula

Whenever we endeavor to do something for God the first order of business is to find out what God's will is. God has set it up so that whenever anybody agrees on Earth with what His will is in Heaven – its already done!

Matthew 6:10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, **as it is in heaven**

I have been asked over and over – how do you affect and effect youth like you do? How do you get inner city youth to go after God and read their Bibles. How do you get former

gang members to evangelize their friends and start Bible Studies on their school Campuses? I could say – “It’s because of my specialized anointing!” But do you know that there is no spiritual gift listed as a “youth anointing?” Did you even know that there is no five-fold ministry gift called the “youth minister or youth pastor?” No – there is no secret anointing for reaching youth - yet there is a Biblical formula that works with youth anywhere in any Church and in any neighborhood. I have tried it under all kinds of different circumstances and it works. The leader need not be some super-anointed person (don’t get me wrong the anointing definitely helps), but any person who is committed to God and is passionate about young people can apply my “secret formula” and see extraordinary results with young people. What is the secret formula? And Why is it a secret? The secret formula is simply - God’s will for young people as taught by the Holy scriptures. The reason why it is a secret is because hardly any youth ministers that I meet, especially in the Black church,

seem to know what God's will is for youth. If any church is going to have an effective youth ministry it must be built on this "secret formula." I have been interviewed many times for youth ministry positions and even those who were in charge of making the decisions to hire the next youth pastor didn't have a clue as to what they should be looking for: Some seemed to think it was all about finding someone the kids could relate to. So they brought in some twenty-seven year-old hip-hopper, wearing his hat backwards with a hoop-earring. Others thought that the youth needed someone who could entertain them; make them laugh Eddie Murphy – lead them in worship like Fred Hammond – Produce music tracks like J. Moss and pay them two times less than the church janitor. But in all of my interviews no one ever asked me what my formula was for Youth Ministry. Let's look at a few scriptures that will allow us to discover the "Formula"

Mark 10:13 And they brought young children to him, that he should touch them: and *his* disciples rebuked those that brought *them*.

Mark 10:14 But when Jesus saw *it*, he was much displeased, and said unto them, **Suffer the little** children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God.

This scripture reveals many things about God's will for young people.

1. God wants young people to be brought to Him, not religious activity. Jesus represented an outside the box approach to God. It was fresh and unaccepted by the religious leaders. (I know some holy hip-hopper is reading this going "see that's what I'm talkin' bout!")

Jesus was not anything that was contrary to God's will; He was the essence of it.

2. God's will is that young people be prioritized when the church comes together. Youth activities are not to be second fiddle to the Adult service. For instance; the church shouldn't budget \$5000.00 a week toward Adult-themed ministry and then budget \$50.00 a week for youth ministry. (This happens all of the time) Jesus implies that children are the prototype of what citizen of "the kingdom of God" should be like. Therefore they should be put first when decisions are made. Many Churches build a gym and youth facility first when they get ready to build a new church – this is an example of prioritizing youth.
3. God's will is that the church place no hindrances in the way of young people coming to Him thus the phrase "forbid them not." The phrase "suffer the little children" means to "allow the children." This implies

that if there are no hindrances children and youth will continually be coming to Christ. This inadvertently suggests that if a ministry does not have youth currently coming to Christ continually, there must be hindrances in place that is preventing this. (This is Huge!)

4. It is God's will that youth be saved: *John 3:3* Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be **born again**, he cannot see the kingdom of God. If we put this with the former scripture "for such is the kingdom of heaven (referring to youth) we understand that the kingdom is comprised of born again young people. Statistics confirm this idea. It is said that 80% of those who will ever be saved are saved before they are 18 years old... "for such is the kingdom..."

If any church or individual will cooperate with these principles, they will be very successful in reaching youth – this absolutely guaranteed.

What is God's will for the individual youth?

Luke 2:52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with **God and man**.

This scripture reveals how Jesus, who was twelve, grew up into a mature vessel fit for the Father's use. This also shows us the four areas that we should accommodate in youth ministry.

5. God's will is that saved youth are taught wisdom – The method in which they learn to make decisions today, in which they will be pleased with tomorrow.

6. God's will is that saved youth are helped to excel in the natural – academically, financially, and athletically. How do they dress? How do they keep their temple? Teaching them sexual purity.
7. God's will that saved youth grow spiritually as a Christian. They are to be held accountable to live the Christian life.
8. God's will is that young people grow up to be not only good for Church but good for life ie, good employees; good husbands; good wives; good business owners; productive citizens who live above reproach. It is God's will that His are "ten times better" than the children of the world. (Daniel 1:20)

These are the foundational truths that I used to build successful ministry with.

