

# Discipleship

## (7) Provisions for Growth in Christ

1 John 2:12-14

12 I am writing to you, little children, because your sins have been forgiven you for His name's sake. 13 I am writing to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I have written to you, children, because you know the Father. 14 I have written to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been 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 evil one.

Heb 5:12-14

12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. 13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. 14 But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.

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### Addressing our growth stages...I Jn.2:12-14, Heb.5:12-14

What is absolutely clear from this passage? **I Jn.2:12-14** (NOTE: All are equally loved!)

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Does our *physical* age have anything to do with our *spiritual* age? **II Tim.1:5**

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According to 2:13b, what do *little children* (2:12) learn to become *children*? **2:13b**

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So what is *required* to produce this transition? **II Tim.2:15, 3:16, 4:2; Rom.10:17; Heb.4:12**

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List some of the ways we are exposed to the Word of God. (nearly unlimited...)

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What's required to grow from *children* to *young men*? **2:13b;14b**

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What's the common denominator here with *little children* to *children*? **2:13b**

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What's the mark of a spiritual *father* (mature adult, **Eph.4:13**)? **2:13a, 14a; Jn.1:1-5**

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### Provisions for each step

What is the primary *source* of spiritual growth? **Acts 17:11, 20:32; II Tim.3:15-17; Eph.6:17**

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What 'helpers' do we have in this process? **Eph.4:11-16; IICor.3:15-18**

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### Addressing our growth stages...I Jn.2:12-14, Heb.5:12-14

What is absolutely clear from this passage? **I Jn.2:12-14** (NOTE: All are equally loved!)

**All believers go through various stages in growth. Seem to be sequential. Fathers is last.**

Does our *physical* age have anything to do with our *spiritual* age? **IITim.1:5**

**Maybe, but in general, no. And sometimes we can 'regress' in our behavior! Not good!**

According to 2:13b, what do *little children* (2:12) learn to become *children*? **2:13b**

**The little children know Jesus; need to know the Father. Jn. 6:37, 44; 8:19; 10:27-30**

So what is *required* to produce this transition? **IITim.2:15, 3:16, 4:2; Rom.10:17; Heb.4:12**

**It's always the Word of God which changes the heart. It's about the *content* not how!**

List some of the ways we are exposed to the Word of God. (nearly unlimited...)

**Hearing Word, gifted Christians, assembly together, groups (large / small), witnesses...**

What's required to grow from *children* to *young men*? **2:13b;14b**

**Become strong (spiritually), Word of God abides in you and you have overcome evil one.**

What's the common denominator here with *little children* to *children*? **2:13b**

**It's always the Word. It's not where or even how the Word is received. It's the Word!!**

What's the mark of a spiritual *father* (mature adult, **Eph.4:13**)? **2:13a, 14a; Jn.1:1-5**

**You have known Him who has been from the beginning. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

### Provisions for each step

What is the primary *source* of spiritual growth? **Acts 17:11, 20:32; IITim.3:15-17; Eph.6:17**

**It is always the Word of God. We are to study it, meditate on it, apply it to ourselves!**

What 'helpers' do we have in this process? **Eph.4:11-16; IICor.3:15-18**

**He gave us Apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers to equip the saints...**