

## ***Raising New Believers***

### **Introduction**

As pastors and church leaders one of the greatest privileges and most valuable efforts will be to raising up new believes into Christ!

This is such an important task! Many pastors do not have time to instruct and teach new believes but this is foundational to your churches success. Remember every new convert, every new believer and a potential new member in your church. And if you want your church to grow I suggest you pay attention to new believers!

### **Greatest miracle**

What is the greatest miracle you have seen?

I want to remind you that the greatest miracle of any ministry is not raising the dead or healing the sick! These miracles are amazing and really great miracles and something really special but the greatest miracle you will ever experience is and always will be Salvation!

Salvation is the greatest miracle because if you raise someone from the dead they will still die some day! Do you know that Lazarus died even after Jesus Christ raised him from the dead? The woman with the issue of blood died after being healed by Jesus.

With Salvation you are changing the destiny of a person, you are through the help of the Holy Spirit, changing the outcome of their future, and you are moving them from eternal pain and suffering in hell to eternal joy, peace and unimaginable beauty!

No other miracle can do that! All other miracles will not prevent the person eventually dying of old age! But Salvation bring the respondent eternal life, they will never die spiritually. Yes their body will die but their spirit will live forever!

And you know what? You will get the reward!

### **Identifying the Father, young men and children**

I want to remind you that people can age faster spiritually than physically, you can have two people the exact same age physically but spiritually there is a vast difference in their ages.

This leads me to explain a second concept for you to understand. Yes you have new converts / believes in your church but each of us my start to examine our current church too and identify their spiritual level as well! It is very important!!

This concept it that physical age does not determine spiritual maturity – there are many people in church today that are still baby Christians or children and you need to identify them because you do not want to put a child into leadership!

**So let's turn to 1 John 2:12-14** *"<sup>12</sup> I write to you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name. <sup>13</sup> I write to you, fathers, because you have known him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, dear children, because you have known the Father. <sup>14</sup> I write to you, fathers, because you have known him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one."*

In this passage we see the Apostle John talking about three types of Christians, they are divided into three categories based on the current spiritual growth.

## Children

The first group is the group known as Children. Children are not necessarily new believers but they are classified by being born again, their sins have been forgiven by Jesus Christ, *"<sup>12</sup> I write to you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name"*

So these people are born again, notice it does not say how long ago their sins were forgiven, it just states that the classification known as Children, have their sins forgiven.

They have come forward at a crusade or at church meeting and given their hearts to God.

There is a sub class in the classification of Children, this is a second level Children stage and thus another definition of the classification. *"<sup>13c</sup> I write to you, dear children, because you have known the Father."*

This level 2 Children is someone who knows God as Father! This is only revealed to a person who will seek God with all his or her heart. These are people who will be having a daily quiet time, prayer time and even praying for others! And started giving / tithing and applying biblical principles to their lives!

So as you see just about everyone in church today is either a level one or level two within the Children Category!

## Young Men / Women

The next class of believers are the young men / women. These people have overcome Satan and his evil forces through casting out demons, but have got their flesh under reasonable control because Satan is not able to use them as he once did. *"<sup>13b</sup> young men, because you have overcome the evil one"*

They have defeated him in many areas of their lives and thus overcome Satan.

There is also a second level in this classification and that is once they become Strong in the Lord and the Word of God lives within them, they have started learning scriptures and can quote the bible verses from memory. *"<sup>14b</sup> I write to you, young*

*men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one."*

Do you have some level one and two young men and women in your church? These will be the people you start to get some tasks and positions within your church like deacons, home cell leaders, ushers etc!

Always refer to **1 Timothy 3:1-13** when choosing leaders and never forget to pray about it and ask God who His choice is for the job.

### **Fathers / Mothers**

The fathers / mothers in your church will be an invaluable resource because these people once identified can head up certain ministry area's as well as be considered as pastors

Fathers / Mothers have an intimate knowledge of God through study, personal study and years of listening to various sermons, they know their God and thus are able to do exploits for Him *"<sup>13</sup> I write to you, fathers, because you have known him who is from the beginning"*

This is so important that Fathers / Mothers know God it is repeated a second time in verse 14 again!

Remember ALL Fathers and Mothers have come through ALL the classifications, there is no short cut here.

They have been born again  
They Know God as Father  
They have overcome the evil one (Satan)  
They are strong in the Lord  
The word of God lives in them  
They have overcome the evil one (Satan)  
They have an intimate knowledge of God