

# FIRST JOHN

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The Stages of Spiritual Growth // 1 John 2:12-14

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# Tests of Assurance

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John may have written verses 12-14 to **encourage** those who may have been troubled by his previous statements.



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2. Spiritual **Young Men** (v. 13b; 14b)
3. Spiritual **Fathers** (v. 13a; 14a)



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John uses three different terms to give us three different stages of spiritual development.

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Every healthy church has ALL three stages represented  
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*"God's family, like every human family,  
has members of different maturity."*

John Stott

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The Truth about Spiritual Growth:



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- Spiritual growth takes intentionality.



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We become a part of God's family  
when we are born again—Jn. 3



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An action that happened in the past  
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*"As far as the east is from the west, so far God has removed  
our transgressions from us." Psalm 103:12*

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*"For I will forgive their iniquity and their sin I will remember no more."* Jeremiah 31:34



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WHY are we forgiven?

It's because God wanted to display the character of his love and grace and mercy.



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"children"

Verse 13

Greek (*paidia*) = little child; little one; toddler

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A distinguishing mark of a young Christian is they rejoice in their new **relationship** with their heavenly Father.

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You cannot grow apart from the **Word of God**.



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The spiritually mature are **composites** of both spiritual children and spiritual adolescents.



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Spiritual fathers/mothers are those who **reproduce** themselves spiritually through the process of **discipleship**.

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