1 John 1:9 (NKJV)
9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Feelings are not a gauge for spirituality

We cannot come to a knowledge of truth through human experience

GOD's WORD

Our Reference Point

"THE basis for comparison THE standard against which everything should be evaluated, including your "feelings and experiences"

We must not refer to our experiences, but rather to God's Word to understand God's word !

We must not evaluate God's word through human experience

Translations are not adequate we must look at the original languages

ADVANCING TOWARD FUTURE PROPHETIC FULFILLMENTS

Angelic Conflict

▾1. you have overcome **the wicked one**.

a. How a Christian grows spiritually is a major theme in 1st John

vocative — The case that is used for direct address. The noun in the vocative case is being directly addressed.

1 John 2:12–17 (NKJV)

1. *teknion* referring to everyone

12 I write to you, **little children**, Because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake.

By the way

2. *paidion* ; it's clear John's addressing three stages of maturity

13 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 wicked one**.
I write to you, **little children**, Because you have known the Father.

3. Now that the stage is set; John gives the intended instruction

14 I have written to you, **fathers**, Because you have known Him who is from the beginning.
I have written to you, **young men**, Because **you are strong**, and **the word of God abides in you**, And **you have overcome the wicked one**.

(*kosmos*)

15 Do **not love** the **world** or the things in the **world**. If anyone loves the **world**, the love of the Father is not in him.
16 For all that is in the **world**—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.
17 And the **world** is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

kosmos **doesn't necessarily refer to overt activity but it is a reference to the kind of thinking that characterises the world**

John 8:31 (NASB95)
31 So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine;

John 15:4 (NKJV)
4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

▾2. **kosmic or the world's system of thinking, is related to Satan and the Demonic**

a. **James 3:13–15 (NKJV)**
13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom.
14 But if you have bitter envy and **self-seeking** in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth.
15 This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, **demonic**.

▾3. **Metaphorical Fortress for the Sole Is in relation to the Angelic Conflict**

a. **Ephesians 6:10–18 (NASB95)**
10 Finally, be **strong** in the Lord and in the strength of His might.

74.7 ἐνδυναμόομαι (**dynamai**) to become able to do something—'to become able, to become capable.'
It's potential power, the power that we get from the Holy Spirit. It is God's strength that protects us, not ours.

11 Put on the full armor of God so that you will be able to **stand firm against the schemes** of **the devil.**
12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

The enemy really isn't another person, another human being; ultimately the enemy has a spiritual dimension and is part of a broader conflict involving angels and demons.

3497 μεθοδεία (**methodeia**), ας (aia), ἡ, (Mid) n.fem.; = Str 3180, TDNT 5.102— **LN 88.158 scheming**, craftiness; (pl.) wiles, strategies (Eph 4:14; 6:11+; Eph 6:12 v/ NASB)

or the ***kosmic*** thinking that characterises the world

13 Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to **stand firm**.

2705 ἱστημι (**histamai**, ἱστάνω (histanō), ἵστημα (histēma): vb.; = Str 2476, TDNT 7.638— **1.** LN 85.40 **put**, cause to be in a place, place, make stand
To take up a defensive posture against the enemy

This is not a negative term; as to say, go on the attack, rebuke, cast out

doctrine

14 Stand firm therefore, **having girded your loins with truth** and **having put on the breastplate of righteousness**,

The imputed righteousness of the believer, and then as he advances in spiritual growth the experiential righteousness that comes with growth

The belt the Roman soldier wore around his waist was the anchor point for the rest of his armour

15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

The foundation our justification; peace with God

16 in addition to all, taking up the **shield of faith** with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of **the evil one.**

Exercising doctrine from verse 14 so the enemies weapons never hit there mark

17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.
18 With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,

4.

How we grow spiritually

The Position for Advancement:

Confession: is necessary to restore fellowship and recover the filling of the Holy Spirit

Advancing by means of faith: trust in God's word, trusting the doctrines of Scripture

Ephesians 5:18 (NKJV)
18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but **be filled with the Spirit**,
Galatians 5:16 (NKJV)
16 I say then: **Walk in the Spirit**, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.
2 Peter 1:3–4 (NKJV)
3 as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, **through the knowledge of Him** who called us by glory and virtue,
4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

Advancing through grace orientation & doctrinal orientation: Truth

2 Peter 3:18 (NKJV)
18 but **grow in the grace and knowledge** of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.

Grace Orientation: everything in the spiritual life is based in who God is and what Jesus did on the cross

Doctrinal Orientation: the transformation of our thinking, so that we learn to think as God thanks

1 Corinthians 2:16 (NKJV)
16 For "who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?" **But we have the mind of Christ.**

Advance To Spiritual Adolescents:

Advance to spiritual adult: