

DEVELOPING THE MAN OF GOD

Luke 2:52/Proverbs 3:3-4

It is important that as men of God; Disciples, Pastors, Leaders, that we grow and develop in our ministry, salvation, marriage, parenting, counsel, witness...

In the passage we're going to look at: We see the process of development, something we all need to be seeing in our lives.

Luke 2:52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

I. ISSUE OF DEVELOPMENT:

A- The normal course of life is Development.

1. We are supposed to grow, this is what we see in the natural... this is what we should see in the Spiritual.
 - a. Another way our scripture reads is: *Meanwhile, Jesus kept growing wiser and more mature, and in favor with God and his fellow man.*
 - b. Jesus developed! He wasn't all that he was immediately... he grew into his ministry, wisdom, maturity.
 - i. He talks about timing... It is not my time... there is a process of development.
2. We see this idea repeated throughout scripture:
 - a. **1 Samuel 2:26** Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the LORD and also with man...
 - i. Samuel grew into ministry, and development continued while in ministry... Guys say- *When I get out THEN...* No, you should be developing NOW, cultivating growth now, that will simply continue & accelerate later.
 - b. **Luke 1:80** And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day of his public appearance to Israel...
 - i. This is JTB; He grew into his calling and ministry... there was the process of development.
 - c. **Luke 2:40** And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him...
 - i. Again this is Jesus: God in human form, developed into His ministry... 12 years old wasn't the time-

B- These scriptures give us an understanding for the NORMAL course of; Life, Salvation, Ministry, Marriage, Relationships...

1. When things do not develop, we recognize that as a problem.

a. We ask; Is there a Defect, is there a Disease, is something Dying?

i. This is true for all of creation; Plants, Animals, People...

ii. Talked to a person who for 2 year was facing the same mind battle... WHY?

2. **Q: Are you developing?... Q: How have you developed in the last 3mo, 6mo, 1 yr, 5 yr?**

a. The man of God needs to develop: Otherwise you will become crippled in life... marriage, finances, ministry...

a. **Leviticus 21:16–17** And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ¹⁷“Speak to Aaron, saying, None of your offspring throughout their generations who has a blemish may approach to offer the bread of his God...

- i. This sets an understanding: What will hinder men from ministry? What will hinder their work for God?
- i. **Leviticus 21:18–20** (ESV)¹⁸ For no one who has a blemish shall draw near... ²⁰or a dwarf... *Underdeveloped/Defects in development...* This will negatively impact you.

II. HOW TO DEVELOP:

A- Let's think about how to DEVELOP: For this we will turn to the book of Proverbs:

1. See; Proverbs is Wisdom for life; It is written from a father to a son-

a. **Proverbs 3:3-4** Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart. So you will find favor and good success in the sight of God and man...

2. The first thing we need to understand is that: Development is a PROCESS; there is time involved.

a. You will develop over time: I was not where I am today when I got sent out... There was a process of development

b. I am not yet where I will be... there is more development ahead.

c. Recognize the process, and commit to it... HOW do we do that? What does this look like practically?

3. Staying steadfast in your love for God... Daily surrender... today I will do what God wants me to do.

a. This involves Faithfulness: You must be faithful: To God, the things of God, The will of God.

b. Bind them: Tie yourself to, and set your will

c. Write them on your heart: Build Convictions (Settled Decisions)

4. Our scripture says: Then you will find favor and good success in the sight of God and man.