

The Seasons of a Spiritual Man

“Man Power 2022”

Introduction: Today we will see through 1 John 2 that God charges to men in two distinct directions and grow through three stages.

- 1. LIVE VERTICAL - to God through prayer, worship, and the word**
- 2. LIVE HORIZONTAL - in fellowship with men of victory**

Then, there are three distinct growth stages of men

- 1. YOUNG BELIEVERS – those that need spiritual milk and careful nurturing.**
- 2. MEN THAT ARE GROWING UP – those that are fighting and winning in life through God’s Word and Prayer!**
- 3. FATHERS – those whose produce fruit in most all areas and are teaching, mentoring, and taking sons into maturity.**

1 John 2 Amplified Bible *My little children (believers, dear ones), I am writing you these things so that you will not sin and violate God’s law. And if anyone sins, we*

have an Advocate [who will intercede for us] with the Father: Jesus Christ the righteous [the upright, the just One, who conforms to the Father's will in every way—purpose, thought, and action]. ² And He [that same Jesus] is the propitiation for our sins [the atoning sacrifice that holds back the wrath of God that would otherwise be directed at us because of our sinful nature—our worldliness, our lifestyle]; and not for ours alone, but also for [the sins of all believers throughout] the whole world.

**1. LIVE VERTICLE! IN WORSHIP, PRAYER
AND HIS WORD – Daily Victory Programs!**

³ And this is how we know [daily, by experience] that we have come to know Him [to understand Him and be more deeply acquainted with Him]: if we habitually keep [focused on His precepts and obey] His commandments (teachings). ⁴ Whoever says, “I have come to know Him,” but does not habitually keep [focused on His precepts and obey] His commandments (teachings), is a liar, and the truth [of the divine word] is not in him. ⁵ But whoever habitually keeps His word and obeys His precepts [and treasures His message in its entirety], in him the love of God has truly been perfected [it is completed and has reached maturity]. By this we know [for certain] that we are in Him: ⁶ whoever says he lives in Christ [that is, whoever says he has accepted Him as

God and Savior/ ought [as a moral obligation/ to walk and conduct himself just as He walked and conducted Himself. ---

2. LIVE IN FELLOWSHIP WITH MEN OF VICTORY AND EVANGELIZE!

⁸ *On the other hand, I am writing a new commandment to you, which is true and realized in Christ and in you, because the darkness [of moral blindness] is clearing away and the true Light [the revelation of God in Christ] is already shining.* ⁹ *The one who says he is in the Light [in consistent fellowship with Christ] and yet ^[a]habitually hates (works against) his brother [in Christ] is in the darkness until now.* ¹⁰ *The one who ^[b]loves and unselfishly seeks the best for his [believing] brother lives in the Light, and in him there is no occasion for stumbling or offense [he does not hurt the cause of Christ or lead others to sin].* ¹¹ *But the one who habitually hates (works against) his brother [in Christ] is in [spiritual] darkness and is walking in the darkness, and does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes.*

THREE GROWTH STAGES OF MEN

1. YOUNG BELIEVERS – those that need to be nursed with milk and careful nurturing.

Hebrews 5:12 *For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. ¹³ For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. ¹⁴ But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.*

¹² *I am writing to you, little children (believers, dear ones), because your sins have been forgiven for His name's sake [you have been pardoned and released from spiritual debt through His name because you have confessed His name, believing in Him as Savior].*

3. FATHERS – those whose produce fruit in most all areas and are teaching, mentoring, and taking sons into maturity.

¹³ I am writing to you, fathers [those believers who are spiritually mature], because you know Him who has existed from the beginning.

2. MEN THAT ARE GROWING UP – Fighting and winning in life through God’s Word and Prayer!

I am writing to you, young men [those believers who are growing in spiritual maturity], because you have been victorious and have overcome the evil one.

I have written to you, children [those who are new believers, those spiritually immature], because you have come to know the Father.

¹⁴ I have written to you, fathers, because you know Him who has existed from the beginning.

I have written to you, young men, because you are strong and vigorous, and the word of God remains [always] in you, and you have been victorious over the evil one [by accepting Jesus as Savior].

- **DO NOT LOVE THE WORLD**

¹⁵ Do not love the world [of sin that opposes God and His precepts], nor the things that are in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world—the lust and sensual craving of the flesh and the lust and longing of the eyes and the boastful pride of life [pretentious confidence in one’s resources or in the stability of earthly things]—these do not come from the Father, but are from the world. ¹⁷ The world is passing away, and with it its lusts [the shameful pursuits and ungodly longings]; but the one who does the will of God and carries out His purposes lives forever.

- **DON'T BE DISCOURAGED WHEN YOU SEE SOME GO INTO ERROR AND BACKSLIDE!**

¹⁸ Children, it is the last hour [the end of this age]; and just as you heard that the antichrist is coming [the one who will oppose Christ and attempt to replace Him], even now many antichrists (false teachers) have appeared, which confirms our belief that it is the last hour. ¹⁹ They went out from us [seeming at first to be Christians], but they were not really of us [because they were not truly born again and spiritually transformed]; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out [teaching false doctrine], so that it would be clearly shown that none of them are of us.

- **GOD'S SPIRIT WITHIN YOU IS THE EVER PRESENT AND RELIABLE TRUTH, GUIDE, AND TEACHER!**

²⁰ But you have an anointing from the Holy One [you have been set apart, specially gifted and prepared by the Holy Spirit], and all of you know [the truth because He teaches us, illuminates our minds, and guards us from error]. ²¹ I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it, and because no lie [nothing false, no deception] is of the truth.

