

Following Jesus



Growing Mentally, Physically, Spiritually
and Socially.

*"And Jesus increased in wisdom and
stature, and in favor with God and men."*

Luke 2:52 NKJV

Growing In Wisdom & Understanding

- ❑ **1 Corinthians 14:20** *"Brethren, do not be children in understanding; however, in malice be babes, but in understanding be mature."*
- ❑ **2 Peter 1:5** *"But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge,"*
- ❑ **Matthew 10:16** *"Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves."*
- ❑ **Ecclesiastes 12:11-12** *"The words of the wise are like goads, and the words of scholars are like well-driven nails, given by one Shepherd. And further, my son, be admonished by these. Of making many books there is no end, and much study is wearisome to the flesh."*

The Value of Wisdom & Knowledge

- ❑ **Proverbs 16:16** *"How much better to get wisdom than gold! And to get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver. "*
- ❑ **Proverbs 20:15** *"There is gold and a multitude of rubies, But the lips of knowledge are a precious jewel. "*
- ❑ **Proverbs 10:14** *"Wise people store up knowledge, But the mouth of the foolish is near destruction. "*
- ❑ **Proverbs 15:14** *"The heart of him who has understanding seeks knowledge, But the mouth of fools feeds on foolishness. "*
- ❑ **Proverbs 18:15** *"The heart of the prudent acquires knowledge, And the ear of the wise seeks knowledge."*

Love Your Own Soul

- ❑ **Proverbs 19:8** *"He who gets wisdom loves his own soul; He who keeps understanding will find good. "*
- ❑ **Proverbs 19:2** *"Also it is not good for a soul to be without knowledge, And he sins who hastens with his feet. "*
- ❑ **Proverbs 23:12** *"Apply your heart to instruction, And your ears to words of knowledge."*
- ❑ **Proverbs 24:3-4** *"Through wisdom a house is built, And by understanding it is established; By knowledge the rooms are filled With all precious and pleasant riches. "*

Growing In Stature

- **Genesis 2:15-16** *"And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat;"*
- **Ecclesiastes 5:18** *"Here is what I have seen: It is good and fitting for one to eat and drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labor in which he toils under the sun all the days of his life which God gives him; for it is his heritage."*
- **1 Timothy 4:1-4** *"Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. For every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving;"*

Growing In Favor With God

□ Fear God

- **Proverbs 1:7** *"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction."*
- **Ecclesiastes 12:13-14** *"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all. For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil."*

Growing In Favor With God

▣ Put On Christ

- **Galatians 3:26-29** *"For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."*

Growing In Favor With God

□ **Grow Up Into Christ**

- **Ephesians 4:13-15** *"till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—"*

Growing In Favor With God

□ **Grow Up Into Christ (cont)**

- **Colossians 2:18-19** *"Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, and not holding fast to the Head, from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase that is from God."*
- **2 Peter 3:18** *"but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen."*
- **1 Peter 2:2** *"as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,"*

Growing In Favor With Men

- ❑ Communication is easier today than it has ever been.
- ❑ With so many tools to communicate why are we so bad at it? It is said that loneliness and isolation are rising, especially among the industrialized nations.
- ❑ Why are so many people spending hours chatting with strangers on the internet.
- ❑ We are more technologically adept than socially adept.
- ❑ Let's assume an American lived to be 75 years old and spent exactly the average amount of time doing everything in life.
- ❑ Do you know they would spend 13 years watching TV.
- ❑ Do you know they would spend just 1.6 years talking to their parents and children.
- ❑ If they went to church for 4 one hour services every week all of their life they would spend just 1.8 years there.

The Riches of A Good Name

- **Proverbs 22:1** " *A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, Loving favor rather than silver and gold. "*
- **Ecclesiastes 7:1** " *A good name is better than precious ointment, And the day of death than the day of one's birth; "*
- **1Timothy 3:7** " *Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil."*

The Social Graces of The Spirit

- ❑ **Romans 12:9-21**
- ❑ **Galatians 5:13-14** *"For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."*
- ❑ **Galatians 5:22-23** *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. ..."*
- ❑ **James 1:27** *"Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, ..."*