

# Impossible and Incredible

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## I. Introduction.

- A. There is a difference between age and maturity.
- B. Topic: the pattern of maturity.
- C. Christian growth is not automatic.
- D. Text: I John 2:12-14.

## II. Levels of spiritual growth.

### A. Children.

1. There is only a basic acknowledgement that God is Father. (Isaiah 63:16)
  - a. Jesus made intimacy with the Father possible. (Psalm 61)
  - b. This is the end of loneliness and despair.
2. There a lack of spiritual instruction, and they are prone to deception. (Ephesians 4:14)

### B. Young men.

1. These are ones who have overcome Satan. (II Corinthians 11)
2. False doctrine does not entice this one anymore.
3. Spiritual pride is a problem for these.
4. He becomes increasingly able to battle temptation through awareness of God's truth. (Ephesians 6)

### C. Spiritual fathers.

1. These are those who know the God behind the page.
2. They have intimacy with God and this is the great goal of their lives. (Philippians 3:10, Ephesians 1)

## Application questions:

1. How would you distinguish between the three levels of spiritual growth?

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2. Where do you find yourself? Would other believers agree with your assessment? Explain.

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3. Why might it be helpful to understand where you are at in your spiritual growth? What is important to know in order to advance in your spiritual growth? Explain.

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