



How certain are you in your faith?

1st letter of John chapter 2 verses 12-17

How you would rate yourself as a Christ-follower?

- ❖ like a child, just beginning to understand.
- ❖ like a young person full of energy & passion for Jesus.
- ❖ in a mid-life crisis with more doubts than certainties.
- ❖ like a father/mother in the faith - a seasoned veteran.
- ❖ a seeker, exploring faith in Jesus.
- ❖ none of the above....something else.

¹² I am writing to you who are God's children [*Dear Children*]
because your sins have been forgiven through Jesus.^[a]

¹³ I am writing to you who are mature in the faith [*fathers*]
because you know Christ,
who existed from the beginning.

I am writing to you who are young in the faith
because you have won your battle with the evil one.

¹⁴ I have written to you who are God's children
because you know the Father.

I have written to you who are mature in the faith
because you know Christ,
who existed from the beginning.

I have written to you who are young in the faith
because you are strong.

God's word lives in your hearts,
and you have won your battle with the evil one. (NLT)

¹⁵ Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you.

¹⁶ For the world offers only a craving *[lust, desire]* for physical pleasure, a craving *[lust, desire]* for everything we see, and pride in *[life]* our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world.

¹⁷ And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever. *(NLT)*

But whoever does the will of God abides forever. *(ESV)*

God gives three gifts in verses 12-14

➤ ***Forgiveness through Jesus***

"Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. ² Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory." (5 v1-2)

➤ ***Knowing God personally***

➤ ***Strength to overcome evil, sin & selfishness***

....and all because of Jesus.

We need to know who we are and whose we are and what has been done for us by Jesus Christ.

¹⁵ Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you.

¹⁶ For the world offers only a craving *[lust, desire]* for physical pleasure, a craving *[lust, desire]* for everything we see, and pride in *[life]* our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world.

¹⁷ And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever.

What are the biggest threats from the world

- to our lives as Christ-followers?
- to the church?

What can we do as churches to protect our people?

W

