

“How to Overcome the Evil One”
1 John 2:12-14

I. Everyone who has their sins forgiven are children of God (v. 12).

- A. Salvation is from God.
- B. Salvation is for God.

(Psalm 23:3; 25:11; 31:3; 79:9; Isaiah 48:9-11; Ezekiel 36:22-32; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5-6)

II. The children of God grow spiritually through various stages (vs. 13-14).

- A. You are born spiritually as an infant.
- B. You grow into a young adult.
- C. You mature into a spiritual father.

(Proverbs 20:29; John 3:2-3; Romans 8:29-30; Colossians 2:6-7; 1 John 3:2-3)

III. The way we grow spiritually is to feast on God's Word (v. 14).

(Jeremiah 8:11-12; Luke 13:1-5; 1 Corinthians 3:1-3; Ephesians 4:11-16 Hebrews 5:9-6:3; 1 Peter 1:22-2:3; 2 Peter 3:17-18)

Scripture References and Notes

little children (τεκνίον [teknion])

- a little child.
- (the diminutive form of *téknon*, "child") – a *little* child; (figuratively) someone *deeply loved (endeared)*.
- <https://biblehub.com/greek/5040.htm>
- 8 Occurrences

Titus 3:5-6

⁵ not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior...

Ephesians 2:8-9

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Psalms 79:9

Help us, O God of our salvation, For the glory of Your name; And deliver us, and provide atonement for our sins, For Your name's sake!

Psalms 25:11

For Your name's sake, O LORD, Pardon my iniquity, for *it is* great.

Ezekiel 36:22-32

²² "Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "I do not do *this* for your sake, O house of Israel, but for My holy name's sake, which you have profaned among the nations wherever you went. ²³ And I will sanctify My great name, which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst; and the nations shall know that I *am* the LORD," says the Lord GOD, "when I am hallowed in you before their eyes. ²⁴ For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land. ²⁵ Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. ²⁶ I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do *them*. ²⁸ Then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people, and I will be your God. ²⁹ I will deliver you from all your uncleanness. I will call for the grain and multiply it, and bring no famine upon you. ³⁰ And I will multiply the fruit of your trees and the increase of your fields, so that you need never again bear the reproach of famine among the nations. ³¹ Then you will remember your evil ways and your deeds that *were* not good; and you will loathe yourselves in your own sight, for your iniquities and your abominations. ³² Not for your sake do I do *this*," says the Lord GOD, "let it be known to you. Be ashamed and confounded for your own ways, O house of Israel!"

Isaiah 48:9-11

⁹ "For My name's sake I will defer My anger, And *for* My praise I will restrain it from you, So that I do not cut you off. ¹⁰ Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver; I have tested you in the furnace of affliction. ¹¹ For My own sake, for My own sake, I will do *it*; For how should *My name* be profaned? And I will not give My glory to another.

Psalms 31:3

For You *are* my rock and my fortress; Therefore, for Your name's sake, Lead me and guide me.

Psalms 23:3

He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.

John 3:2-3

² This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him." ³ Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

little children (παιδίον [paidion])

- a young child

- a little child, an infant, little one.
- properly, a child under training; the *diminutive* form of *país* ("child"). *paidíon* ("a little child in training") implies a *younger* child (perhaps seven years old or younger). Some scholars apply (*país*) to a son or daughter *up to 20 years old* (the age of "*complete adulthood*" in Scripture).
- <https://biblehub.com/greek/3813.htm>
- 52 Occurrences

overcome (νικάω [nikaó])

- to conquer, prevail
- I conquer, am victorious, overcome, prevail, subdue.
- (from *níkē*, "victory") – properly, *conquer* (overcome); " 'to carry off the victory, come off victorious.' The verb implies a battle" (K. Wuest).
- <https://biblehub.com/greek/3528.htm>
- 28 Occurrences

Proverbs 20:29

The glory of a young man is his strength.

Romans 8:29-30

²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. ³⁰ Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

1 John 3:2-3

² Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. ³ And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

Colossians 2:6-7

⁶ As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, ⁷ rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.

1 Peter 1:22-2:3

1 ²² Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, ²³ having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, ²⁴ because "*All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away, ²⁵ But the word of the LORD endures forever.*" Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you. **2** ¹ Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, ² as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, ³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord *is* gracious.

Hebrews 5:9-6:3

5 ⁹ And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him, ¹⁰ called by God as High Priest "*according to the order of Melchizedek,*" ¹¹ of whom we have much to say, and hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. ¹² For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need *someone* to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. ¹³ For everyone who partakes *only* of milk *is* unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. ¹⁴ But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, *that is*, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. **6** ¹ Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary *principles* of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, ² of

the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. ³ And this we will do if God permits.

1 Corinthians 3:1-3

¹ And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual *people* but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. ² I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able *to receive it*, and even now you are still not able; ³ for you are still carnal. For where *there are* envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like *mere* men?

Luke 13:1-5

¹ There were present at that season some who told Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ² And Jesus answered and said to them, "Do you suppose that these Galileans were worse sinners than all *other* Galileans, because they suffered such things? ³ I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish. ⁴ Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse sinners than all *other* men who dwelt in Jerusalem? ⁵ I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish."

Jeremiah 8:11-12

¹¹ For they have healed the hurt of the daughter of My people slightly, Saying, 'Peace, peace!' When *there is* no peace. ¹² Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? No! They were not at all ashamed, Nor did they know how to blush. Therefore they shall fall among those who fall; In the time of their punishment They shall be cast down," says the LORD.

Jeremiah 8:11 (NASB)

"They heal the brokenness of the daughter of My people superficially, Saying, 'Peace, peace,' But there is no peace.

Ephesians 4:11-16

¹¹ And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, ¹³ till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; ¹⁴ that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, ¹⁵ but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head--Christ-- ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

2 Peter 3:17-18

¹⁷ You therefore, beloved, since you know *this* beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; ¹⁸ but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him *be* the glory both now and forever. Amen.

*Unless otherwise noted, all Scriptures are from the New King James Version.