

SERMON NOTES

Growing Up 6 - Fathers

1 John 2:12-14 (NKJV) - 12 I write to you, little **children**, Because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake.

13 I write to you, **fathers**, Because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I write to you, **young men**, Because you have overcome the wicked one. I write to you, little **children**, Because you have known the Father.

14 I have written to you, **fathers**, Because you have known Him who is 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 wicked one.

John writes to encourage them in these 3 categories of spiritual growth, and to motivate them to keep growing up.

The Signs / Marks of these stages of maturity...

1. **CHILDREN** - KNOW THE FATHER AND HAVE HAD THEIR SINS FORGIVEN

Know Him as a Good father and rely on the forgiveness of your sins.

Prodigal - Lk 15:11-32

The Father... is trustworthy. He never changes. He IS Love.

Your sins are forgiven, even when you're a baby Christian. Stand in it. Don't despise or lose it.

2. **YOUNGSTERS** OVERCOME EVIL ONE AND GET WORD IN

"young men ... you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, And you have overcome the wicked one"

Not a victim...an Overcomer. Strong in Christ.

ATTITUDE

Hebrews 10:38-39 (NKJV) - 38 Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him."

39 But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.

HIS SPIRIT

Acts 1:8 (NKJV) "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Ephesians 1:19 (NKJV): 19 And what [is] the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

Ephesians 3:16 (NKJV): 16 That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;

HIS ARMOUR

Ephesians 6:10-18 (NKJV) 10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual [hosts] of wickedness in the heavenly [places.]

13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;
16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.
17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;
18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—

FAITH

1 John 5:4 (NKJV) For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world--our faith.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (NKJV) 3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh.
4 For the weapons of our warfare [are] not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,
5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,

HIS WORD

His word REMAINS in you. Practical:

- Study and memorise word
- Front foot aggressors
- See obstacles as a fight to win ● FIGHT!

James 4:7 (NKJV) — Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

3. **FATHERS KNOW JESUS...**How do we come to "know Jesus"?

- It's more than mere acquaintance or "head knowledge"

1 John 3:1 (NKJV) - 1 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. 2 Cor 5:16 "we regard no one according to the flesh"

- We must walk with Him, talk and listen,

John 14:17 (NKJV) - 17 "the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.

- Follow and Identify with Him...Suffer and conquer with Him - Become like Him and take His mission as your own

Philippians 3:7-12 (NKJV) - 7 But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ.

8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ

9 and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;

10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

11 if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

12 Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.

1 Corinthians 6:17 (NKJV) — But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.

Ephesians 5:30 (NKJV) - 30 For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones.

1 Corinthians 2:16 (NKJV) - 16 For "who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

Apostle John started as a "son of thunder" (Mk 3:17, Lk 9:51-56) and ended up the apostle of love leaning on Jesus chest at supper (Jn 13:23-25).

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDES

Remember that the aim of the small group is to foster discussion and community, rather than for the leader or one individual to preach to everyone.

1 - Often an **Icebreaker question** is a great way to start discussion. You could ask a question like:

- What were the highs or lows of your week?
- What is your earliest memory?
- If you had to describe yourself as one animal, what would it be and why?
- What is your favourite type of holiday destination?

2 - Next, **read the passage**. You can ask various people in the group to help by each reading a portion of the passage.

3 - These are the **main questions** to ask to understand the passage:

- What is the main message of this talk / passage?
Allow discussion and even diverging from the main topic if it is helpful.
- What did you find particularly helpful or challenging?
- What did you not fully understand?
- What can we do PRACTICALLY in response to this teaching?

4 - Close by offering **prayer** for each person.

- Ask, "how can we pray for you / each other now?"
- Ask each person to pray or you, as leader, pray for each person's need

The blessing and opportunity in Small Groups is the possibility for...

- Each person to contribute and/or ask questions,
- People to pray for each other and to ask for prayer,
- People to learn to use and grow in their gifts,
- Community, friendship and intimacy in relationships.

God Bless you in this very important ministry.