

LIVING TRUE NORTH

A Study of 1 John



Stages of Spiritual Growth
1 John 2:12-14

Dr. Bill Wilks
February 22, 2017

It is a normal part of life that children grow up. Healthy children will go from childhood to adolescence to mature adults.

Unfortunately, this is not always true in the Christian life. Some believers never grow up. They remain spiritual infants their whole lives. They never practice the disciplines needed for spiritual growth.

In our text, John explained the three different stage of spiritual growth.

Main Thought...

➤ *It is God's plan for all believers to grow into _____ disciples who _____ other disciples.*

1. Little Children who know they are _____ (v. 12, 13c)

- The _____ in the Church (Lk. 15:7, 10)
- The _____ in the Church (1 Cor. 3:1-4)

1 Pet. 2:2-3

2. Young Men who know how to _____ (v. 13b, 14b)

2 Cor. 10:3-5; Eph. 6:11-12; 2 Tm. 3:16-17

3. Spiritual Fathers who know the _____ (v. 13a, 14a)

Phil 3:10; 4:11-13; Job 13:15a; 2 Tm. 2:1-2

Responding to God's Word . . .

- *What _____ are you in your spiritual growth?*
- *Are you _____ you think you should be?*
- *What _____ do you need to take to move to the next level?*

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1 Peter 2:2-3 - *Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation—if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.*

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 - *For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ.*

Ephesians 6:11-12 - *Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.*

2 Timothy 3:16-17 - *All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

Philippians 3:10 - *That I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death.*

Philippians 4:11-13 - *Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.*

Job 13:15a - *Though he slay me, I will hope in him.*

Job 13:15a (NKJV) - *Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him.*

2 Timothy 2:1-2 - *You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.*