

# Let's Keep Growing in 2012!

II Peter 3:18

Luke 2:52 “**And Jesus increased** (to advance, to grow;) **in wisdom and stature**, (maturity (in years or size) **and in favour with God and man.**” It’s normal to see a kid you’ve not seen in a year, and to say, “My, how you’ve grown! Will anybody be able to say that about us, one year from now? We need to make a commitment to grow in the coming year. Many parents make a mark on the wall by the door to show their kids height as they grow. If our Heavenly Father did that, would some of us be the same or shorter instead of taller? What about pictures... are they the same every year – for decades? NO. *We need to grow in 2012, in 4 areas of resolutions...*

## I. We Need to Grow Spiritually (text) “There are no shortcuts on the way to spiritual maturity.”

- A. **We will have to pray more** – **I Thessalonians 5:17** “Pray without ceasing.”
- B. **We will have to read the Bible more** – **Psalms 119:130** “The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.”
- C. **We will have to give more** – Time, Talents, Treasures

## II. We Need to Grow Mentally.

- A. **We need to learn more.** The one thing we will never stop being is learners = accumulating facts.
  - 1. **Phil. 1:9** “And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment;” **Col. 1:10** “...That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;”
- B. **We need to remember more.** Jesus quoted Scripture when He was tempted.
  - 1. Do we know enough Scripture to get ourselves out of trouble?
  - 2. Do we know enough Scripture to keep from getting into trouble?
- C. **We need to understand more.** It will do little good to learn and remember if we do not understand what we have learned. **Proverbs 2:1-5** *Life does not have to be a puzzle, without a box to look at!*”

## III. We Need to Grow Physically. Goal: “Balance.” **I Cor. 9:5** “And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.” All of us need to be healthier. We are God’s temple.

- A. **We need to get proper rest.**
- B. **We need to get proper exercise.** It may be that it profits little, but it does profit – **I Timothy 4:8** “For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things,
- C. **We need to eat a proper diet.**

## IV. We Need to Grow Socially.

- A. **We need to be kinder to our friends.** Friendship is never to be taken lightly. **Eph. 4:32** “And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.” **Tact is the ability** of making a point without making an enemy.

**Tact is the art** of pretending you didn’t notice anything. **Tact is the unsaid part** of what you think.

**Tact is criticizing the mistake** rather than the person who made it.

**Tact is changing the subject** without changing your mind. **Tact is thinking twice** before saying nothing.

**Tact is the art of recognizing** when to be big and when not to belittle.

**Tact is the ability to raise** the eyebrows instead of the roof. **People with tact** have less to retract.

**Tact is the ability to shut your mouth** before someone wants to do it for you.

**Tact is the ability to think** of things far enough in advance not to say them.

**Tact is the ability to stand on your own two feet** without stepping on anybody’s toes.

**Tact is the ability to remove the sting** from a dangerous stinger without getting stung.

**Tact is the ability to give a person** a shot in the arm without him feeling the needle.

**Tact is the ability to hammer home a point** without hitting the other fellow in the head.

- B. We need to make new friends – Proverbs 18:24** “A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.”
1. Friendship can be a bridge for bringing people to Christ.
  2. Many times we try to influence people without first making them our friends. It seldom works.
- C. We need to know how to treat our enemies – Luke 6:27-28** “But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you, Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you.” Jesus not only told us how to treat our enemies, He showed us how to treat our enemies.
1. His last miracle before the Crucifixion was for an enemy – He reattached an ear of the High Priest’s servant.
  2. One of His last prayers was for His enemies – “Father forgive them for they know not what they do.”