

**Ensure fellowship with God through 1 John 1:9**

**1 John 1:9** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

- Once Joseph & Mary reach Nazareth they settle down there to raise their son.

**Luke 2:40-47**

(40) The **Child** continued to **grow** and become **strong**, increasing in wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.

“**Child**” - παιδίον

PAIDION – “Young child” - 2 or 3 years old, maybe 4

“**Grow**” - αὐξάνω

AUXANO – “was growing” - a developmental process

“**Strong**” - κραταίωω

KRATAIOO – “to be strengthened” – a process of becoming strong

His living conditions or environment resulted in his physical strength.

- Do all boys become strong as they grow? No
  - Some are coddled by their parents – more often than not their mothers!
  - Others may not have the genetic composition.
    - They are slight in frame

**The genetics of Jesus Christ were perfect.**

Because of supernatural conception

He was free from all three categories of sin:

- Inherent
- Imputed
- Personal

He had no degenerating affects of sin on His body.

Something had to be in place for Him to become strong – His environment or living conditions.  
(A good example of this is growing up on a farm)

- Joseph was a carpenter by profession, so our Lord learned the trade of His foster-father.
- Jesus was trained as a carpenter - in an environment conducive to becoming strong.
- He had to master the hand tools of the day. Tools far different than the power tools of today.
  
- Hard work is nothing to be ashamed of, afraid of, or avoided. It's cleansing to the soul (Prov. 10:4; 22:29)!

**The process by which He became strengthened!**

## Jesus Christ was the Ideal Man!

(40) The Child continued to grow and become strong, **increasing in wisdom**; and the grace of God was upon Him.

“**Increasing in wisdom**” - Πληρῶω + σοφία

PLEROO + SOPHIA – “filled with wisdom” – a process of increasing

**WISDOM** –

- God’s wisdom – His Father’s wisdom.
  - From His own study of the Law and the Prophets.
  - He spoke three languages – Greek, Hebrew and Aramaic.
- Natural wisdom – As He learned to be a carpenter.

**We often overlook the limitations of humanity as we reflect upon how Jesus Christ grew up.**

- He had to study – languages – the Scriptures as they existed in His day.
- He developed as a carpenter – no doubt bled – had blisters, cuts, and injuries from His work.
- Vs. 40, therefore, is a reference to Jesus normal development in the physical and mental realms.

Quote from: *The Christ of the Gospels: an Exegetical Study*, J. W. Shepard

(41) Now His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover.

The family traveled about 65 miles from Nazareth to Jerusalem to partake of the Passover.

- “His parents” is a testimony to Mary’s spiritual life during the Age of Israel – she was serious about her relationship with the Lord because-
- The wife did not have to attend the feast in Jerusalem yet she went with Joseph – every single year.

(42) **And when He became twelve**, they went up there according to the custom of the Feast;

Approximately the eighth or ninth trip to Jerusalem for the family from Nazareth.

(43) and as they were returning...

- They have been there a few days.
- They had taken their son.
- They had participated in the Feast of Passover.
  - Received their lamb
  - Sacrificed their lamb
  - Ate their lamb –and now they are returning - -

...after spending the full number of days...

- Stayed somewhere between two and seven days.
- They may have stayed for the Feast of Unleavened Bread (7 days).

...the boy Jesus **stayed behind** in Jerusalem...

“**Stayed behind**” - ὑπομένω

HUPOMENO – “remained” in Jerusalem – He made this decision on His own.

- He did not tell His parents that He was staying behind once He decided to stay.
- A unilateral decision on the part of Jesus at the age of 12.

...but His parents were unaware of it,

(44) but supposed Him to be in the caravan...

- Joseph and Mary assumed, once they left Jerusalem, that Jesus (age 12) knew enough to link up with the caravan returning to Nazareth.
- The caravan consists of a host of people who have caravanned down from Nazareth to Jerusalem to participate in the Passover feast.
- Now that the feast is over, everyone is gathered together for the return trip to Galilee.
- Joseph and Mary assumed that their Son was in the caravan.

...and went a day's journey...

- May have traveled about 12-15 miles (the entire trip being about 3-5 days back to Nazareth).
- Joseph and Mary assumed Jesus was in the caravan with all the other children.
- So as the caravan stops its journey for the day and things wind down – the women start preparing the evening meal – they realize that Jesus is missing.

...and they began looking for Him among their relatives and acquaintances.

- Joseph and Mary start asking around among relatives and others that they know - have you seen Jesus?

**Put yourself in Joseph and Mary's shoes –**

- You've just attended a very large city – teeming with people and activity.
- You're there for a religious feast.
- You departed in a caravan – and travel for a day assuming your 12 year old son is present.
- At the end of the day, the caravan stops and your son is no where to be found.
- You inquire of relatives and those who know him – those who have been traveling with you – and no one has seen him.
- What's going to come upon you as a mother? Fear – unless you start applying some doctrine.
- Mary is upset – worried sick of where He could be.

*Interesting thoughts –*

***If she knew who He was, she would not be concerned.***

*At this moment she is not focused on the fact that He is the Messiah.*

***She has treasured up a lot in her heart but there is little synthesis in the application of the things that she has treasured up.***

(45) When they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem looking for Him.

- They break loose from the caravan and return to Jerusalem in search of their Son.
  - One day of travel toward Nazareth.
  - An entire day to return to Jerusalem (two days without your son).
  - An additional day in a crowded city looking for your son.
  - Jerusalem is full of people because of the holidays.
- Joseph and Mary finally arrive in the temple.

(46) Then, after three days **they found Him in the temple...**

## The temple being the center of worship - of Jehovah!

### His Father's house!

...sitting in the midst of the teachers [DIDASKALOS – *teachers of the Law; (the academicians)*], both listening to them and asking them questions.

“Asking questions” - ἐπερωτάω

EPEROTAO – “asking very pressing questions”

“One in authority conducting an investigation or examination”  
(at 12 years old)

### At 12 years old He is not letting anyone off the hook!

(47) And all who heard Him were **amazed** at His **understanding** [SUNESIS – His spiritual understanding of the Law and the Prophets] and His **answers** [APOKRISIS].

“Amazed” - ἐξίστημι

EXISTEMI – “Driven out of mental equilibrium, senses or mental balance”

The teachers of the Law and everyone who heard this dialogue – between the Lord and these teachers – in the temple courts were being driven out of mental equilibrium with His answers and His questions.

He properly understood the Law & the Prophets with the correct applications.

This is occurring over and over again with every pressing question that He asks and every answer that He gave to the teachers.

He is making correct applications that they had not made as professors' and academicians' of the Law – because it was beyond their ability.

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*All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.*