

# God's Word to the Family of God

by Stephen Kaung

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*We are all children of God, born from above, and have the privilege of gathering together as the family of God, with the Holy Spirit dwelling in us to teach us and guide us.*

**Duration:** 1:16:15

**Scripture:** Matthew 4:4, 1 John 2:12-15, 1 John 2:17

**Topics:** "Spiritual Guidance", "Temptation Resistance"

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## Description

In this sermon, the preacher emphasizes the importance of overcoming the temptations and distractions of the world. He highlights how young people often get caught up in worldly pursuits and forget about their relationship with God. The preacher encourages young believers to rely on the word of God as their source of strength and guidance. He emphasizes the need to listen to God's voice and allow His word to abide in them. The preacher also reminds the audience of the example of Jesus, who used the word of God to overcome temptation.

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## Transcript

First Epistle of John, Chapter 2. We'll read from verse 12 through verse 28. First John, Chapter 2, verse 12. I write to you children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake.

I write to you fathers, because you have known him that is from the beginning. I write to you young men, because you have overcome the wicked one. I write to you little children, because you have known the father.

I have written to you fathers, because you have known him that is from the beginning. I have written to you young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the wicked one. Love not the world, nor the things in the world.

If anyone loves the world, the love of the father is not in him. Because all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the father, but is of the world. And the world is passing, and is lust, but he that does the will of God abides for eternity.

Little children, it is the last hour, and according as ye have heard, that Antichrist comes. Even now there have come many Antichrists, whence we know that it is the last hour. They went out from among us, but they were not of us.

For if they had been of us, they would have surely remained with us, but that they might be made manifest that none are of us. And ye have the unction, that is the anointing, from the Holy One, and ye know all things. I have not written to you because ye do not know the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth.

Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is the Antichrist who denies the Father and the Son. Whoever denies the Son has not the Father either. He who confesses the Son has the Father also.

As for you, let that which ye have heard from the beginning abide in you. If what ye have heard from the beginning abides in you, ye also shall abide in the Son and in the Father. And this is a promise that He has promised us, life eternal.

These things have I written to you concerning those who lead you astray. And yourselves, the unction, the anointing, which ye have received from Him abides in you, and ye have not need that anyone should teach you, but as the same unction teaches you as to all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and even as it has taught you, ye shall abide in Him. And now, children, abide in Him that if He be manifested, we may have boldness and not be put to shame from before Him at His coming.

Let's have a word of prayer. Dear Lord, we want to thank Thee again for loving us so much as to give Thy blood, Thy very life to us. Lord, if it's not because of Thee, where will we be? So with grateful hearts, we come again to thank Thee.

Lord, as we continue in Thy presence, we look to Thee to speak through Thy Word to our hearts. We do thank Thee that Thou art not silent to us. We thank Thee because Thou dost want us to know Thy heart, that we may follow Thee.

So we commit this time into Thy loving hand, and trust Thy Holy Spirit to open Thy Word and open our heart that Thy Word may really register within us, transform us, and conform us to Thy own image, to the glory of God. We ask in Thy precious name. Amen.

We thank God for gathering us together this morning. I would like to ask a question. When we come together this morning, does it ever come to your mind, what is the nature of our gathering together? Why are we here? What kind of gathering is this? Of course we know this is not a social gathering, but maybe we think it is a religious gathering.

Now what really do we come for? Now according to the Word of God, we find that such gathering is the gathering of the family of God. It is a family gathering. We gather together unto our Father and unto our Lord Jesus Christ.

We thank God because God wants a family. Now God really does not need anybody, does not need anything, because He is always full. But it pleases Him to have a family.

He wants a family. And because He wants a family, He sends His beloved Son, our Lord Jesus, into this world to create His family. Why? Because all the family members must have His life.

All the family members must have His resemblance. There is a family resemblance, but we, human beings, were dead in sins and transgressions. Therefore He sends His beloved Son, our Lord Jesus, into this world.

