

BALANCE

Balance is something that we all must possess in our lives. It plays a vital role in nearly every aspect of our daily schedule. First and foremost, balance is required in order to partake in a basic function of life: walking. Without proper balance, we would not be able to get around during the day. If our body is out of balance that means that we will constantly sway and will never be able to stay on a straight path. Another thing that can get out of balance is our vehicle. When a car gets out of balance it means that the tires are not equal and the car cannot function properly. Finally, if our checkbook gets out off balance then we can have a drastic situation on our hands, (especially if we are in the negative). If our checkbook calculations and the bank's calculations are different, then we are going to have to pay the fines and daily charges to compensate for the difference.

God knew that balance was going to play a huge issue in our lives. Not only can certain things in our life get out of balance, but our life in general can get out of balance. Sometimes we neglect certain things that we should make a priority and we turn to things that we shouldn't. Before we know it, our lives are completely out of balance. God described four different areas in which we need to grow to stay in balance with Him. Jesus Christ succeeded in these four areas and left the greatest example for us to follow in regard to a balanced life.

LUKE 2:52

“And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.”

WISDOM

The first area in which we need to continually grow is wisdom. This is the mental portion of our body and something that we constantly have to focus on. As always, our respect for God is the beginning of “true” wisdom. In eternity it's really not going to matter how many A's, B's, or even F's we made in school. (This doesn't mean to quit trying, though!) What's really important is to know about the wisdom that comes from God and studying His Word. Knowing the facts about the Bible or life in general is not enough. To know if we have truly grown in wisdom must be decided by what we do with the facts and truths that we know. We must constantly use those facts and ideas to change our life for the better. In order to grow in wisdom, we must not only study and read the Word, but we must surround ourselves with those who are wise. Proverbs 13:20 says, “He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm.”

STATURE

The second area for growth is actually talking about the physical characteristics of someone. Our body is a temple of the Lord and we should treat it as such. We need to be careful where we take our body, what we do to our body, and who

we share our body with. Christ came and died for our sins and once we accept Him into our hearts, He comes to live within us. Jesus protected Himself and continued to grow in stature as He knew He was the living God incarnate.

FAVOR WITH GOD

The third area in which we need to grow is in favor with God. This is the spiritual part of our being. There should never be a time in our lives when we are not trying to grow closer to God. Everything we do in life should be to bring happiness and favor to Him. Mark 12:30 says, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." That means that we should continue to grow closer to Him through our emotions, beliefs, mind, and body. In all of these areas we should pursue to be closer to Him each and every day. All of our life should be lived to honor and glorify Him. Glorify means to give an exact representation as to what we think about God. Does our daily life truly show others what we think about the God we serve?

FAVOR WITH MAN

The final area in which we should grow is socially. If we continue to love our neighbor as ourselves, then this should not be a problem. People are not always going to be pleased with the decisions that we make, but we should always have love in our hearts toward others. Despite what our stand on certain issues might be, love can still abide toward others. We are to love the sinner and hate the sin. We can still be strong Christians and stand on our convictions, and love others who do not believe the way that we do. The only way to truly lead others to Christ is to show His love to others. "I went out to find a friend, but could not find one there. I went out to be a friend and friends were everywhere."

WE MUST GROW IN THESE FOUR AREAS IN ORDER TO KEEP OUR LIVES IN BALANCE.

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