

ARE WE GROWING UP IN CHRIST?

1 John 2:12-14

Spiritual children. 1 John 2:12-13

- All **believers** are spiritual children. 1 John 2:12; John 1:12; 3:3, 7; Matt. 5:3-4; Acts 16:31; 4:12; Titus 3:5; 1 Pet. 1:22-23; Luke 24:47; Col. 1:14
- Little children are **immature** believers. 1 John 2:13; Heb. 5:12-13; 1 Cor. 3:1-3; Eph. 4:14-15; 1 Cor. 13:11; Matt. 19:27; Gal. 5:22-23; 1 Cor. 12:1-12

Spiritual young men. 1 John 2:13-14

- Found **strength** in the Lord. 1 John 2:14; Eph. 6:10-20; 2 Cor. 3:5-6; 12:9-10; Phil. 4:13; Gal. 2:20; 1 John 4:4; Zech. 4:6; John 15:4-5
- Found the **Word** of truth. 1 John 2:14; Col. 3:16; 2 Tim. 2:18; 1 Pet. 2:2-3; Ps. 119:105; Jer. 15:16
- Found the victory over the **evil** one. 1 John 2:13; Matt. 4:1-11; James 4:7-8; 1 Pet. 5:8; Eph. 6:10-20; Rom. 6:13; 1 John 4:4

Spiritual father. 1 John 2:13-14

- **Time**. 1 John 2:13-14; 2 Tim. 1:5, 12; 3:15; 1 Cor. 3:1-3; Heb. 5:11-6:4
- **Transformation**. 1 John 2:13-14; Acts 8:1-4; 9:1-9; 1 Cor. 13:11; Rom. 8:29; 12:1-2; Gal. 2:20
- **Training**. 1 John 2:13-14; Eph. 4:12-16; 1 Tim. 1:1-8; 2 Tim. 1:2; 4:22

According to John MacArthur, misconceptions about spiritual growth must be carefully avoided.

- First, spiritual growth does not determine the believer's standing in grace before God.
- Second, spiritual growth does not affect God's love for believers.
- Third, spiritual growth is not measured by the calendar.
- Fourth, spiritual growth is unrelated to the amount of theological information believers know.
- Fifth, spiritual growth has nothing to do with outwardly successful ministry activity.
- Finally, spiritual growth is not mystical, sentimental, or psychological.