We thank our Lord Jesus for going to the cross on our behalf. He shed His precious blood to cleanse us from our sins, to deliver us from death. He gave His life to us, that we may have God's life.

Think of that! We are born from above, and we, as His family, have the privilege of gathering together as much as possible to remember Him and to glorify Him. So this is the reason why we are here. You know, among the apostles, the apostle John received this special revelation of the family, the household of God.

He is a family man. You remember, even when our Lord Jesus was dying on the cross, our Lord committed His earthly mother to John. John is an apostle of love, because love is the law of the family.

And then you find in this first John, he mentioned about writing a letter to the family. In other words, it is God our Father. It is Lord Jesus, our elder brother, who is writing to the family.

And that's what we have just read. Not only write once, but write twice. He say, I have written, I write.

So He shows the love of our Lord Jesus, because He loves us. He writes to us. He wants to communicate His heart, His mind to us.

He wants to help us, educate us, that we may grow in Him. So this morning we would like to share together on the letter that our Heavenly Father and our Lord Jesus have written to us. Now it begins with, I write to you children, because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake.

Now this word, children, patna, is a word that expresses parental affection. It has nothing to do with growth. In other words, all who believe in the Lord Jesus, all who have their sins being forgiven by our Lord Jesus, these are all children of God.

We are all God's children. How come? Because we have known that our sins have been forgiven for His name's sake. In other words, because of our Lord Jesus.

His name is Jesus, the Savior of the world. His name is Jesus who cleanses our sins with His own blood. We all know that.

And because we all have experienced it, therefore we are children of God. You remember in John chapter 1, verse 12 it says, Whosoever receives Him, that is, receives our Lord Jesus, that believes in His name, they have the right to become the children of God. They are born, not of blood, not of flesh, not of man's will, but of God.

So dear brothers and sisters, we are thankful that by believing in the Lord Jesus, we know the cleansing of our sins by His precious blood. We are born from above. We are born of God.

We are now all children. And here you'll find this word, children. A word that expresses parental affection.

No matter how long you have believed in the Lord Jesus, whether you have believed in the Lord Jesus for 50 years, or you have believed in the Lord Jesus for 5 days, we are all children. There is no discrimination. Thank God for that.

But you know, in a family, you have people of different groups. A family is not composed of all fathers. That would be an old folks' home.

A family is not composed of young people. That would be a battlefield. A family is not composed of all little children.

That would be a nursery. The beauty of the family is it has all kinds of growth. You have fathers, fully grown, matured.

You have young people, strong, vigorous. And you have little children that chatter. So brothers and sisters in the family of God, we have all kinds of growth.

Some are fathers, fully grown, more matured. And some are young people. And some are little children.

But remember, this is not according to our natural age. You may be 70, but if you just believe in the Lord Jesus yesterday, you are little children in Christ. And if you have believed in the Lord maybe 2-3 years, young people.

And if you have believed in the Lord and really grown in the Lord, now you can believe and not grow. You can believe in the Lord for 50 years, and yet your spiritual year is only 5 days. You are still little children.

But if you are really growing in the Lord, then you will be fathers, matured. So this is according to spiritual age, not according to your natural age. And then to each and everyone, our God, our Father has a word for you.

Our Lord Jesus has a word for you. And this is what we want to fellowship together this morning. Now according to the order you find in 1 John, God first writes to the fathers.

Then he writes to the young people. Then he writes to the little children. Why? Because God's purpose for each and every one of us who believe in him, who have sins forgiven, God's purpose for everyone is that we grow into sonship, to maturity.

So that's the reason why you find the biblical order is first to the father, then to the young people, and then to the little children. Because God's desire is no one will remain forever as little children. That everyone will grow up from little children to young men, from young men to fathers.

But according to our experience, now it's just the reverse. We begin as little children. You don't begin as fathers.

