

The Spirit Of Christmas

P2 - He Didn't Stay In The Manger

By Dr. John Polis

LUKE 2:1-7

And it came to pass in those days *that* a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. ³ So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. ⁴ Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife,^[a] who was with child. ⁶ So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. ⁷ And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

He began in the manger, but didn't stay there. It seems that we have more of a mental image of Jesus as a baby, than as a full grown son. This may contribute subconsciously to why many Christians remain spiritual babies for a long time after being born again.

But Jesus grew up as we shall see. **ISAIAH 9:6-7**, Unto us a Child was born, but a Son was given, the government was upon His soldiers. His role was to have great responsibility in God's plan, much was to be upon His shoulders. A child could not do it, he had to grow and become the mature son.

ISAIAH 9:6-7

For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of *His* government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

NUMBER 1. We also as born again believers are admonished to grow up spiritually.

A. Refers to baby hood stage of our spiritual life.

1 PETER 2:1-2

Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, ² as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,

B. Grow in grace and knowledge.

2 PETER 3:17-18

You therefore, beloved, since you know *this* beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; ¹⁸but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him *be* the glory both now and forever. Amen.

C. Staying a baby too long is abnormal

HEBREWS 5:12-14

For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need *someone* to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. ¹³For everyone who partakes *only* of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. ¹⁴But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, *that is*, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

D. Christlike character and ministry are goals.

EPHESIANS 4:11-15

And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹²for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, ¹³till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; ¹⁴that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, ¹⁵but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ

NUMBER 2. The Attitude of Humility.

A. Humility precedes wisdom

LUKE 2:50-52

But they did not understand the statement which He spoke to them. ⁵¹Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them, but His mother kept all these things in her heart. ⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

B. The bible teaches a wise person is humble, a proud person is foolish. "The foolishness of Satan who was cast out of heaven for pride." " I would rather reign in Hell than serve in Heaven."

C. The blessings of humility abound in scripture.

PROVERBS 15:33

The fear of the Lord *is* the instruction of wisdom, And before honor *is* humility.

PROVERBS 18:12

Before destruction the heart of a man is haughty, And before honor *is* humility.

PROVERBS 22:4

By humility *and* the fear of the Lord *Are* riches and honor and life.

D. The problems with pride.

PROVERBS 8:13

The fear of the Lord *is* to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way And the perverse mouth I hate.

PROVERBS 11:2

When pride comes, then comes shame; But with the humble *is* wisdom.

PROVERBS 16:18

Pride *goes* before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall.

PROVERBS 29:23

A man's pride will bring him low, But the humble in spirit will retain honor.

NUMBER 3. Overcoming Temptation.

A. Jesus was an overcomer, another milestone in maturity. Jesus overcame temptation by the grace of God. So can we.

HEBREWS 4:15-16

For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are*, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

JAMES 1:12-15

Blessed *is* the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. ¹³ Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. ¹⁴ But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. ¹⁵ Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

NUMBER 4. Learning Obedience.

A. Ultimate obedience.

HEBREWS 5:8-9

though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. ⁹ And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,

B. He did what God wanted, the way God wanted it done.

PHILIPPIANS 2:8-11

And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of death*, even the death of the cross. ⁹ Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, ¹¹ and *that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord*, to the glory of God the Father.

C. Sometimes there is suffering in obedience.

CONCLUSION

The path to Christian maturity has these milestones on the journey. Humility, Holiness, Obedience. A Son was given for our sins.