

Appreciating our Spiritual Progress

1 John 2:12-14

- I. Our Encouragement: You have come this far in your relationship with God already (1 John 2:12-13b)!
 - John *is writing* (present tense) to believers who have already attained much in their walk with God
 - A. Like **dear children**, we can enjoy God's continuing forgiveness (1 John 2:12).
 - B. Like **fathers**, we have the confidence that comes from knowing the eternal God (1 John 2:13a).
 - C. Like **young men**, we have experienced spiritual victories over Satan already (1 John 2:13b).
- II. Our Challenge: Keep growing stronger – to face the temptations and falsehoods ahead (1 John 2:13c-14; see 2:15-27)!
 - John *has written* (past tense) to believers to give them confidence that they can know God better and be stronger still.
 - A. Like **dear children**, we not only have forgiveness, we know God personally as our Heavenly Father (1 John 2:13c).
 - B. Like **fathers**, we are getting to know God better and better (1 John 2:14a).
 - C. Like **young men**, we already have victories over Satan, but as we abide in God's word, there will be many more (1 John 2:14b).