

The Significance of Abiding in Christ for a Victorious Christian Life

1 John 2:12-14

Moving from the context of darkness vs. light, John once again addresses all of his readers as children. *τεκνιον* – Born ones in verse 12 (1 John 2:1, 28; 3:7, 18; 4:4; 5:21; John 13:33 cf. Gal 4:19; Phlm. 10 (cf. 1 Cor 4:15; 1 Thes 2:7)).

All saints are children in our position before the Father. This also refers to the newly saved (sins forgiven because of Jesus name’).

This is the first reference to the “name” in the epistles (cf. 3:23; 5:13; 3 John 7), and it has a close relationship to John 20:30–31, the purpose statement of that Gospel.

Moving from the positional nature of all saints in Christ, John addresses the experience and maturity of saints.

The order of address: fathers, young men: 1 Tim 5:1; Titus 2:2–8

Knowing God: 1 John 2:3–11

Victory: 1 John 5:4,5,19

παιδιον – young growing children in verse 13 (cf. 1 John 2:18; John 21:5 cf. 1 Cor 4:15).

In the first series (vv. 12–13b) we have the minimal spiritual experience for each stage of spiritual life. In the second series (vv. 13c–14) we have the maximal spiritual experience for each stage.

I am writing (*γραφω*) is present active indicative 3 times in verses 12 and 13 emphasizing ongoing action. I have written (*ἔγραψα*) is Aorist active indicative 3 times pointing to the end product, spiritual maturity.

Fathers continue their deep intimacy with Christ, young men have experiential victory over the evil one (verse 14).

In all the main Johannine writings—Gospel (John 16:33), First Epistle (1 John 4:4; 5:4–5) and Revelation (Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 26; 3:5, 12, 21; 5:5; 12:11; 15:2; 21:7) alike—the theme of overcoming is present, and in all it is through Christ, the supreme Overcomer, that His people overcome.

Experiential victory is view here as well, yet the believer's victory is still in Christ as seen in his abiding relationship with Christ and His Word and works. Through them the Believer operating in the light grows more intimate with God and endures through afflictions and trials (Rev 12:11; 6:9; 2:26; 1 John 2:14; Rom 5-8; James 1:1-25). "Little faith will take your soul to heaven, but great faith will bring heaven to your soul." – Charles Spurgeon (John 14:23)

In all our circumstances, God gives us an opportunity to:

- 1) Increase our faith in Him (Pro 3:5-6; Heb 13:5-6)
- 2) Be content and even delight in Him, regardless of those circumstances (Psalm 37:4-5; Phil 4:11-13)
- 3) Believe His promises for us and for His Son both present and eternal (Matt 6:25-34; 1 Thes 4:13-18; Titus 1:1b-3; Heb 1:5-14; John 12:28; John 3:35; Eph 1:3-14)
- 4) Recognize the grace He has given us to be a part of His plan to Glorify His Son Who loved us and gave Himself up for us (Phil 1:12-14; Psalm 79:9; Psalm 148:13; 2 Cor 5:20-6:1)
- 5) Dwell on Him and persevere for our peace and His glory (Phil 4:4-9; Phil 1:20; 1 Cor 6:20; Rom 12:1-2; Heb 12:1-3; Rev 2:26-28).
- 6) Move toward maturity by coming to know Him (1 John 2:3, 12-14; 4:7-19).
- 7) Seek solitude with the Lord each day, withdrawing from the world and being intimate with Him (Mark 1:35; 6:46; 14:32-42; Luke 4:42; 6:12; 22:39-46; John 6:15). *"There are times when solitude is better than society, and silence is wiser than speech. We should be better Christians if we were more alone, waiting upon God, and gathering through meditation on His Word spiritual strength for labor in his service. We ought to muse upon the things of God, because we thus get the real nutriment out of them. . . . Why is it that some Christians, although they hear many sermons, make but slow advances in the divine life? Because they neglect their closets, and do not thoughtfully meditate on God's Word. They love the wheat, but they do not grind it; they would have the corn, but they will not go forth into the fields to gather it; the fruit hangs upon the tree, but they will not pluck it; the water flows at their feet, but they will not stoop to drink it. From such folly deliver us, O Lord. . ."* – Charles Spurgeon

In the morning, O Lord, You will hear my voice; in the morning I will order my prayer to You and eagerly watch. - Psalm 5:3