



“In 2009 We Must Grow ‘Mentally’”

Luke 2:52

The mere changing of the date on a calendar does not make you a new or different person. There are some fundamental changes that must occur to produce a transformed you. Circumstances and conditions can certainly contribute to the responses of how you react when trying to be a Christian person. However, real meaningful growth will only be sustained when there are deliberate, spiritual courses of action taken. As you enter the year 2009, I want to share four areas of growth, from the Word of God, which I feel can and will assist you in being the person whom God desires.

For the next several weeks, I will be preaching a series entitled “*In 2009 We Must Grow.*” This is based on the text written by Luke regarding the growth of Jesus. In Luke 2:52 it states that “Jesus grew in wisdom and stature (i.e. strength and in favor with God and people - NIV). I want to share that if you are sincere and truly committed to becoming a better person in 2009, you need to GROW!

A. Mentally B. Physically C. Socially D. Spiritually

Certainly, there are many other areas of growth, but for this series of sermons, I will concentrate on these four primary areas. This morning’s sermon is “We Must Grow MENTALLY in 2009.”

To know more, we need to study and learn more about what God desires of us. To do better we need to apply what we learn to our daily way of living. All of our days on earth will be filled with rich opportunities to learn more, and grow mentally. Every day is another opportunity to learn. The one constant in life is that none of us will ever stop being learners. This morning’s sermon is laden with invaluable lessons from the Apostle Paul who tells the Philippians that he prays that they will keep on growing and learning, in more depth, how to understand and make the right choices (Philippians 1:9). He instructs the Colossians that God will show them everything He wants them to do so that they may have all the knowledge, wisdom and understanding that His Spirit gives. Then they will come to know God better (Colossians 1:9, 10). Peter tells us to grow mentally by expanding our understanding of God’s goodness, power, and promise. If we learn God’s lessons, our faith will improve and we will acquire self-control, patience, devotion to God, concern for others, and love. When you learn who Jesus Christ is, and that your sins have been forgiven, you will have grown mentally (2 Peter 2:3-9).

In 2009, most Christians will resolve to know more about Jesus Christ, love God even more, be more obedient, and love their neighbors; but to grow in 2009 we must understand more (Ephesians 1:8; 1 Corinthians 14:20). Solomon urges us to “Apply our hearts to understanding” (Proverbs 2:2). The Psalmist writes in Psalm 119:169, “Please, Lord, hear my prayer and give me the understanding that comes from your Word.”

To grow mentally in 2009, this week study what Paul lists as five benefits God gives all believers who want to continue to learn (Colossians 1:12-14).

1. God made us qualified to share His inheritance (2 Corinthians 5:21).
2. God rescued us from Satan’s dominion of darkness and made us His children (Colossians 2:15).
3. God brought us into His eternal kingdom (Ephesians 1:5, 6).
4. God redeemed us; bought our freedom from sin and judgment (Hebrews 9:12).
5. God forgave all our sins (Ephesians 1:7).

In 2009 pray to God to help you to grow mentally by studying and learning more about who Jesus is and what God has and will provide for you. The more you learn, the more you grow. The more you grow the depth of your love for God will develop and the depth of your love will increase your trust in God, your peace, and your joy for your 2009 Christian journey.

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