

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE

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Our Spiritual Progression

1 John Series on Genuine / Confident Christianity

1 JOHN 2:12-14

Life is full of growing. When we are born, we begin growing. We learn many things in our first five years. We learn how to walk, talk, behave, to dress ourselves, we learn how to clean ourselves, and take care of ourselves. These are the formative years where a child will learn to be the person he or she is going to be. We learn how to treat others and how to be treated. The learning doesn't stop there. From 5 to 6 years old the child goes to school and for the next 12 years they will be learning and growing. After school many will go to college, and some will go to work. At college the professors will stretch the students and challenge the students to learn and be responsible. At work the boss will give the man or woman job responsibilities. As they perform their jobs and begin to grow in their knowledge and production, they at times will get raises or job promotions. They are constantly growing. Life is full of growing. **The Christian life is no different.**

The Lord Jesus expects us to progress. Biblical Principle: God wants us to grow up before we grow old! Are we progressing in the faith? Are we growing more like the Lord Jesus Christ? This passage reveals the spiritual groups of the Christian faith. Every single believer falls into one of these categories.

I. A REMINDER GIVEN TO THE SAVED. (Vs. 12:13c)

Children: means 'born ones.' It comes from a verb meaning 'to birth' or 'to bring into existence.' This is a term of endearment describing all of God's people. When we are saved we are born again and we are babes in Christ. No one is born into the family of God fully mature. Just as it is in the physical realm, no baby is born into this world mature. How do we know that he is writing to the saved?

John continues, "*because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake.*" Every godless deed we've done, every godless thought that we have had. Our sins have been forgiven. **Forgiven:** means to send away or to *send forth*. John reminds the people of God that their sins are forgiven for His name's sake. (**Acts 4:12**)

John moves from the saved to just the saved. John had been speaking to all believers, but now he moves to those who are just saved, those babes in Christ. God has supplied all that we need to grow. *He has given us His **Spirit**, His **Scriptures**, and His **saints** to help us grow.* Just as a physical baby needs to grow, so does a spiritual baby.

Next, we see:

II. A RESPECT GIVEN TO THE SANCTIFIED (Vs. 13-14a)

Those who are truly justified will seek daily to be sanctified!

John now moves from the children of the faith to the fathers of the faith. John is not writing to the gray-haired men in the congregation, "men" is a generic term referring to all sexes not just men. Many in the world today that are Christians are just saved, they have never moved to sanctification. The apostle Paul was a father in the faith.

(**1 Corinthians 4:15-17**) and now we see:

III. A REASSURANCE GIVEN TO THE SOLDIER. (Vs. 14b-C)

A. The Source of the Soldier's Strength. (Vs. 14b)

John is describing the warriors in the Lord's army. **Strong:** is a word which relates to physical strength but which can also be rendered 'mighty.' In the context of the scripture John is talking about spiritual strength. **Here's the key: John says, "you are strong, and the word of God abides in you," The word of God didn't abide in them because they were strong; they were strong because the word of God abided in them.** **Abide:** means 'to come to live,' 'to dwell,' or 'to reside.' Spiritual Truth: When we begin to get a grip on God's word, then God's word begins to get a grip on us.

B. The Success of the Soldier's Stand. (Vs. 14c)

Overcome, means 'to get the victory, prevail, and conquer.' Many of the verbs in this passage of Scripture are in the perfect tense. This is used only when an action in the past has effects on the present. The soldier's present victory is because the Savior's past victory at Calvary. **We are more than conquerors.** (**Romans 8:37-39**)

The enemy does not always drop bombs from the sky, but they send missiles under the water.

They do not always attack in the daylight, but they sneak in at night. The enemy doesn't always attack from without, but many times they attack from within.

To progress spiritually it is going to take forsaking ourselves, being filled with the Spirit, and fighting Satan every day.