# Letter of Faith & Assurance

1 John 2:12-14

“Every Stage of Life Included”

**Introduction:** So far, John has taught us about forgiveness for sins and about the requirements for authentic fellowship with God. Now, here is one of those passages that sort of jumps out of place it seems.

There are three obvious divisions in this text and are generally understood as:

“Little Children” – Those who have just come to know Christ as their Savior and have much to grow and learn

“Fathers” – Those who are spiritually mature and know God well.

“Young Men” – Those who are in a development stage although in a place of strength and energy and growing.

“Little Children” – reference to all believers in whatever church receives the letter (2:1, 2:18 plus six other times)

**I. John is writing to “Little Children” who have come to know Christ.**

A. Because your sins are forgiven you.

1. You have trusted in Jesus Christ.

a. You know the difference He has made in you.

b. You have experienced the change and peace.

A. Their faith is under attack by the Gnostics.

1. Gnostics saying they could know God by their intellect and not through Jesus.

a. They were denying the virgin birth and diety of Jesus.

b. He was visited by the Holy Ghost but departed before he died.

2. John is reminding them that they know God

a. that there is no forgiveness of sin without Jesus

b. that there is no communion with God without Jesus.

c. God only forgives a man for Jesus name’s sake.

3. Gnostics thinking was creeping into the churches.

B. Our sins are forgiven because of Jesus.

1. Our sins are not forgiven because we say, “forgive me God”

2. We come to (approach) God by faith in Jesus Christ.

a. Forgiveness does not come simply because of a belief in a creator God.

b. It only comes when we approach God through the only mediator that God provided.

c. Forgiven only through faith in Jesus death, burial and resurrection which He did for you.

**II. John is writing to “Fathers” who are spiritually mature.**

A. Because ye have known Him from the beginning.

1. You can wear the title “Father”

a. You have reached the level of spiritual maturity.

b. You know better and your response should be a stand against the rejection of truth.

2. You have known Him intimately.

a. Others should obviously know who the “Fathers” are

b. All should reach a place in their life to know Him.

B. We should come to a place where we have known Him.

1. So when modern day theologians say……

a. We say, Oh No! that is not true, because I know Him.

b. I have fellowship with Him for years.

c. I have experienced His power in my life.

d. I have experienced His presence.

2. We should know Him too well to believe what some new person begins to think about Him.

a. We ought to see movement in our life toward knowing Him

b. There should be visible progress in our life.

c. There should be growing and maturing.

3. We should be concerned about a profession of faith in our life that does not move us forward spiritually.

a. We should desire spiritual growth and progress.

b. We should strive to see more spiritual maturity in our life in every year.

4. Without spiritual maturity where will our “fathers” come from.

**III. John is writing to “Young Men” who are developing.**

A. Because you have overcome the wicked one.

1. Does not mean that they are sinless.

a. See a person make a profession and years later they appear the same as they did before.

1) still bound to the same sin

2) nothing changed in their lifestyle

b. See a person get saved and years later they are not the same person as they were before.

1) lifestyle is different

2) not bound to the vice of sin anymore

3) the devil is not in control of their life

2. They are on their way to spiritual maturity and growth.

a. The Word of God is having great effect on their life.

b. They are set on a different course than the world is going.

B. Because you are strong and the Word of God abideth in you.

1. Their strength is not in their youth or physical maturity.

2. Their strength is in the power of God’s Word.

**Conclusion:**

Is Jesus mastery over my life growing?

Do you see any growth in your life spiritually?

Not have you seen, although that is a good question…

Is there right now any continual spiritual maturing in your life?

There should be…

We should be able to identify the authentic marks of His ownership in our lives.