

## **FAQ: Spiritual Growth and Understanding God's Glory - 1 John Lesson 31**

August 13, 2025

### **What is the primary focus of this teaching on spiritual growth?**

The primary focus is on understanding the different levels of spiritual maturity within the Christian family. It emphasizes that salvation is a gift of God's grace—not something earned—and that spiritual growth (sanctification) is a continuous process. The teaching identifies three main categories of spiritual growth: little children, young men, and fathers.

### **How does the teaching differentiate between salvation and sanctification?**

The teaching states that spiritual maturity is "not a matter of your salvation; it's a matter of your sanctification." Salvation is God's act of forgiving sins for His own glory, not because of human merit or worthiness. Sanctification is the ongoing process of spiritual growth, progress, and development in one's walk with God, which is directly connected to spiritual maturity.

### **What are the characteristics of 'spiritual little children'?**

"Spiritual little children" are new believers who have come to the Lord and "known the Father." Their primary characteristic is an emotional attachment to God, delighting in their new life and dependence on Him, and expressing unconditional love for God as their Father. They are guided more by affections than by knowledge and often attach themselves to 'spiritual heroes.' A key challenge for them is a lack of discernment, which makes them easily deceived, vulnerable to cults and false teachings, and prone to being led astray.

### **What defines 'spiritual young men' and how do they overcome the 'wicked one'?**

"Spiritual young men" are characterized by their knowledge of theology and sound doctrine, moving beyond emotional attachment to a solid grasp of biblical truth. They are "strong" because "the word of God abides in them" (1 John 2:14). They overcome the "wicked one" (Satan) not by direct physical confrontation, but by discerning and resisting false religious systems, lies, and deceptive ideologies that Satan promotes. Their strength in the Word of God makes them resistant to false doctrines.

### **How does the teaching explain God's motivation for forgiving sins?**

God's motivation for forgiving sins is entirely for "His name's sake" and for "His glory." It is not based on human worthiness, deserving, or merit. Forgiveness puts God's grace and power "on display." The teaching emphasizes that when believers confess their sins, it should be with the understanding that forgiveness glorifies God, showing His willingness and pleasure in forgiving sinners.

### **What is the significance of the repetition in John's epistle, as mentioned in the teaching?**

The repetition in John's epistle (and in other epistles) is a deliberate stylistic choice for emphasis. John repeats ideas "over and over again" to make them clear, to embed them in the reader's mind, to encourage them, to give them joy, to affirm their salvation, and to confirm their status as children of God with forgiven sins.

### **What is a key reassurance offered to 'spiritual babies' in this teaching?**

A key reassurance is that "immaturity isn't equal to being unconverted." Even if one is a spiritual baby and has not yet developed significant spiritual maturity, they are still a Christian if they have been saved. The teaching acknowledges different growth stages while affirming that salvation is a foundational gift from God, regardless of one's current spiritual maturity.

### **What practical applications or events are mentioned in the teaching outside of the theological discussion?**

The teaching includes various practical announcements and prayer requests:

- August memory verse: Psalm 99:5 ("Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at His footstool—He is holy.")
- Request for attendees to bring breakfast dishes (protein focus).
- Elders' meeting and a Women's Fellowship event (sign-up required).
- Reminder for newsletter submissions.
- Prayer requests for: Pamela's brother, Vin (housing, job, van needs), Vanessa (Valinda's niece with seizures), Tony and Judy (safe travel to Colorado), Katie Maakestad's granddaughter Dahlia (recovery after extended hospital stay), and Joyce (continued prayers).
- Humorous anecdote from Pastor Steve about a finger injury caused by slicing sourdough bread.