

## **The Three Levels of Maturity**

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*I John 2:12-14*

### **Little Children**

“ I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for His name sake.”

“ I write unto you, little children, because you have known the Father.”

Why do we need our sins forgiven? And how can we know the Father?

### **The Fall Of Man.**

Gen 3:1-15

#### **Result Of The fall:**

John 3:19-21-“Light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light.”

Romans 3:10-18-“There is none good, no not one.”

Eph. 2:1-3 “Dead in trespasses and sins,” “the spirit that works in the children of disobedience” and “they were by nature children of wrath.”

Acts 13:46-“Judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life.”

I John 3:10-“Children of the devil.”

John 8:44- “you are of your father the devil.”

Rom. 6:17-“Slaves of sin.”

I Peter 3:19-“Spirits in prison.”

Romans 9:23-“Vessels of wrath.”

Romans 5:12-“Death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.”

### **The Provision For Our Sins Through Christ’s Substitutionary Death.**

John 3:16-“For God so loved the world that he sent His only begotten Son.”

II Cor. 5:19-“To wit, that God was in Christ Jesus reconciling the world unto Himself.”

Col. 1:14-“Through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins.”

Romans 3:24-25-“Justified freely by his grace, through faith in his blood.”

I Peter 1:18-20-“Redeemed by the precious blood of Christ.”

Heb. 10:12-“One sacrifice for sins forever.”

## How is Christ Made Mine?

**John 1:12**-“As many as receive Him to them gave he power to become the sons of God.”

**Acts 16:31**-“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shall be saved.”

**Titus 3:15**-“Not by works of righteousness which I have done but according His mercy He saved me.”

**Romans 3:24**-“Being justified freely by His grace through Christ’s redemption.”

**Romans 3:28**-“A man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.”

**Eph. 2:8-9**-“For by grace you are saved, through faith.”

**Romans 10:9**-“Confess with your mouth, and believe in your heart, you shall be saved.”

## How Can I Have The Assurance Of My Salvation?

**Hebrews 4:9-10**-“There remains a rest, labor to enter in.”

**Hebrews 11:6**-“For without faith it is impossible to please God.”

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### **Young Men**

“I write unto you, young men, because you have overcome the wicked one.”  
“I have written unto you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the wicked one.”

How do we overcome the wicked one? Our sins are forgiven, but how about victory over sin, Satan, the works of the flesh, and the world?

### **Victory And Power In Daily Living**

**Romans 5:10**-We are reconciled to God, by His death, but saved daily by His life.

**Eph. 3:19**-“That you might be filled with all the fullness of God.”

**I Cor. 2:10**-“That we might know the deep things of God.”

**Eph. 1:18**-“That you might know the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints.”

**II Cor 9:8**-“God makes all grace abound towards you that we might have all sufficiency in all things.”

### **The Provision For Daily Living--The Body Death Of The Cross**

**Romans 6:6**-“The old man is crucified with Christ.”

**Galatians 2:20**-“I am crucified with Christ, I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.”

**II Cor. 5:21**-“Christ was made sin, that we might be made His righteousness.”

**Romans 6:2**-“We are dead to sin.”

**Colossians. 2:11**-“We are circumcised with Christ, putting off the body of sins.”

**Romans 6:3**-“We are baptized into His death.”

**2 Peter 8:1**-“We are partakers of the divine nature.”

**Colossians 1:22**-“In the body of His flesh to present you holy, and unblameable.”

**Hebrews 10:10**-“We are sanctified through offering of the body of Christ.”

**Hebrews 10:14**-“By one offering He hath perfected forever them who are sanctified.”

## **The Law, Not Sin, The Problem**

**Romans 7:4**-“You also have become dead to the law by the body of Christ.”

**Romans 6:7**-“He that is dead is freed from sin.”

**Romans 6:14**-“Sin shall not have dominion over you for you are under grace.”

**I Cor. 15:56**-“The power of sin is the law.”

## **How Does This Work Out As Our Experience?**

**Romans 7:15**-“For that which I do I allow not: for what I would that do I not; but what I hate, that I do.”

**Romans 7:24**-“O wretched man that I am who shall deliver me from the body of this death?”

## **Why Do We Experience the Bondages & Defeats of Romans 7?**

Because not having completely learned, or easily forgetting, the basic helplessness of self, and its only function to be the container of the Spirit, we are constantly assaulted by temptation to be something or do something or not do something. Obey those commands pray more, give more witness more, be more patient, don't lose your temper, get rid of those evil thoughts, struggle against your lusts, and so on.

