

Growing as a Believer – Part 1  
I John 2:12-14

“First faith is a gift to us from God, which comes to us as God the Spirit rides into our minds on the wings of the gospel. He opens our deaf spiritual ears and blind spiritual eyes to the truth of our sin and, as well, to Christ’s loving offer of forgiveness. We turn from sin and turn to the Saviour, and we are granted all the benefits of the death and righteousness of Christ. What an amazing transaction! When the Spirit opens our eyes to our sinfulness and then to the prospect of forgiveness and new life in Jesus Christ, faith says ‘run to Jesus because what He has for you is better by far than anything your sinful existence could ever offer you!’ God grants us this ‘first faith’ and, through it, His grace rescues us from sin and grants us standing in His family as sons and daughters.” – David Hegg

I John 2:12-14 reminds us of three important and foundational truths of all genuine believers and describe what growth in Christ looks like.

1. **Children in Christ** (I John 2:12, 14)

a. You know your sins are forgiven – I John 2:12

- Have been forgiven – Our sins were forgiven in the past when we trusted in Christ to save us and remain forgiven in the present
- On account of His Name – Forgiveness connected to the Person and work of Jesus Christ
  - 2 Corinthians 5:18-21
    - God does not count our sin against us
    - God counts our sin against Christ
    - Christ willingly bears the punishment we should have received
    - God credits the righteousness of Christ to us

b. You know God as Father

- Came to know God as Father when we trusted in Christ in the past and still know God as Father because we trust in Christ in the present
- New Testament examples of salvation leading to a new relationship with God where believers know God as father
  - Galatians 4:4-7, Romans 8:14-17, Ephesians 1:3-6

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“Second only to forgiveness in importance for the new community of faith is the relationship to God as Father that came through the gospel of Jesus Christ.”

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Summary:

Two things ought to amaze us every day. We ought to be amazed every day that our sins were forgiven in the past and remain forgiven in the present on account of the Person and work of Christ. We also ought to be amazed that we came to know God as Father in the past and still relate to Him as Father in the present.