

The Young–Stage #2

2



If the new believer requires intimate love and care, what does the young believer need?

The young person is known by the way he begins to take control of his own decisions. There is that transition from when he is irresponsible and ignorant of what is right to that place where he knows and properly cares for himself and later cares for others. Young people are on the way to adulthood and certainly need to, at some point, learn how to care for themselves and others! Keeping God's overall goals in mind is extremely

helpful to reduce the tension that otherwise can develop.

There are no easy markers for when this stage begins or ends. Many languages do not have a specialized word like ‘teenager’ to describe this transitional period. The original Greek describes this believer as “young”, that is, not little and not mature.

The young believer’s challenge

The young believer must learn how to use God’s Word to stand strong against opposing influences and temptations. The Word of God is important, just as in the first stage, but here, the “youth” must learn how to face temptation. This is an integral part of being an overcomer.

The facts of life show this. When young people grow older, they must learn how to function in this world apart from their parents. This process is extremely slow for humans as compared to animals, but it eventually happens. While toddlers and preschooler are simply learning to feed themselves, those nearing adulthood need to learn to work to gain food so that he or she can eat.

Importance of God’s Word

In the spiritual side of development, the older youth needs God’s Word but can’t regularly depend on others to feed them what they need. These believers are learning to go to God’s Word to feed themselves. Additionally they are learning

how to use God’s Word to protect themselves from the enemy that is lurking about.

Note this strong wording from John which here describes the young believer, “I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one” (1 John 2:13-14).

This world is not as innocent and helpful as we would desire it to be. There is a very real enemy who seeks our demise. We should take comfort in the truth that Jesus Christ has already won the war, but the young believer needs to personally learn how to rely on God’s grace when facing many different life situations.

Becoming strong

In the following verse, we hear Peter’s strong declaration of the power that derives from the truth of God.

“For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, in order that by them you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust” (2 Peter 1:4).



The young like to think they are older than they are, demanding freedom without responsibility. They are unwary and ignorant of the challenges that face them. (Perhaps this helps them be eager for any challenge!)

Further steps of growth

They reside between the two stages of “little child” and “adult”. The desire for freedom to be an adult is good. They are catching on to the idea of where God is leading them. These “young men”, however, still have patterns of thinking developed when they were still a child, that of dependence on others to feed them. As they mature this needs to be released so that they can move into the “father” stage where they care for others.

The wise lad establishes good spiritual disciplines and learns from others how to use God’s Word to fight temptation. With a sharp eye the young believer will notice that there is a battle within and a battle without. He will wonder why he as a

believer faces such a fight, even with those things which he despises. At the same time, he will sense the evil in the world enticing him to walk in its lustful and foolish ways.

Win!

God has won the battle and has fully equipped the young believer to fight and win! This will take a while to learn. There will be failures as well as successes. If someone disciples this believer, the training time will be shortened. The discipler can explain why spiritual life works the way that it does. He or she can help connect the dots so that lessons are more quickly learned. Otherwise the new believer may have to fight many extra battles and perhaps suffer repeated defeats, leading to discouragement or perhaps worse.

We know that it is morally reprehensible to not care for a new baby, but care is also needed for the young believer, even though he may look mature due to his age or background. Oversight is very helpful during this stage and can greatly aid a “transparent” believer when he or she faces trials and temptations.

Lesson

- Young believers face the challenge of learning how to use God’s Word to live strong Christian lives.

- Spiritual battles will occur in our new lives because of our flesh and the enemy that uses the world to seek our harm.
- God promises that His Word can help us experience consistent victory.
- Spiritual oversight at this stage can greatly assist a confused young believer who may not understand why certain things happen in his or her spiritual life.

Memorize & Meditate

2 Peter 1:4

Assignment

- ➡ Do you have a strong spiritual discipline of feeding yourself in God's Word? Why or why not?
- ➡ Do you think the daily input of God's Word is important to a strong spiritual life? Why do you think this?
- ➡ Relate one defeat and victory. Reflect on each of them. Why did you fall? Why were you victorious?
- ➡ Are you mature enough to know what to say to someone battling with temptation?