And then by the grace of God, if you grow, you will become young men and eventually fathers. So for the sake of our understanding, we will reverse the order. We will begin with little children.

So here you'll find our Heavenly Father, our Lord Jesus, he wrote to the little children and he writes to the little children. Not just one letter, two letters. You know in verse 12 of chapter 2 and verse 28 of chapter 2, the children there is technia.

It means it has no respect to growth. It is just an expression of parental affection. But when you come to verse 13 and verse 18, you find the word little children.

It's a little bit different. Because in Greek it's a different word. It's a patio.

Now this word is related to growth. And little children is in contrast to young men and fathers. So here you'll find we who believe in the Lord Jesus, we all begin as babes.

As babes in Christ. As little children. And what is the characteristic of little children? Now it says here in verse 13, I write to you, little children, because ye have known the Father.

Little children have very little knowledge of any kind. But there is one knowledge every little child has. He knows his Father.

You remember in Romans chapter 8, it says, we have not received the spirit of slavery, but we have received the spirit of adoption, of sonship. Therefore we cry out, Abba, Father. The Holy Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.

So brothers and sisters, the first thing that happens to you after you believe in the Lord Jesus, you begin to call God, Father. Abba, Father. You know, if you have never believed in the Lord Jesus, keep with your heart, but you are brought up in Christian family, you are told that there is a God, and the God is your Father.

But is He really your Father? No doubt He's your God, because He's your Creator. But is He really your Father? Is there a life relationship between you and God? And because you are brought up in Christian family, you are told. And probably you also pray, Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Have you prayed that way? You may. But is it real? I remember a story. I have a fellow worker in China.

After he was married, the first time he went with his wife to his wife's parents' home. And when you enter into your father-in-law's home, how do you address your father-in-law? Do you say father-in-law? No. You say father.

So he tried to call his father-in-law father. But he found it very difficult, because it doesn't sound right. You know, if you really do not know God as your Father, and you try to call God as your Father, it sounds like you are calling Him father-in-law.

Do you have that kind of experience before? I did. But the day when you really believe in the Lord Jesus, and you have your sins forgiven, and you are born from above, brothers and sisters, something happens. You know your Father.

When you pray, it's so real. That's the one thing little children all have. Now, do you have it? If you haven't had it yet, go to the Lord.

Ask Him to forgive your sins. Trust Him as your personal Savior. And you will be born from above.

And then when you pray again, it's supernaturally natural. Very natural. More natural than natural.

Have you found that? I did. And I do. Praise the Lord.

But the little children have problem. Because children do not know much. And therefore they can easily be deceived.

They do not have knowledge. So whatever you say to them, they will just listen and take it. They are so pure that they believe everything.

Everything that you tell them. You know, I remember I was told when a little child was told by somebody jokingly, this is not your father. And he believed it.

And he was so disturbed. Because he can easily be led astray. You know, children live by intuition.

Grown-ups live by knowledge. We accumulate lots of knowledge. So we live by knowledge.

We judge by knowledge. By the knowledge that we have gathered. But little children do not have that much knowledge.

They live by intuition. But you know, intuition, even natural intuition, is a gift of God. Children will naturally shy away from some people.

They will naturally go to some people. Somehow, intuitively, they can sense something. But of course it's not perfect.

But still you find little children live by intuition. Now in a family of God, remember, it is the same principle. Because you do not have much knowledge yet.

You are just beginning to read the Bible. You do not know much about the truth. Now how are you going to live then? Is there any provision for you? Or is it that you must be deceived? Thank God! You know, here you find in this letter to the little children.

He says, I have written to you. I have already told you. Even though you do not have all kinds of knowledge, but you still can live a Christian life.

You still can live in the Lord. Now how are you going to live? By intuition. But that intuition is not the natural intuition of the soul.

That intuition is related to the Holy Spirit who dwells in you. The anointing, the anointing. So he says, you have the anointing with you.

