Our Young, Gifted, and Black

Psalm 139:13-14

There was a time when being young, gifted, and Black was special. Black Pride and Black Empowerment was a movement that captured the heart of every Black community in America. Understanding we cannot relive or bring those days back; we can work to continue to empower our young people to be all they can be.

Being "Young, Gifted, and Black", during the 1960s meant embracing a heritage and legacy that inspired and empowered Black people. This period marked a time of self-discovery and purpose for youth, driven by the Civil Rights Movement and influential figures like Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, and Nina Simone. The phrase itself symbolizes the potential and value within youth. It encouraged them to understand their worth, pursue their aspirations, and contribute to uplifting their community. This era cultivated pride, unity, and resilience among individuals playing a vital role in driving significant social progress.

In contrast, today presents a landscape where feelings of apathy and despair are increasingly common among Black youth. Structural challenges such as racial disparities, educational inequalities, and social injustices have created an environment where many of our Black youth feel marginalized and disheartened. Negative portrayals in the media only worsen self-esteem issues and diminish ambitions. The lack of community support systems further deepens this sense of hopelessness.

The transition from feeling empowered to disheartened is quite concerning. This is a situation that requires action on the part of the church to rekindle the sense of hope and potential that used to define what it means to be "Young, Gifted, and Black."

What led to this shift? The move, from a time of pride and empowerment to one characterized by apathy and despair can be attributed to factors such as oppression, economic instability, and societal neglect. Nonetheless, these obstacles are not impossible to overcome.

This is a situation, and a moment in time when the church can play a role. Throughout history, the church has been a cornerstone of support within the Black community, offering spiritual guidance, social assistance, and leadership. Today we must step up again.

Become a guiding light for disillusioned, but gifted young people. The church can provide a space where youth can receive encouragement, mentorship, and a sense of belonging. By nurturing an atmosphere of love, inclusivity, and empowerment the church can help young Black individuals rediscover their abilities and inspire a will to change and press forward.

This requires a movement that can address challenges head-on and there is no reason why it cannot begin within this church. Ours is the only movement built on faith, empathy, and fairness that stands as a standard bearer of hope for our young people.

This church is again involving itself in the economic development and uplift of young people. We are attempting to mobilize resources and rally community support. We need your help; we need your participation. The church can be involved in the change in the lives of our youth, but you are needed as well.

When we cast our cares on Jesus, we can be assured of His presence. We can count on His guidance and protection. Jesus will give us the needed knowledge to navigate through the chaos that is in front of us. He will steer us around what is in front of us or He will give us what we need to go through it.

Won't you get involved in this effort? Why not come out and lend your support, your presence, and your resources? Be a blessing to a young person and realize how that can enrich your life. You will be engaged in the uplift of our "Young, Gifted, and Black.

Blessings,
Pastor Gool