

The righteous man will flourish like the palm tree, He will grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Planted in the house of the LORD, They will flourish in the courts of our God. They will still yield fruit in old age; They shall be full of sap and very green.

Psalm 92:12-14





Key Thought

Everything that has God's life grows and everything that grows changes!

God's creation was designed to grow

"Then God said, "Let the land sprout with vegetation – every sort of seedbearing plant, and trees that grow seed-bearing fruit. These seeds will then produce the kinds of plants and trees from which they came." And that is what happened. The land produced vegetation – all sorts of seed-bearing plants, and trees with seed-bearing fruit. Their seeds produced plants and trees of the same kind. And God saw that it was good." - Genesis 1:11-12



God's creation was designed to grow

"So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that scurries and swarms in the water, and every sort of bird – each producing offspring of the same kind. And God saw that it was good." - Genesis 1:21

"Then God said, "Let the earth produce every sort of animal, each producing offspring of the same kind. And that is what happened. God made all sorts of wild animals, livestock, and small animals, each able to produce offspring of the same kind. And God saw that it was good." - Genesis 1:24-25



God's creation was designed to grow

"The righteous will hold to his way, And he who has clean hands will grow stronger and stronger." – Job 17:9



Jesus grew up

- "And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man." Luke 2:52
 - προκόπτω [prokopto] to advance, cut forward



1. Jesus Grew in Stature

- Sometimes... we need to <u>grow up</u>!
- "Brethren, do not be children in your thinking; yet in evil be infants, but in your thinking be mature." - 1 Corinthians 14:20



Growing towards the light.

Most seeds start their life buried in darkness. The push their roots out in all directions hoping to find sources of life. They pull in water and nutrients, but those won't sustain them forever. The natural forces of the earth pulls their growth downward deeper toward the world below them. But the most important thing they can do is grow against the downward pull into the darkness and strain to grow toward the light. If they don't break out of the darkness and reach the light, they will die. But, as soon as they find the littlest bit of light, plants literally push themselves toward the brightest part of the light. Any cells that find themselves in darkness will grow longer than the cells around them to push the rest of the plant into the presence of the sun...because only in the presence of the sun will they find life.



Growing towards the light.

As believers... those who want to grow...those who want to survive... they must do the same. They must push against the darkness. They must fight against the pull of the world below them, so they can live in the presence of the Son, Jesus Christ...**because only in the presence of the son will they** <u>find life.</u>



2. Jesus Grew in Wisdom

- σοφία [sophia] wisdom, philosophy, theology
- "...like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation." 1 Peter 2:2
- "As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow <u>up in all aspects</u> into Him who is the head, even Christ." - Ephesians 4:14–15



2. Jesus Grew in Wisdom

- The fresh fire of God becomes stale moldy religion when we depend on the <u>method</u> God did something in the past as if it was God himself!
- "Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth from the mouth of God." Matthew 4:4



3. Jesus Grew in Favor with Man

• Relationships



4. Jesus Grew in Favor with God

- χάρις [charis] favor, grace.
- Jesus grew in Grace.
- "And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him." Luke 2:40



4. Jesus Grew in Favor with God

"Our brother Paul... in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand... You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness, but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen." - 2 Peter 3:16–18



4. Jesus Grew in Favor with God

- To grow in the things of God, we must get comfortable with being uncomfortable.
 - COM = "with"
 - FORTIS = "courage"



