

# BETHANY BIBLE STUDY

## I JOHN 2:12-17

Part-4

1.28.2026

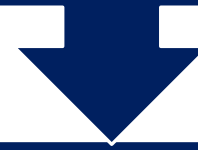
# CH.2 REVIEW / SO FAR (1-11)

**BELIEVERS MUST NOT SIN,**  
but if we sin, we have an advocate and propitiation in Jesus Christ



**GOD'S JUSTICE & MERCY AT THE CROSS:**

Penalty for sins is not canceled (Justice for sin)  
but paid through the blood of Jesus Christ (Mercy for sinner)



**TEST OF CLAIMING TO "KNOW GOD":**

Obedience to God's command (Believe in Jesus + Love others)

**WALK AS JESUS DID**

# WHAT IS GOD'S EXPECTATION OF BELIEVERS?

Sinless perfection is not possible  
and is not expected. However,

Striving for holy life is expected

Not continuing in sin is expected

Confessing immediately for sin is expected

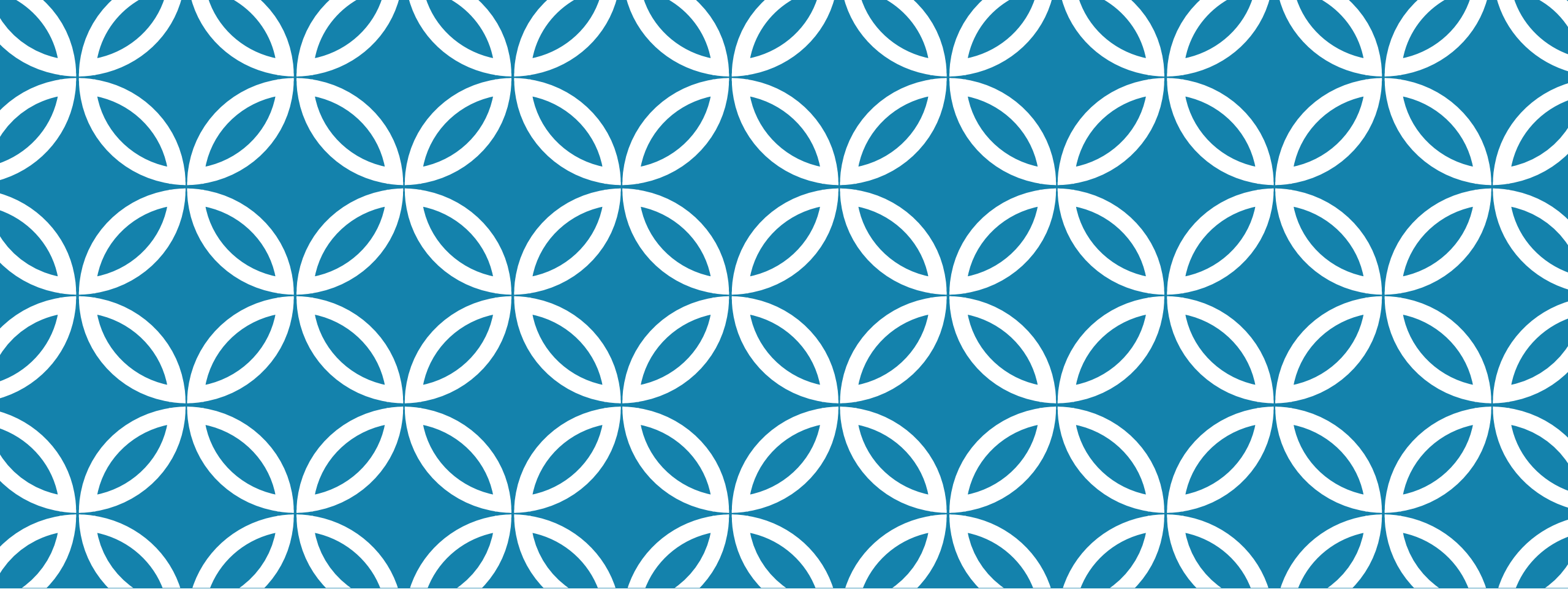
Living in the Light and Love is expected

# I JOHN 2:12-17

Spiritual  
Growth

Challenges  
to Growth

Overcoming  
Challenges



# EXHORTATION BASED ON SPIRITUAL MATURITY

12-14

Children | Youth | Fathers

EXHORTATION  
BASED ON  
SPIRITUAL  
MATURITY  
(12-14)

<sup>12</sup> I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake.

