



With hope that this page will bring glory to God and attention to His Word, you are invited to check this page every day for a piece of scripture, thoughts on the verse(s) and a prayer. May the ideas presented here bring you fulfillment as you continue your journey with Christ.

**Saturday December 30, 2023**

**Today's Scripture:**

**When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.**

**~ Luke 2: 39-40**

**Thoughts on Today's Verse(s):**

As the new year draws near, our hearts and minds are stirred to wonder what it will bring. Will there be sadness and sorrow or joy and jubilation; of course, we always hope for the latter knowing that there will be more than enough struggle to go around. What if we were reminded of the way The Lord grew, just as we hope to grow in Him each year.

When Mary and Joseph returned to their lives in Nazareth after presenting Jesus in the temple, they had to marvel at how He grew in *wisdom* and how the good favor of God was upon Him. Given that one of our most noble goals is always to become more and more like Jesus, we could set the most upright and good goal of seeking *wisdom*. And in doing so we are likely to find that God's good favor will rest with us. The problem for most folks is, "*How do I work toward that goal?*" Easy to say, harder to accomplish. The key is to stay grounded in His Holy Word. If we can commit to reading and meditating upon scripture *every day*, we will also be amazed at how God's good favor will rest on us and how we will grow in wisdom, His wisdom - it's inevitable. Jesus was grounded in the scriptures – so too should we ground ourselves there.

Here's an idea: head out and buy a Daily Devotional. Go to Chapters or Barnes and Noble and purchase the works of one of today's contemporary Christian authors. There are many, many very good options. Or, you could even just commit to visiting this page - every day. :-)

You will grow in wisdom and God will be with you, not because of anything I write, but because of the power of God's word. Happy New Year God's child!

**Prayer:**

***Heavenly God and Father, we wish to grow in wisdom, Your wisdom. We realize that in order to do so, we need to hear Your voice every day. Stir us to commitment, O Lord, the sort of commitment that immerses us in Your Holy Word every day. Inspire us to find a source of devotion for our daily journey that we may grow just like Your Son Jesus did. May 2024 be filled with wise growth in the power of Your Holy Scriptures. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.***

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