1 Timothy 4:12 is all about not letting people look down on us because of our youth. In this verse I think there are five major examples of what it means to be young in age but mature in faith. First is in our speech. The words we use can be slanderous when describing others or vulgar words that a believer should not use. The choice not to use these words can make the difference in whether you are seen as young or mature. The second example is in how we conduct ourselves. This could be from the choices we make, to the people we associate with. The Bible is not specific with what exactly this means, but we can assume it encompasses every part of life.

The third thing is an example we set in love through the way we love others, ourselves and God. Love is a recurring theme throughout the Bible. Jesus says the greatest commandment is to love God and then love others as we love ourselves. Fourth is the faith we have in God’s love. During my recent travels to South Africa, I saw the faith in the young children’s eyes. Faith was all they had and all they needed. You need to show others your faith in Christ. The last example is purity. Your relationship with God should be pure, and so your relationship with others should be the same. Other people watch how you act, and these are important examples that will make a major difference in a Christ filled life. They will determine whether people see you as simply young in age with lots to learn, or mature in faith and a person they want to get to know in order to know more about God.

**Life Question:** How can you grow closer to God by working on the ways you lack in being seen as young to others?

**Prayer:** Dear Heavenly Father, help me to grow in all aspects of this verse, so that others do not look down upon me because I am young. Amen.

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