<sup>13</sup> I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome the wicked one. I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father.

<sup>14</sup> I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.

# STAGE 1: LITTLE CHILDREN

<sup>12</sup> I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake.

## REASON TO REJOICE:

Sins are forgiven, forgotten, and paid for!

Assurance of everlasting life and home in heaven!

For a new believer, such blessed assurance is enough!

## STAGE 2: YOUTH/ OVERCOMING THE WICKED ONE

<sup>6</sup>I have written unto  
you, young men,  
because ye are  
strong, and the word  
of God abideth in  
you, and ye have  
overcome the  
wicked one.

Youth is a tough season in believer's Christian journey

Some are **victorious** by overcoming temptations, dying to self, surrendering to the Lord, and not looking back.

Daniel & Joseph are examples of exemplary youth who overcame!

**Daniel 1:8** But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself.



## STAGE 2: YOUTH/ OVERCOMING THE WICKED ONE

<sup>6</sup>I have written unto  
you, young men,  
because ye are  
strong, and the word  
of God abideth in  
you, and ye have  
overcome the  
wicked one.

We are expected to be overcomers.

How to overcome the wicked one?

# STAGE 2: YOUTH

## OVERCOMING THE WICKED ONE

**ROOTED IN THE WORD** (v.6, Psalm 119:9,11) <sup>9</sup>Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word. <sup>11</sup>Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

**ARMED WITH THE WHOLE ARMOUR of GOD** (Ephesians 6:10-17)...<sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. (Belt of Truth | Breastplate of Righteousness | Gospel of peace | shield of faith | helmet of salvation | sword of the spirit - Word of God) + Prayer

**LIVING A SEPARATED LIFE** Proverbs 1:10 My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not. Proverbs 4:<sup>14</sup> Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men. II Corinthians 6:17-18 <sup>17</sup>Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.

## STAGE 2: YOUTH/ OVERCOMING THE WICKED ONE

Are we/our youth,

ROOTED IN THE WORD ?

ARMED WITH THE WHOLE ARMOUR of GOD?

LIVING A SEPARATED LIFE ?

Prayerful

We will lead defeated lives if we are not  
rooted, armed, separated, and prayerful!

**Revelation 21:7** He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

# STAGE 3: FATHERS

Saved as children, survived youth and now **maturing into fathers**.

## Fathers

- “Know God” not just know about Him
- Know God intimately through positive experiences & sufferings
- Know God through exercising discipline in ACTS 2:42
- Known God through serving faithfully in His kingdom

**Paul’s desire** ... Philippians 3:<sup>10</sup> That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

Paul matured into a father (II Timothy 4:7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith) ... there are no short-cuts to go from children to fathers! It takes time, experience, and perseverance.

# SPIRITUAL MATURITY

*My little children* (verse 1) ... emphasis seems to be on John's relatively older physical age.

*Little children* (verses 12-14) ... emphasis seems to be on level of 'spiritual maturity' of readers.

It can also be applied to 'young women' and 'mothers'

# MATURITY IS EVIDENCE OF KNOWING GOD

If we claim we know God,

we will walk in the light

we will live a life of obedience

we will love others

**we will be growing/maturing**

If there is no spiritual growth, we may be falsely claiming or mistakenly believing that we know God!

Who are we? Children, youth, or fathers? Are we maturing with time?

# WE SHOULD BE CONCERNED



If we are not growing spiritually



If we are retreating (losing our first love)



If we are questioning our salvation



If we have totally abandoned our faith

# PAUL'S CONCERN: LACK OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH

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**I Corinthians 3** And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.

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<sup>2</sup> I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.

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<sup>3</sup> For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?



