

## SPIRITUAL MATURATION

Reference: **I John 2:12-14**

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There are three distinct categories of Christians mentioned in this passage: “**little children**”, “**young men**” and “**fathers**”. These groups represent three different stages or strata’s of spiritual maturation.

Question: how does someone grow spiritually? Consider this formula.

\_\_\_\_\_ X \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_ = a mature Christian

John itemizes three different stages of spiritual growth; and in doing that, helps us see where we are in this maturation process.

GROUP ONE \_\_\_\_\_ Christians

**verse twelve**, “I write unto you, **little children**, because your sins are forgiven you for His name’s sake.”

**verse thirteen c**, “I write unto you, **little children**, because you have known the Father.”

These “*little children*” from **verses twelve** and **thirteen** represent immature Christians.

GROUP TWO \_\_\_\_\_ Christians

**verse thirteen second part**, “...I write to you, **young men**...”

**verse fourteen second part**, “I have written to you, **young men**...”

These “*young men*” from **verses thirteen** and **fourteen** represent maturing Christians.

John mentions three characteristics all maturing Christians manifest

- maturing Christians manifest \_\_\_\_\_  
**verse fourteen** (cont’d), “I have written to you, **young men**, because **you are strong**...”
- maturing Christians \_\_\_\_\_ Scripture  
**verse fourteen** (cont’d), “and **the word of God abides in you**.”
- maturing Christians \_\_\_\_\_  
**verse fourteen** (cont’d), “and you have **overcome the wicked one**.”

Reference: **I Peter 5:8** (see screen)

GROUP THREE the \_\_\_\_\_ mature Christians  
**verse thirteen**, “I write unto you, **fathers**, because **you have known Him** that is from the beginning.”

**verse fourteen**, “I have written unto you **fathers** because **you have known Him** who is from the beginning.”

These “*fathers*” from **verses thirteen** and **fourteen** represent the most mature Christians.

Reference: **Jeremiah 9:23** and **24** (see screen)