



'HAVE YOU GROWN THIS YEAR?'

Luke 2:41-52

Sermon Verse: Luke 2:52

Every year there should be some growth in each of our individual lives. God's desire is that we continue to grow, develop, and become more sensitive, committed, compassionate Christians. How would you respond if someone who knew you last year came up to you, since January 1, 2008, and asked you, "Have you grown at all in the last year?" Do you see any mental, physical, social, economic, or spiritual growth in your life over the last twelve months? Will your family, friends, church family or you see any growth in your life?

I. We Need To Grow Mentally

A. We need to learn more. The one thing we will never stop being is learners (Philippians 1:9; Colossians 1:10; 2 Peter 1:5).

We need to remember more. Jesus quoted Scripture when He was tempted. Do we know enough Scripture to get ourselves out of trouble? Do we know enough Scriptures to keep from getting into trouble? Come to Bible Study in 2008.

We need to understand more (Ephesians 1:8; 1 Corinthians 14:20; Colossians 1:9) It won't help you to learn and remember more if you don't understand what you have learned (Proverbs 2:2; Psalm 119:169)

II. We Need To Grow Physically

A. Be healthier in 2008. Our bodies are God's temple.

B. We need to get proper rest.

C. We need to get proper exercise. – 1 Timothy 4:7, 8

D. We need to eat a proper diet.

E. We need to be temperate in all things – 1 Corinthians 9:25

III. We Need To Grow Socially

Let's be kinder to our friends – Ephesians 4:32. Don't take relationships / friendships for granted.

B. Make friends of others – Proverbs 18:24

C. Practice on how to treat our enemies – Luke 6:27; Luke 22:50, 51
Forgive your enemies in 2008.

IV. We Need to Grow Spiritually – 2 Peter 3:18

A. Take time to pray more in 2008.

B. Take time to read your Bible more in 2008.

C. Learn to increase your giving to God more in 2008.

D. Resist temptations more in 2008.

E. 2 Peter 1:5-7 tells us to do this. We begin with faith. Faith alone is not enough. We must next add virtue. Faith must find its expression in character. Character demands knowledge. We must know what is right and wrong. Notice that faith is in the heart, character is in the life, and knowledge is in the head.

Growth must be outward as well as inward. Add self-control, be steadfast, never stop growing and you will achieve Godliness, affection and love.

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