# PAUL'S CONCERN: SPIRITUAL NEGLIGENCE & DECLINE

**Galatians 4:9** But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?

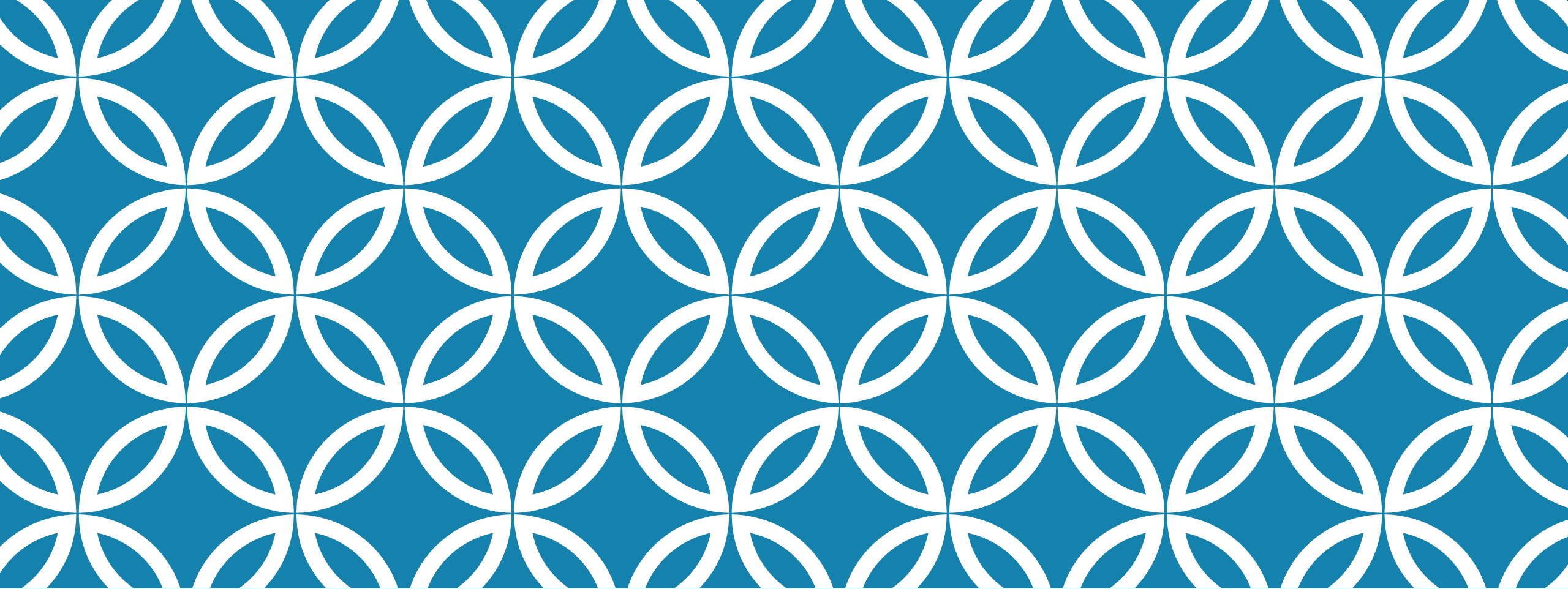
# PAUL'S CONCERN: LACK OF SPIRITUAL FATHERS

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**I Corinthian 4:15** For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers:

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Even today, we have abundance of preachers/instructors. But lack mature godly fathers and mothers.



# THREAT TO OUR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

15-17

Lust of the Flesh

Lust of the Eyes

Pride

THREAT TO  
OUR  
FELLOWSHIP  
AND  
KNOWING  
GOD  
INTIMATELY

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<sup>15</sup> Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

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<sup>16</sup> For 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.

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<sup>17</sup> And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

# LOVING THE WORLD

IF WE LOVE THE  
WORLD, LOVE OF  
FATHER IS NOT IN  
US! (15)

What is the world?

Experiences of our senses (see, hear, touch, taste)

Temporary possessions and pleasures offered by the world,

The community that we are part of in this world (at a personal, civic, or professional level)

God's creation (nature)

Love not the world ... does not mean isolation.

We have to be in the world but not become worldly. The worldly experiences should not become idols in our lives.

# WORLD AND US

Both the world and God are seeking our attention: We have to choose to serve one!

**Mathew 6:24** No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, **and love** the other; or else he will hold to the one, **and** despise the other. Ye **cannot** serve **God and mammon**.

We have to be in the world, but cannot become worldly

**John 17:15** I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. <sup>16</sup> They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

**James 4:4** Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

## THREE FORCES OF THE WORLD THAT CAN DESTROY US

16 FOR 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.

**LUST OF THE FLESH** (all that we desire that is either in excess and/or that is forbidden by God) ([Philippians 3:19](#) ... whose God is their belly)

**LUST OF THE EYES** ([Mathew 6:23](#) But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!, [Job 31:1](#) I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid?)