And the anointing will teach you in all things. If you listen to the teaching of the anointing, you abide in Christ. You are safe.

You will not be deceived. Thank God for that. Now brothers and sisters, oftentimes after we believe in the Lord Jesus, we think all that we have received is our sins forgiven.

Or all we have received is a new life. But that new life is still in its infant stage in you. But that is not all.

God so loves us. Our Father has made provision for every young child that even if you just believe in the Lord today, he has provided for you a way to live according to his will. Think of that.

You do not need to be a mature Christian to know the will of God or to walk in the will of God. Even after you are newly born, immediately God has put within you his own spirit, the Holy Spirit. You know he not only brings your dead spirit into life, makes it a new life, new spirit in you.

You know God is spirit. The only way you can communicate with God is by your spirit. But our spirit were dead in sins and transgressions.

So when you believe in the Lord Jesus, your dead spirit is quickened into new life. It becomes a new spirit. And then the Holy Spirit, God the Spirit, he himself, he will come into your new spirit and live there.

And he will never leave you nor forsake you. Think of that. So brothers and sisters, when you believe in the Lord Jesus, what do you receive? You receive forgiveness of sin.

Thank God for that. Our conscience is at peace. You receive a new life, the life of Christ, the life of God, born from above.

You receive a new spirit. Your dead spirit is quickened into a new spirit. So you can communicate with God.

And then God's Spirit comes and makes its dwelling in your new spirit. So what do you have? You have God in you. You have the Holy Spirit in you.

And he is in you. And he will never... Think of what you have. Think of what the Heavenly Father has provided for you.

You know there are lots of Christians, unfortunately, they have no knowledge of this. They think that they believe in the Lord Jesus, the only thing they receive is, one day, when they die, they go to heaven. That's it.

No. You not only receive an eternal life. An eternal life begins today.

But you receive the Holy Spirit. God himself comes and lives in your spirit. For what? To teach you.

He is your resident boss. He is your resident personal teacher. He is the anointing.

Now the Bible used the word anointing. Why? Because it is like an ointment. You know, when you have a wound, and you apply an ointment in it, it soothes it.

It makes it so comfortable. That is the way that the Holy Spirit will talk to you. He will speak to you within the depths of your being, in a still, small voice.

When he speaks to you, it is not like a whirlwind, not like a hurricane. When God speaks to you in your spirit, it is a still, small voice. It is like an ointment put in upon you.

So soothing. So good. So peaceful.

And brothers and sisters, from the day you are born from above, you are privileged to hear your Father's voice. Some people say to me, I have never heard God speak to me. Why is it I hear some people say, God spoke to me, but God never did? Well, if a child has never heard his Father's voice, something is very wrong.

He should be able to distinguish what is the voice of his Father. What is the voice of a stranger? As our Lord Jesus said, my lamb, my sheep knows my voice. They will not follow a foreign, strange voice, but they will follow my voice.

And brothers and sisters, God is speaking to you inwardly, every day, all the time. Have you heard Him? Unfortunately, Christianity today is so wrong. Christianity today becomes an external thing.

But, believing in our Lord Jesus is an inward experience. Remember, you as little children, you have the right to hear your Father's voice. And your Father has put His Spirit in you to teach you in all things.

Not only in big things, but even in small things. You know, sometimes we have that mistaken idea. When we are faced with a big problem, we pray.

We have to seek our Father for help. But daily life, small things, we do it ourselves. We know what to do.

Now, that's the problem. You are a child of God now. You are no longer what you were before.

So how are you going to behave as a child of God? Hear your Father's voice. Listen. But if you want to listen, you have to be quiet now in order to hear it.

Do not tell me that after you believe in the Lord Jesus, you become a child of God. You have never heard His voice. He has never spoken to you.

Well, if He has never spoken to you, you are a bastard, not a son. I believe, and I know for sure, if you believe in the Lord Jesus and the Holy Spirit is in you, invariably He has spoken. But unfortunately, you are not listening.

