

I have heard Pastor Greg say; 1 year from now, I hope to be a better preacher than I am today...

When I hear that, I think is that possible? And then time goes and the answer is YES! But its necessary to recognize that is intentional... He doesn't just say it, he works at it!

In the passage we are going to look at, It is recognized in Jesus that he developed in wisdom and in favor-

**Luke 2:52** And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

### I GROWTH

**A-** Growth is the NORMAL productivity of life-

1. The seed planted grows, the gestation of a pregnancy is measured by growth, the health of a child is recorded in terms of growth and development-

2. Growth shows that things are healthy and working- **Luke 2:52** And Jesus grew in wisdom and **stature**, and in favor with God and man... He grew from a boy to a man... he didn't remain the baby in a manger-

**B-** So, a lack of growth is abnormal... The absence of growth is seen as a problem-

1. Especially when certain things designed for development-

**C-** So, you have to take an inventory; are there areas of your life that are growing? Are there areas not growing?

1. How do you view it? As acceptable? or As a problem?

2. Often, people accept the absence of growth as normal... Your salvation is the same, your convictions are the same, your marriage is the same, your parenting is the same, your money is the same, your fruitfulness is the same...

a. And it doesn't bother you... Your ministry is the same, your revelation is the same, your relationships, mind, heart-

3. Growth is the natural process- how fast or slow will vary... but is there growth at all!

### II FACILITATING GROWTH

**A-** In some ways, Growth will naturally happen... some things to a degree are automatic.

1. You don't have to ask weeds to grow... they will find a way!

**B-** But majority of our good Growth must be facilitated, it requires an investment... **What would facilitate growth?**

1. Revelation: God can give you what you need (*wisdom*)... God can show you what you need...

2. Education: You can learn; books, videos, podcasts, sermons... there are so many tools at your disposal-

3. Analyzing: Ask Questions! *Why did that work? Why didn't that work? What can be better? How can I fix?*

4. Repentance: Get your heart right with God & with people...

5. Change: Start small, Be moldable for change, be willing to change (*deal with Pride*)

**C-** These are ways you can facilitate your growth... I am going to put in the **work** for my growth

### III OBSERVABLE GROWTH

**A-** Our main passage is a recognition statement: **Luke 2:52** And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

1. This was observed in Jesus... He matured and got taller, He also grew in His wisdom, He also grew in favor with God (that was seen), and he grew in favor with people... All of this was noted in Him.

2. How can we know we are growing? People recognize it!

a. **1 Tim 4:15** Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress.

i. As we commit in the unseen, it will be observed by others around you!

**B-** Our job is to take an inventory of each arena of life and ask yourself; Have I grown? Have I developed?

1. Can I see it? Can my Wife? Can my Kids? Can my Pastor? Can the people I am in ministry with?

a. **Galatians 6:4** Pay careful attention to your own work, for then you will get the satisfaction of a job well done, and you won't need to compare yourself to anyone else.

2. God wants you to grow... to master and develop your abilities for Him-

a. **Heb13:21** may he equip you with all you need for doing his will. May he produce in you, through the power of Jesus Christ, every good thing that is pleasing to him.