

A Strong Place
The Growth Curve

I John 2:12-14

¹² *I write to you, little children, Because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake.* ¹³ *I write to you, fathers, Because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, Because you have overcome the wicked one. I write to you, little children, Because you have known the Father.* ¹⁴ *I have written to you, fathers, Because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, Because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, And you have overcome the wicked one.*

Three Stages of Growth

(1) Children

- This is the foundation of the Christian life
- “*your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake.*”
- “*you have known the Father*”
 - *And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. - John 17:3*
- This is experiencing and understanding the power of the New Birth.

(2) Young men

- This is where we learn to fight and win life's battles.

(3) Fathers

- This is where you start to reproduce your life in others – making disciples; bringing people into the Kingdom of God (new births).

★ You never neglect the earlier stage, you build on it.

The Rewards of winning your battles

Most people are stuck at stage two.

They are not reproducing because there are unresolved struggles and sin issues in their own life. This is very much mirrored in our secular society, where young adults are prolonging marriage & children due to the broken areas they see in their own lives.

*I have written to you, young men, Because you are **strong**, and **the word of God abides in you**, And you have **overcome the wicked one**. (v. 14)*

This is not three statements but one.

This is modeled by Jesus Himself in Matt 4:1-11 in the temptation in the wilderness.

Matt. 4:11 – “Then the devil left Him.”

Overcoming comes by believing what God's Word says about your situation.

- *Eph. 1:6 - He made us **accepted** in the Beloved.*
- *Most of what you heard last week from Romans 8 will empower you in almost any situation.*

Which stage are you?