

## SPIRITUAL GROWTH & MATURITY



It is important to know that as you read the chart below that spiritual growth and maturity come because of being in community. Every soldier trains for battle and it all begins in boot camp. When the soldier has completed their basic training, they move on to more advanced training such as weapons training, and all training is done in community for there is no one-man army. The soldiers training is never complete; and so, it is with those in the Christian army.\*

The categories of spiritual growth are taken from (1 John 2:12-14), and the sub-categories stand for our physical growth through the years. Just as we grow physically, we must also grow spiritually which is shown in the growth category. Finally, the last category lists our vulnerabilities in relation to our spiritual maturity, which our enemy the devil is very aware of, and he will always attack us in these areas. “Be serious! Be alert! Your adversary the Devil is prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for anyone he can devour” (1 Peter 5:8).

Category	Sub-Category	Growth	Vulnerability
<p><b>CHILDREN</b> (1 John 2:12-14)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infant (0-2 years old)</li> <li>• Preschool (3-4 years old)</li> <li>• Kindergarten (5-6 years old)</li> <li>• Elementary (7-12 years old)</li> <li>• Junior High (13-14 years old)</li> <li>• High School (15-19 years old)</li> </ul>	<p>While all children grow physically, they must also grow spiritually. They must be fully trained &amp; aware of the schemes of the devil or they will fall prey to his tactics. They grow &amp; continue to mature through the practice of the spiritual disciplines through the training &amp; aid of their more mature comrades.</p>	<p>All children are very vulnerable and can be easily deceived &amp; led astray. They fall away from the ranks due to improper training. We must keep an eye on our children!</p>
<p><b>YOUNG MEN</b> (1 John 2:12-14)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• College Age (20-25 years old)</li> <li>• Young Men (26-30 years old)</li> </ul>	<p>They are fighting the battles &amp; winning. They continue to grow &amp; mature in the faith by practice of the spiritual disciplines through the training &amp; aid of their more mature comrades.</p>	<p>They may easily tire &amp; become discouraged from fighting the battles &amp; fall to the schemes of the devil. They have fallen away from the ranks &amp; each has gone their own way.</p>
<p><b>FATHERS</b> (1 John 2:12-14)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Middle Age (30-35 years old)</li> <li>• Fathers (36-45 years old)</li> <li>• Grandfathers (46 and up)</li> </ul>	<p>These men are the battle-hardened veterans who have experienced &amp; won the battles of life, and they continue to advance in their spiritual growth by practice of the spiritual disciplines with their comrades in arms.</p>	<p>They have a false sense of security believing they are no longer vulnerable to the tactics of the devil. As a result, they fall victim to the tricks of the devil, because they let their guard down.</p>

\* For further information on this subject see also *The Quest For Purity: Vol. I: How to Reclaim God's Perfect Design for Sex and Relationships*, chapters 2 and 6.