

# Personal/ Small Group Sermon Study

## Spiritual Growth is Evidence of Your Salvation

Week of April 18, 2021 A.D.

### 1 John 2:12-14

It is the will of God that every child of God is to experience a lifetime of spiritual growth. Let's talk about that in this lesson.

#### Read 1 John 2:12-14

1. Do all believers in Christ belong to the family of God? Do any non-believers (i.e. those who do not rely upon the atonement of Christ for their eternal salvation) belong to the family of God? Please explain the reasons for your answers.
2. Please explain the distinction between those believers who are: (a) spiritual children; (b) spiritual fathers; and, (c) spiritual young men.
3. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "Only a believer in Christ can truly know (have a family relationship with) God. Every person who truly knows God will experience spiritual growth."

#### Read 1 John 2:12

4. Please explain the connection between 1 John 2:12 and 1 John 2:1-2.
5. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "Jesus is the only human being who has ever perfectly obeyed God. Therefore, as 1 John 2:12 states, our sins are forgiven – not for our sake – only for the sake of Jesus."

#### Read 1 John 2:13

6. Do all "dear children" of God eventually mature to become "fathers" within the family (i.e. the church) of God? If not, why not? If so, how and why? Please explain the reasons for your answer.

7. Why would a Christian choose to remain a spiritual child rather than become a spiritual father? Are there any risks involved in remaining a spiritual child? If not, why not? If so, what are those risks? Please explain the reasons for your answers.
8. In your opinion (a) what does it take for a Christian to become a spiritual father? and (b) when does the spiritual growth process end (if ever)?
9. In verse 13, why does John write to the “young men”? Are the “young men” more spiritually mature than the men that John calls “fathers”? How does a believer “overcome the evil one”? Does the believer’s battle with the evil one ever come to an end? If so, how and when? If not, why not? Please explain your answers.
10. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: “in verse 13, John writes to the ‘dear children’ to encourage them to always remember that God loves them, that God will never disown them, and that they have a personal family relationship with God in which God wants to conform them to the likeness of His son.”

### **Read 1 John 2:14**

11. In verse 14, John writes to the “fathers” the same words which John wrote to them in verse 13. Why is it important for the fathers (i.e. those who are the spiritually mature members of the church) to remember that God “is from the beginning”? Will any human ever know all that there is to know about (a) who God is? and/or (b) our relationship to God and with God? What priority does God expect each of us to assign to the task of developing our personal relationship with God during our life on earth? Please explain your answers.
12. In verse 14, John adds some words to the message which John wrote to the “young men” in verse 13. In verse 14, is John referring to (a) physical strength, (b) spiritual strength, or (c) both. Can the “young men” believers be strong if the word of God does not live in them? Must every believer in Christ (regardless of his or her chronological age) study and live the word of God every day? Please explain the reasons for your answers.

**Consider:** To those who receive Jesus as their Savior and Lord, to those who believe in His name, Jesus gives the right to become children of God. God has given to us the Holy Scriptures so that by them we may grow up in our salvation, now that we have tasted that the Lord is good. “You think about that.” Amen.