## **The human being is only a receiver & not a producer of righteousness.**

**John 15:1**-You are the branch, not the vine.

**Romans 9:22**-We are vessels of mercy, but formally vessels of wrath, but always vessels.

**I Cor. 6:19**-“You are the temple of the living God.”

**Romans 6:17**-You are slaves of righteousness, formally slaves of sin.

**Romans 6:7**-“He that is dead is freed from sin.”

## **The Human Being Has Never Been An Independent Self.**

**I John 3:10**-“Child of the devil, child of God.”

**I John 4:6**-“He that is in this world, and He that is in us.”

**I John 4:6**-“Spirit of truth, and Spirit of error.”

**Galatians 2:20**-“I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me.”

**Romans 7:17**-“It is not I, but sin that dwelleth in me.”

## **The Leap Of Faith**

**Colossians 3:3-4**-“Christ, who **is** my live.”

**Galatians 5:24**-“In Christ we **have** crucified the flesh.”

**Romans 6:6**-“The Old self **is** crucified with Christ.”

**Colossians 3:9 ; Eph. 22-24**-“You **have** put off the old man with His deeds.”

**Colossians 3:10**-You **have** put on the new man which is renewed with a new mind.

## **Soul and Spirit Differences**

**I Thes. 5:23**-“Sanctify your spirit, soul and body.”

**Matt. 11:28-29**-“There is a rest for our souls.”

**Hebrews 4:13**-“Sabbath rest for the people of God.”

**Hebrews 4:13**-“Diving soul from Spirit, joints and marrow, thoughts and intents.”

## **The School of Faith**

**Hebrews 11:6**-“For with faith it is impossible to please God.”

**Mark 11:22**-“Have the faith of God, say unto this mountain be thou removed and cast into the sea. And whatsoever you say, you shall have.”

**Romans 4:17**-“Call the things that be not as though they are.”

## **Detachments**

**( Nothing in this life is yours)**

**Luke 14:26-27**—“Hate not his father, mother, wife, children, brethren & his own life.”

**Genesis 22:2**-“Take thy son, thine only son Isaac, & offer him there a burnt-offering.”

## **The Life Of Faith**

**Romans 4:20**-“Abraham staggered not at the promises of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being fully persuaded that, what He had promised He was able also to perform.”

**Hebrews 11**-The great heroes of faith.

## **The Three Levels of Maturity**

## *I John 2:12-14*

### **Fathers**

“I have written unto you, Fathers, because you have know Him, that is from the beginning.” Our life is poured out for others.

John 21:18-“Another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou would not.”

### **Credentials of an Apostle**

John 10:17-18-“Why does the Father love me?” “Because I lay down my life, that I might take it again.” “I have power to lay it down and I have power to take it up again.”

Hebrews 5:14-“He that is full of age has their senses exercised to discern good and evil.”

I Corinthians 4:9-15-“God has set for the Apostles as last as it were appointed to death,” “We are fools for Christ sake, but you are wise, we are weak, we are despised,” “Being reviled, we bless, being persecuted we suffer it, being defamed, we retreat.” “We are made the filth of the world, and the off scouring of all things.”

II Corinthians 1:5-“For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us,”

### **Works of an Father/Apostle**

Ezek. 22:30-“I sought for a man to stand in the gap.”

Colossians 1:24-“I fill up that which is behind of the sufferings of Christ.”

Galatians 6:2-“Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”

### **The Call Of An Apostle/Intercessor**

Don’t look for your intercession, and when it comes you won’t want it.

Jesus said “Take this cup from me.”

Jonah 1:2-“Arise go to Nineveh,”

Exodus 3:10-“I will send thee unto Pharaoh”

Isa. 6:9-“Go, and tell this people.”

John 1:6-“There is a man sent from God.”

### **The Cost of an Intercessor**

**Isa. 54:4**-“He bore our grief, and carried our sorrows.”

**Isa. 53:12**-“He has poured out his soul unto death.”

**II Corinthians 1:9**-“We have the sentence of death in ourselves.”

**II Corinthians 4:8-12**-“We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed: we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus might be made manifest in my mortal flesh.”

**II Corinthians 4:11**-“For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus’ sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.

### **The Completion and Fruit Bearing Of An Intercessor**

**II Corinthians 4:11b**-“Death works in us, but life works in you.”

**John 12:24**-“If the seed die, it brings forth much fruit.”

**John 15:16**-“He has chosen you to bring forth fruit and that your fruit should remain.”

**Hebrew 2:10**-“Bring many sons to glory”

Published by:  
Christ, Our Life Ministries  
PO Box 43268  
Louisville, Ky. 40253

(502) 245-4581