**PRIDE OF LIFE** (focus on power, success, position, popularity, self-righteousness etc.)

# FIRST TEMPTATIONS

Temptation of Adam & Eve included all three elements

Temptation of Jesus included all three elements

Adam & Eve yielded to temptation and sinned. Instead of confessing, they hid from God and blamed (Adam blamed Eve, Eve blamed serpent, Genesis 3:10-13)

Jesus overcame the temptations through the Word (Mathew 4:10 ... It is written, ...)



# NO EXCUSE FOR YIELDING TO TEMPTATIONS

**James 1:13** Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: <sup>14</sup> But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. <sup>15</sup> Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

**I Corinthians 10:13** There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

**James 4:7** Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

**Joseph**, Genesis 39:<sup>12</sup> And she caught him by his garment, saying, Lie with me: and he left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out.

(Resist & Run ... don't negotiate with the devil)  
(if we fall into temptation and sin, we must confess, I John 1:9)

LAWFUL  
DOES NOT  
MEAN IT IS  
PROFITABLE  
FOR OUR  
BODY &  
SOUL

**I Corinthians 6:12** All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any. <sup>13</sup> Meats for the belly, and the belly for meats: but God shall destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body.

There are many activities that are not inherently sinful, but when we are brought under their power, it becomes an idol and is sinful.

# GOD HATES THE PROUD & SEEKERS OF PERSONAL GLORY

**James 4:6** GOD RESISTETH THE PROUD, BUT GIVETH GRACE UNTO THE HUMBLE.

**Revelation 3:17** Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

**Proverbs 25:14** Whoso boasteth himself of a false gift is like clouds and wind without rain.

**II Corinthians 10:17** But he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.  
**Jeremiah 9:24** But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me,

# DECEPTION OF THE WORLD

<sup>17</sup> AND THE WORLD  
PASSETH AWAY, AND THE  
LUST THEREOF: BUT HE  
THAT DOETH THE WILL OF  
GOD ABIDETH FOR EVER.

## THE WORLD WILL PASS AWAY!

It is foolishness to invest in something that is going to pass away!

[Mathew 6:](#)<sup>19</sup> Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: <sup>20</sup> But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: <sup>21</sup> [For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.](#)

[I Timothy 6:7](#) For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.

[Abraham had the right perspective](#)

[Hebrews 11:](#)<sup>10</sup> For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

# THE CHOICE

<sup>17</sup> AND THE WORLD  
PASSETH AWAY, AND THE  
LUST THEREOF: BUT HE  
THAT DOETH THE WILL OF  
GOD ABIDETH FOR EVER.

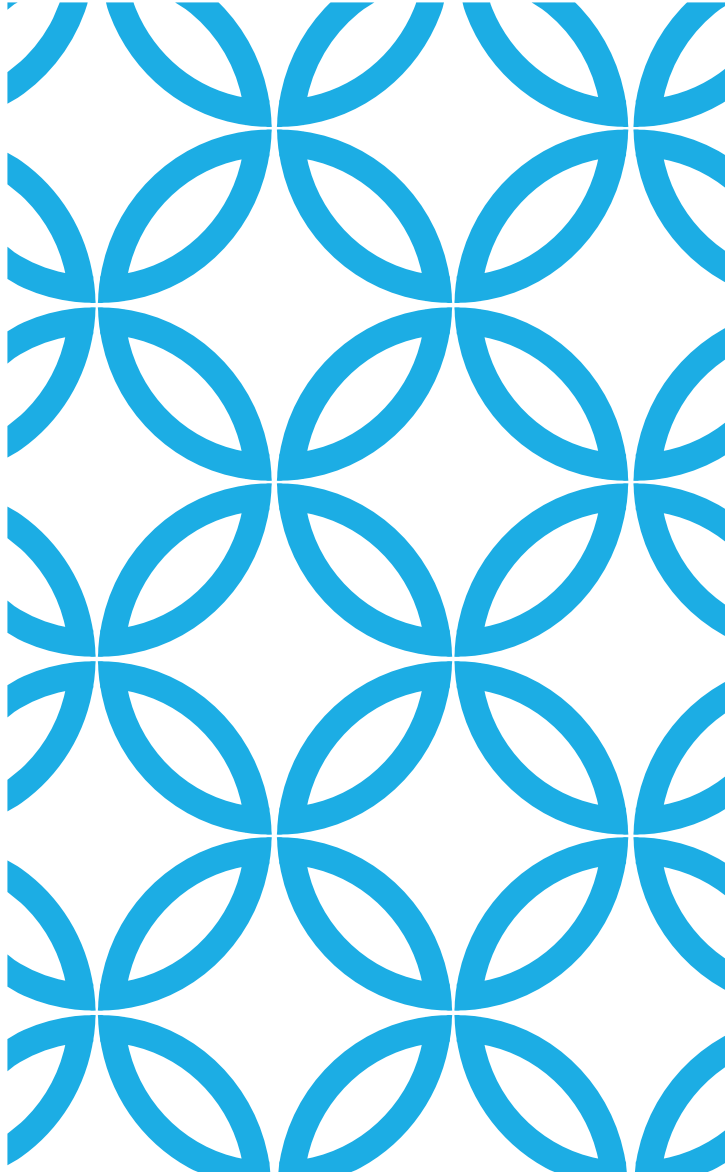
Love the world (15)

