

Wise Beyond Your Years

By Stephanie (Hicks) Downard

1 Timothy 4:12 says, "Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity." In the world today, we face a lot of temptations, and our morals are always being tested. When a single day is filled with pressure, seemingly impossible choices, and so many other difficulties, it can be hard to navigate through it all. Living for God is not an easy path, but the rewards are worth more than anything this world can offer you.

I once tried to live in the world, and ran as far away from God, as fast as I could. I was angry, confused, and the world seemed so inviting to me. The further from the Lord I got, the more pain I felt. I ended up in an abusive relationship that became the worst years of my life. My son seemed like the only joy I had left.

Little did I know that God wasn't through with me yet. He allowed me an escape from that bad relationship, and though it would take a few years, He has led me back to the church.

I am blessed that God has given me another chance, and the opportunity to use my experiences to help others.

I am more than happy to share my story with anyone who wants to hear it or just wants a testimony of God's love. But, for now, I wanted to show you that God uses the hard times to strengthen us, and make us wiser.

As the future generations of the church, we need to set the example for even younger generations. Get in your bible and read, find a church elder or trusted member to talk to, and don't be afraid to ask questions.

God has chosen us to continue the work He left for his people. There is strength in our youth, and imaginations, that many adults have lost.

Let's use our gifts to inspire, and lift each other up. Mark 10:15 "Verily I say unto you, whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein." END