Does it happen to you? Probably, before you believe in the Lord Jesus, you have the habit of exaggeration. When there are only five people, you say ten people. But that's nothing.

But after you believe in the Lord Jesus, when you are talking, and you begin to say, well, there are hundred people there. Actually, maybe only seventy there. Suddenly, you find within you a little voice.

Are you telling the truth? Is it true? Do you have this experience? Or you have the habit of telling lies, and it's nothing. If you can cheat people, you'll feel proud of it. But after you believe in the Lord Jesus, suddenly you tell a lie.

And when you tell a lie, what happens? Suddenly, someone is touching you, and says, that's a lie. A child of God shouldn't say that. Have you this experience? Instead of feeling proud, you feel uneasy.

You have to confess it before the Lord. Then you have peace. Or you are very talkative.

And when you talk and talk and talk, and you begin to talk beyond what you need to say, and suddenly there's a check waiting, you say, that's enough. Stop. Have you had such experience? I do.

Brothers and sisters, our problem is we are not listening. We live an awkward life. Remember, Christian life is an inward.

God, our Father, is teaching us by His enduring Holy Spirit every day that we may walk in His will. So, here you'll find, to the little children, God has made provision for you to live as a Christian. From the very beginning, learn to listen to your inner voice, and obey it.

And if you do, you abide in Christ. Thank God for that. Our problem is we are not listening inwardly.

We are listening outwardly. And thus we are deceived. So thank God for His provision.

But brothers and sisters, we need to know about it, and we need to learn that lesson. Listen to the voice of your resident teacher in big things and in small. And if you obey, you live.

Thank God for that. Now young people, because you listen to the voice of the indwelling Spirit, you grow. What is Christian growth? Christian growth is growing in the will of God.

It is the life of Christ begins to build up within you. That is Christian growth. So here you'll find a young man.

Now what is the characteristic of the young man? Now here you'll find in verse 13, I write to you young man because you have overcome the wicked one. And then again in verse 14, I have written to you young man because you are strong and the will of God abides in you and you have overcome the wicked one. Love not the world, nor the things of the world.

If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. Young man, you have grown in the Lord. Young men are naturally strong, or fighters.

But as young men in Christ, you are strong. But you fight a different fight. You fight against the wicked one.

There in the atmosphere is the unseen. And in the unseen world there is the wicked one, Satan, the adversary of God, the enemy of God, the deceiver, the murderer, the killer, the destroyer. And as young men in Christ, you are strong.

You fight. That's good fight. But it is fighting and only fight.

But overcome. Thank God for that. You are not supposed to be defeated because God has made provision for you to overcome.

You have overcome the wicked one. Not just overcome once and defeated twice. But overcome all the way.

You have overcome. Continue to overcome the wicked one. My, you say, have I ever fought that fight? I do not know I'm fighting it.

But you are. What is that fight? You are fighting the unseen world. Where can you hit him? Now here remember this.

God created us. He created the universe. He created us according to His own image.

He created all the things for us. You remember after He created Adam? He put Adam in a garden of Eden. A garden of pleasure.

He planted all the fruit trees of all kinds for man to enjoy. You know the man He created needs food. The body needs food.

So God created the trees, the fruits to be food for man. Vegetables to be food for man. That man may live and not only live but live for God to do His work and live for the glory of God and enjoying things.

Thanking God for He is. We have not only physical needs we have soulical needs. That is psychological.

Soul needs. We need love, affection, family and God created Adam and Eve. The need of the flesh.

God created our eyes to see. So He created all things beautiful. Even after this world was corrupted it is still beautiful.

Look at the sunset. For us to enjoy but not just to enjoy to thank God, to be grateful. Everything in this world created by God for our needs, enjoyment.

But more than that that we may live for God we may do His work we may glorify Him. That is God's purpose. But the wicked one, see how wicked he is? He came in.

