*From the Pastor’s desk:*

**No Matter What, Stand Out!**

Key Scripture: "Do not let anyone think less of you because you are young but be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, your love, your faith and your purity" **(1 Timothy 4:12 NIV)**

From this key scripture we can learn many things. But I will focus on just two points for this week.

1. **Making a difference does not have an age limit.**

No matter how young or old we may be, we shouldn't use it as an excuse to get out of doing what is right and standing up for God and His Word. Take, for example, the young slave girl in 2 Kings 5. She had no reason to speak up to help Naaman and yet she did because she had been brought up with the knowledge of God and how to treat others around her. She could have simply stayed quiet or despised Naaman for taking her as a slave in the first place, but she did not.

1. **We are a standard**

Despite what is going on around us, we must always bear in mind that we are a standard. We are set apart from worldly things and it's not because we are better than anyone else; it is simply because of the grace God has chosen to show us. And if this is the case, we are not permitted to hide in the crowd. Jesus instructs us in the Bible according to **Matthew 5:14-16** that our light should not be hidden but shown to the world so that the world knows that it is our Heavenly Father that has empowered us to do so.

**1Jn 2:17 AKJV** states, **“And the world passes away, and the lust thereof: but he that does the will of God stays for ever.”**

I therefore encourage us not to conform to the standards of the world. Instead, strive to STAND OUT and please God. I pray God grants us increasing grace to stand out and speak out for Him and the good of His Word in Jesus's name. AMEN.

**Written by Sis Nancy Morakinyo**