

April 10, 2022

Lesson 12 — 1 John 2:1-17

- In v.12-14 John continues to encourage them in their obedience by explaining the different stages of their spiritual growth.
- Then in v.13-14, John will describe the spiritual status of those who have become ‘*fathers*’ and ‘*young men*’ in the faith.
 - **1 John 2:1-17 —** *13a I am writing to you, fathers, because you have known Him Who is from the beginning. 14b I have written to you, fathers, because you have known Him Who is from the beginning.*
- John calls them ‘*fathers*’ because they ‘*have learned*’ to ‘*walk*’ by the Spirit through the many and varied circumstances and trails of life.

- Let's remember that they had come to be '*fathers*' because they have learned to '*walk by the Spirit*'. This is what the Apostle Paul tells us about how he had become a *father in the faith*.
- In ***Philippians 4:12-13***, Paul tells us how he matured:
 - *I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am, 13 therefore, I can do all things through Him Who strengthens me.*
- Paul had learned to be content by learning to overcome the evil one. And this is what John tells us in v.13b & 14b about how a child in Christ becomes a young man.
 - *13 I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one.*
- They had learned that they were not fighting to gain the victory over Satan but were fighting to declare Jesus' Victory over Satan.
- They, like Paul, had to learned to *let the Word of Christ dwell in [them] richly...(Col.3:16)*

- In **2 Corinthians 12:2-10**, Paul shares how he learned to overcome the evil one:
 - *2 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago...4 was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible Words... 7 Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me — to keep me from exalting myself! 8 Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me. 9 And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in [your] weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. 10 Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.*