He took hold of God's created things. He reorganized them into a system, a cosmos and he used that system to oppose God. He used that system to entice man so that man will fall into his trap and rebel against God and go to destruction with Him.

Now that's the wicked one. So remember you are not fighting against something unseen. Yes you are.

But you are fighting against the world, that system. Satan is at the back of it. No, he hides himself at the back.

You never see him. He organized all the things in this world whether it is for the eyes whether it is for the flesh whether it is for life he organized all the things in the world into a system and used that system to draw out lust from it. What is lust? You know we are created with an inborn instinct inborn needs.

Our body needs food our eyes need to see our flesh needs love family and God has provided all things for us. We should receive them with thankfulness and because He has made such provision for us we know we are not supposed to live for ourselves. He sustained us that we may live for Him for His glory.

That's what we ought to be. But instead of that the enemy, the wicked one pushed the world as a system to us and used that to entice us. Forget about God.

Think about your own self. You can be God. You don't need God.

Remember in the Garden of Eden how the serpent tempted Eve. You know Adam and Eve should be together but unfortunately somehow they are separated and Eve wandered around and he wandered to the midst of the garden. Instead of seeing the tree of life she looked at the tree of the knowledge of good and evil which God said of all the trees you can freely eat except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

You shouldn't eat because on the day you eat you shall die. Now why is it? Because God knows knowledge with our life is there. It's a test to see if man obeys God or not.

But Eve, standing by that tree admiring it, looking at it is good for her, pleasant to her. And the enemy used that ground to come in and say did God say you cannot eat any of the trees? Of course it's a lie. But behind that lie is a thought.

God is cruel. God is not love. God is jealousy.

And Eve fell into the trap. Lust, desire created by God but lust is inordinate desire. We have human desires that's legitimate from God and God made provision to fulfill all these desires for the glory of God.

But when the desire becomes illegal overgrown above what is lawful it becomes lust. The lust of the eye the lust of the flesh the pride of life. Isn't it that's the world? Isn't it? That's the world that entices people? That's the world that deceives people? That's the world that leads people away from God? That's the world that makes man self-centered? Self-love? Self-pride? Self-sufficient? Self-glory? We don't need

God.

We are God. It is the world that the enemy used to bring our downfall. That's where the battle is.

Young man you are battling the world but you are strong. You should overcome because if you love the world the love of the Father is nothing. Either the Father or the world.

Whom do you love? Young man needs fight and this is the battle you have to win. Look at the young man today how they forget the Father and drown in the world. They make the things of the world the meaning of their life the pursuit of their life but the world and the things in the world are past.

Only the word of God is eternal. So young man you are in the fight but how are you going to overcome the world? How do you know this is the world? How do you know this is the trick of the devil? And here you'll find thank God for his provision and the provision is you are strong and the word of God abides in you. In other words the word of God.

Thank God for his word. We have God's word. This is God breathed.

Every word comes from God. It is for our instruction. It is for our teaching.

For our consolation. For our correction. That a man of God may be perfect to do God's will.

So young man how are you going to fight this battle? By the word of God. But the word of God has to abide in you. Not just outside of you.

You are young. Your eyesight are good. Not like me.

That's why I use such a big one. Your memory is good. You can memorize.

Not like we older ones. Our memory is fading and you have the time. You are quick.

Read the word of God. Meditate on the word of God. Memorize the word of God.

Let the word of God abide in you richly. You have the weapon to fight. Remember when our Lord Jesus was tempted in the wilderness.

What weapon did he use to destroy the temptation? The word of God. Man shall not live by bread alone. But by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.

You shall not tempt the Lord your God. You shall worship the Lord and serve Him alone. All these are from Deuteronomy.

Our Lord Jesus had the word of God abiding in him. And when temptation comes the word of God discerns this is from the enemy. This is temptation.

