

1 JOHN 2:12–14

# Growing Through Every Stage of Spiritual Life

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Growing Strong in Christ Through Every Season of Life

Children know forgiveness • Young men overcome • Fathers know God

# A generation asking, “Am I growing?”

Not just career progress — spiritual progress.

- Young adults wrestle with comparison, anxiety, and identity.
- Singles wonder about calling, future, and belonging.
- Couples and parents feel pressure to succeed and survive.
- John reminds us: spiritual maturity is the real measure.



# Why John wrote

To restore assurance, truth, love, and spiritual maturity.

*“I am writing to you, little children,  
because your sins are forgiven for his  
name’s sake.”*

— 1 John 2:12

- False teaching created confusion and uncertainty.
- John writes pastorally: “little children.”
- He identifies three stages of spiritual growth.

**Truth • Love • Obedience • Assurance**

# Three stages. One calling.

God calls every believer to keep growing.

**1 Children** Know forgiveness

**2 Young Men** Overcome the evil one

**3 Fathers** Know Him deeply

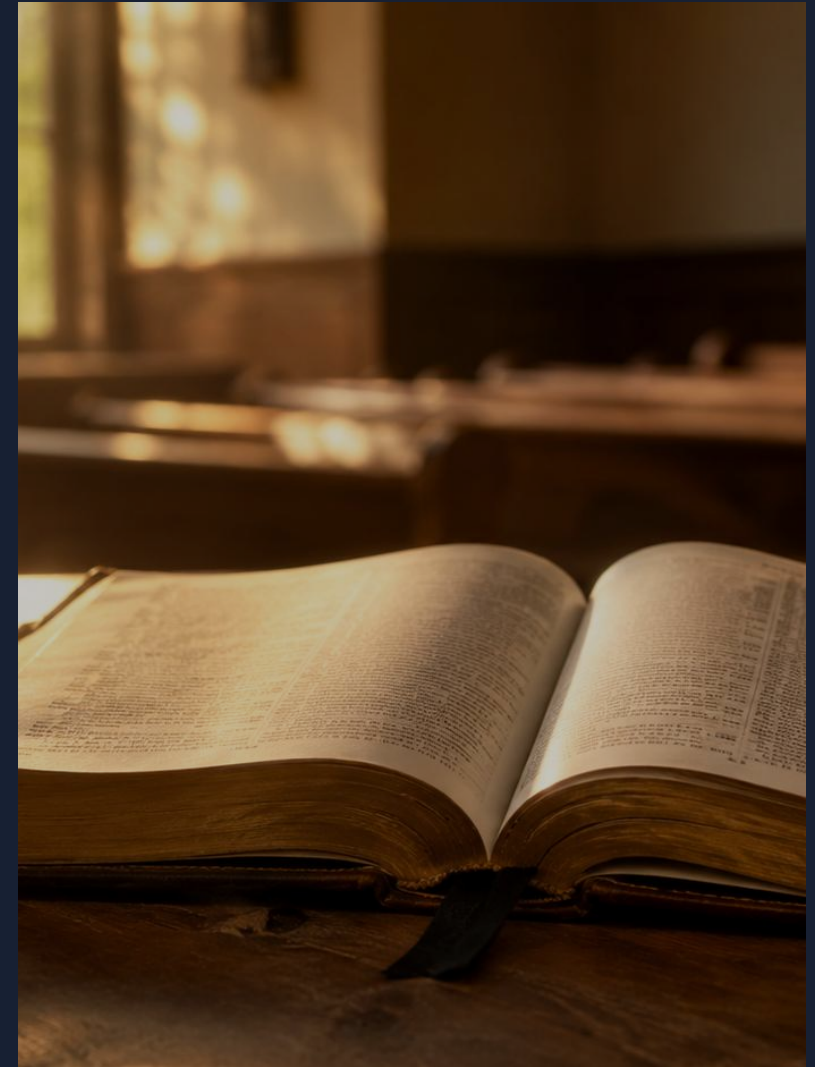
## Spiritual children know their sins are forgiven

1 John 2:12

*“Your sins are forgiven for His name’s sake.”*

### — 1 John 2:12

- Forgiveness is the foundation of Christian identity.
- The Christian life begins with grace, not performance.
- Assurance grows when we rest in Christ’s finished work.



# Salvation by grace — not performance

Justification grounds assurance.

- Salvation: God rescues sinners through Christ.
- Justification: God declares believers righteous by faith.
- Assurance: believers can rest because Christ is sufficient.
- Identity: forgiven children live from acceptance, not for acceptance.

## Romans 5:1

*“Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God.”*

# When guilt and comparison drain the soul

The gospel speaks to anxiety, shame, and hidden failures.

- Young adults carry regrets, relational wounds, and fear of failure.
- Parents feel guilt over exhaustion and inconsistency.
- Singles battle loneliness and pressure to “prove” themselves.
- Christ says: your worst moment does not define your final identity.

## Punch line

**God does not love you because you perform; God loves you because you belong to Him.**

## Spiritual young men are strong in spiritual battle

1 John 2:13–14

*“You have overcome the evil one.”*

— **1 John 2:13**

**The Christian life is not a  
playground; it is a battlefield.**



# Spiritual warfare and the Word of God

“The Word of God abides in you.”

- Spiritual Warfare: believers face real opposition from the evil one.
- Authority of Scripture: God’s Word exposes lies and strengthens obedience.
- Union with Christ: victory flows from belonging to Christ, not self-confidence.
- Sanctification: God trains believers through battle, not comfort alone.

**You cannot defeat lies if you do not know truth.**

# Modern battles for ages 20–40

The enemy often attacks identity, desire, and endurance.

