



September 4 & 5, 2010  
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### Three stages of spiritual growth:

#### I.

*Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father."* Galatians 4:6

*In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."* John 3:3

The position of the child:

Negative aspects of infancy:

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*Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming.* Ephesians 4:14

*We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ.* Colossians 1:28

#### II.

*That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life.* 1 John 1:1

The position of the father:

Two facts about the knowledge of God:

A.

B.

*When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me.* 1 Corinthians 13:11

#### III.

*. . . I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one.* 1 John 2:14b

The position of the young man:

Two factors to consider:

A. His eyes are open to the \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

*For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.*

Ephesians 6:12

B. He has learned to \_\_\_\_\_.

*Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.*

Ephesians 6:10

*"If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. 8This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples."* John 15:7-8

*But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.* Hebrews 5:14

***But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.***

**2 Peter 3:18**