Do not yield to it. Overcome it by the word of God. So young brothers and sisters spend time reading the word of God.

I thank God when I was 15 immediately I spent time before the Lord reading His word. Every morning I got up before the family. I went into a room, shut myself in.

I knelt on the floor reading the word of God and praying. This has never left me. Young man, you are strong.

And the word of God abides in you. Love not the word nor the things of the world for the love of the Father. Thank God God has made provision but you have to use it.

Now the Fathers. What is the characteristic of the Fathers? Now here it says I write to you Fathers because you have known Him that is from the beginning. Now what does it mean? You do not need to go too far to discover the meaning.

Because right in that letter 1 John 1.1 you will find the answer. That which was from the beginning. That which we have heard that which we have seen with our eyes that we have contemplated and our hands handled concerning the word of life.

And the word and the life has been manifested and we have seen and bear witness and report to you the eternal life which was with the Father and has been manifested to us. In other words what makes you mature? It is the living knowledge of Christ Jesus. Knowing Christ in the eternal purpose of God.

What place Christ has in the eternal purpose. The fullness of Christ. That is what it is.

Because our Lord Jesus is that which was from the beginning. He was with God. He was God.

And that which we have heard the prophets in the Old Testament have prophesied about him. So when you read the Old Testament you heard about him. That which we have seen with our eyes because two thousand years ago he came into this world.

He was seen by people. That which we have contemplated people may see him but they only see his outward. But only those who contemplated their inner eyes were opened and they see the glory as the glory of the only begotten.

They see him as the Son of God. As the Christ. The anointed.

The sent one by God. To accomplish the work of redemption. That which our hands handled.

Our Lord Jesus went to the cross and died. He was buried. On the third day he was risen from the dead.

And you remember Thomas his disciple would not believe him. He said unless I put my finger into his life. My finger into his hand.

I won't believe him. And the Lord appeared to him. We have seen him.

We have touched him. This is the word of life. This is the eternal life.

This is what we have heard and reported to us. Brothers and sisters this full knowledge of Christ in the eternal purpose of God that makes us mature. And if you read verse 14 I have written to you Father because you have known him that is from the beginning.

Same thing. As if there is nothing new. But remember this full knowledge of Christ is infinite.

The unsearchable riches of Christ. The place of Christ in God's eternal purpose is without end. You grow into that knowledge.

You grow into knowing Christ. And you grow. And you grow.

And even in eternity you grow. Because God is infinite. No end.

What is the problem with the Fathers? The problem with the Fathers is you cease to grow. You think you know enough. You think you have arrived.

You haven't. For the Fathers the danger is cease growth. Stop.

Everything slow down. But spiritual growth. On the contrary it should be speed up.

Look at Paul. In the letter to the Philippians Paul the aged. Paul who had known the Lord so much.

Count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Jesus Christ. How he pursued it. But he said I do not say I have arrived.

I am pressing on. I forget that which is behind. Press on.

Closer going. The high calling. The price.

The word of the Spirit to the church in Philadelphia. Beware. Let other people take away.

You have won the crown but it can be taken away. That's the danger. So for those who are grown up in the Lord remember in spiritual you cannot see.

Your argument may decay day by day but your inner man must be renewed. May the Lord help us that we do not slow down. And finally the conclusion is in verse 28.

Again our Heavenly Father speak to us as one family. Whether you are fathers young people or children little children. We are all children.

And the final word is and now children abide. The word of our Father to each and every one of us is abide in Christ. Make your home in Christ.

Do not wander away. Live daily abiding in Him. And He abides in you.

And if you are doing that then when He is manifesting when Christ shall come you have nothing to be ashamed of. And that's the word for every child. May God bless you.

Dear Heavenly Father dear Lord Jesus we thank you for your love towards us. Thou has not only bring us to birth into your family but Thou has Thy word to each and every one of us that we may all grow into sons. That Thou may lead many sons into glory.

Thank you.

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