- Pornography, sexual temptation, and secret shame.
- Materialism, career idolatry, and burnout.
- Social media comparison and online identity pressure.
- Loneliness, anxiety, depression, and spiritual inconsistency.
- Parenting stress and fatigue in young families.



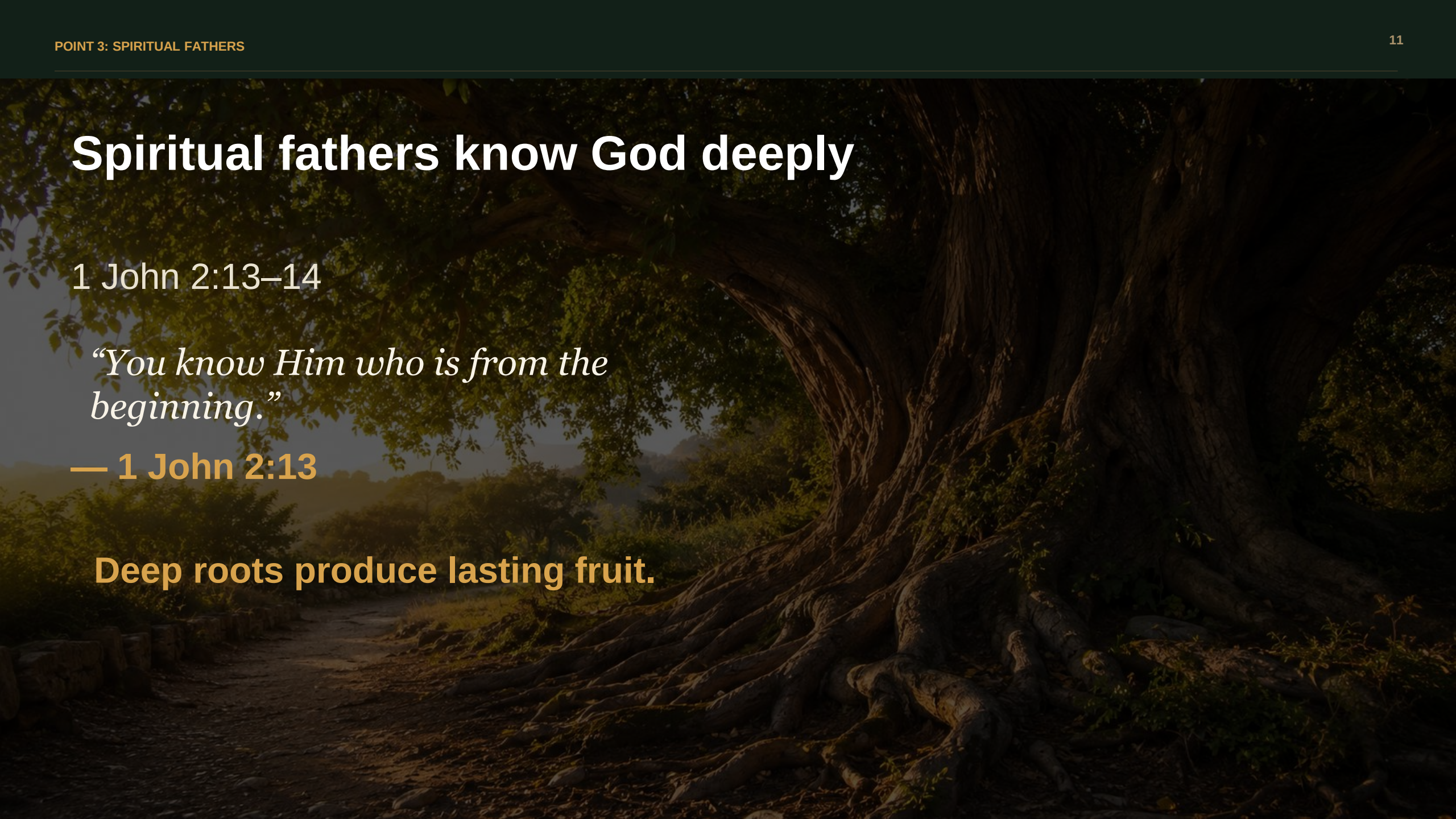
# Spiritual fathers know God deeply

1 John 2:13–14

*“You know Him who is from the beginning.”*

— 1 John 2:13

**Deep roots produce lasting fruit.**



# Maturity is intimacy with God

Not merely knowing about God — knowing God.

- Union with Christ: believers live in ongoing fellowship with Jesus.
- Sanctification: God shapes us through every season.
- Perseverance: maturity learns to keep trusting through storms.
- Discipleship: mature believers help others grow.

*The goal of Christianity is not merely knowing about God — it is knowing God.*

# Grow strong through your season

One sermon. Different burdens. Same Christ.

## **Singles**

Let loneliness drive you toward Christ, not away from Him.

## **Young Professionals**

Do not build identity on career success.

## **Couples**

Spiritual intimacy must grow with emotional intimacy.

## **Young Parents**

Your greatest task is raising disciples, not only successful children.

## Growth is possible because salvation is finished

- God created us to know Him.
- Sin separated us from God.
- Jesus lived, died, and rose again for sinners.
- Everyone who repents and trusts in Christ receives forgiveness and new life.



# Where are you in your spiritual growth?

Children. Young men. Fathers. Every stage needs Christ.

- Need assurance? Rest in forgiveness.
- Facing battle? Let the Word abide in you.
- Longing for maturity? Know God more deeply.
- Not yet in Christ? Repent and trust Him today.

## Closing Prayer

Father, deepen our assurance, strengthen us in battle, and grow us into mature disciples of Christ.