= disappointment, destruction and death

OR

Do the will of God (17)

= joy, peace, and eternal life



# REFLECTIONS

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# I JOHN 2:12-17

Spiritual  
Growth

Challenges  
to Growth

Overcoming  
Challenges

# REFLECTION

Are we growing in the Lord?

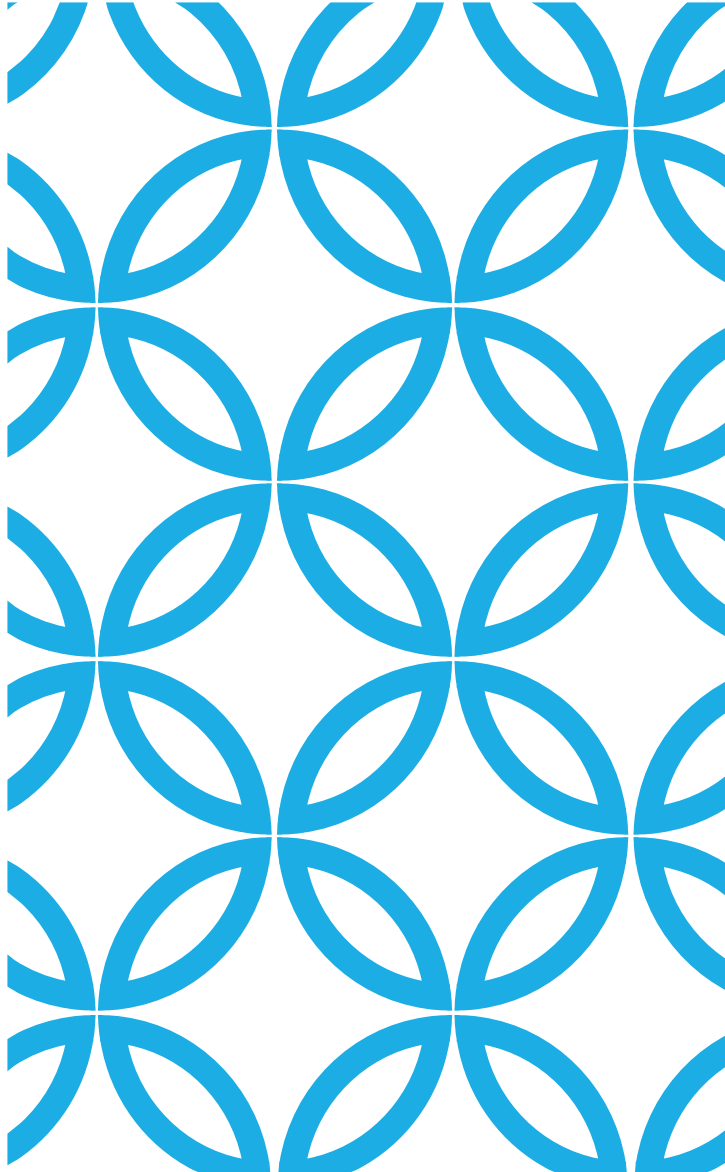


If not, what is hindering our spiritual growth?



Do we have an “overcomers” plan?





# REFLECTION

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This world will pass away ...  
Have an eternal perspective!