

**Fresh Air : Pursuing God!**  
**“How the Gospel Renews and Revives”**

Text: Luke 2:41–52

Topic(s): Gospel, Spiritual Growth, Discipleship, Wisdom, Christian Living, Christian Community

Big Idea of the Message: Jesus grew and developed physically and spiritually before he began his earthly ministry, taking time to study, listen, and learn.

Application Point: The gospel shows us that in order to grow spiritually, we must first learn to listen and seek God’s wisdom.

**Introduction:**

The truth is we are living in a time of very toxic air and we as the people of God and the church of God really need some fresh air.

We truly need Fresh Air to survive and thrive as Christians.

I believe this begins with an unwavering pursuit of God!

HABITS - Jesus’ parents, like most devout Jews, went to Jerusalem each year. Jesus’ family had the right priorities. Families that establish regular habits of worship are less likely to have their spiritual life deflected by alternative attractions. Keep worship on top of your family’s agenda. Putting God first is a great example to children, who quickly learn what parents care about by observing how they plan and spend time.

**1. Pursuit of God’s Presence! (40 & 49)**

We sometimes have the idea that Spiritual Vitality comes from being a christian longer and going to church.

Truth is in order to grow and receive the fresh Air we need, we must pursue the Presence of God.

Bottom Line is it is an active work of sanctification and only comes when embraced.

Where do you spend your time?  
What do you spend your time doing?  
Are you pursuing the presence of God?

Psalm 63:8 “My soul has thirsted for you; your right hand has upheld me.”

## **2. Pursuit of God's Principles! (46-48)**

Fresh Air Comes as we pursue God's Principles

Just as Jesus did not develop his wisdom and knowledge in isolation, but sought out the wisdom of others, so we can find renewed strength in our spiritual development through wrestling with hard questions alongside other believers who are at different stages of their own journeys.

How often are you listening to the Word of God?

How often are you asking questions that will strengthen your understanding of God's word?

What are you putting into your mind?

Will it enhance your understanding of God's word or more of the World?

## **3. Pursuit of God's Path! (52)**

God did not send his Son to earth to save the world in a single day. Instead, Jesus spent thirty-three years growing and preparing to complete the Father's work by being mindful of what was most important to God and being fully present in each of his interactions with others.

As we look at the record of Jesus's life, we can take hope and encouragement as we allow God to work in and through both the good and the difficult seasons of life to complete the good work he has begun in each of us.

Closing:

A.W. Tozer printed this prayer in "The Pursuit of God"

"O God, I have tasted thy goodness, and it has both satisfied me and made me thirsty for more. I am painfully conscious of my need of further grace. I am ashamed of my lack of desire. O God, the triune God, I want to want thee; I long to be filled with longing; I thirst to be made more thirsty still. Show me thy glory, I pray thee, that so I may know thee indeed. Begin in mercy a new work of love within me. Say to my soul, "rise up, my love, my fear one, and come away" Then give me grace to rise and follow thee up from this misty lowland where I have wandered so long. In Jesus' name Amen"