

## **The Study of 1 John: Joy Through Abiding Fellowship** **Spiritual Growth – 1 John 2:12-17**

**Hermeneutics:** The value of the original language in clarifying the obscure.

### **The Stages of Spiritual Growth:**

*"12 I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven for his name's sake. 13 I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, children, because you know the Father. 14 I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one."* (1 John 2:12-14)

1. **All believers (Teknon, born ones) are forgiven.**  
You become one of the little children through faith in the work of Jesus.
  
2. **Three phases of growth:**
  - **Children:** You know the father (Apprentice).
  
  - **Young men:** You have overcome the evil one through the word (Journeyman).
  
  - **Fathers:** You know Jesus (Master).

### **Be Careful What You Love:**

*"15 Do not love the world or the things 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 desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life is not from the Father but is from the world. 17 And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever."* (1 John 2:15-17)

1. **Love for the world interferes with our intimacy with God.**
  
2. **The things that are in the world.**
  - Lust of the flesh
  
  - Lust of the eyes
  
  - Pride of life
  
3. **Love for the world's system is futile because it is "passing away."**

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Discuss the stages of growth and how they impact your life, 1 John 2:13-14.
2. Discuss ways someone might overcome the world system, 1 John 2:15-17.
3. What is the significance of the world passing away and our lives today? 1 John 2:17.