

Challenges in Life

There are four realms that everyone encounters in life: “Jesus advanced in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.” (Lk. 2:52).

1. Individual – “wisdom and stature”

a. Education – “wisdom”

- i. Prov. 24:5-6 – “A wise man is strong; Yea, a man of knowledge increaseth might. For by wise guidance thou shalt make thy war; And in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.”
- ii. Prov. 22:6 – “Train up a child in the way he should go, And even when he is old he will not depart from it.”

b. Exercise – “stature”

- i. Prov. 19:15 – “Slothfulness casteth into a deep sleep; And the idle soul shall suffer hunger.”
- ii. 1 Tim. 4:8 – “for bodily exercise is profitable for a little; but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life which now is, and of that which is to come.” cf. ““primarily denotes "gymnastic exercise" (akin to A, No. 1), 1 Tim. 4:8, where the immediate reference is probably not to mere physical training for games but to discipline of the body such as that to which the Apostle refers in 1 Cor. 9:27” Vine’s.”
- iii. 2 Sam. 22:35 – “He teacheth my hands to war, So that mine arms do bend a bow of brass.”

c. Labor:

- i. Gen. 3:17 – “And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in toil shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life...”
- ii. Eph. 4:28 – “Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labor, working with his hands the thing that is good, that he may have whereof to give to him that hath need.”

- iii. Eccl. 3:13 – “And also that every man should eat and drink, and enjoy good in all his labor, is the gift of God.”
- 2. Religious – “Favor with God”
 - a. Gen. 6:8 – “Noah found favor in the eyes of Jehovah.”
 - b. Job 1:1 - There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and turned away from evil.
 - c. Acts 7:45-46 – “Which also our fathers, in their turn, brought in with Joshua when they entered on the possession of the nations, that God thrust out before the face of our fathers, unto the days of David; who found favor in the sight of God, and asked to find a habitation for the God of Jacob.”
 - 3. Social – “Favor with men”
 - a. 1 Tim. 3:7 – As for Bishop, “he must have good testimony from them that are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.”
 - b. Prov. 21:1 – “A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, And loving favor rather than silver and gold.”
 - c. Matt. 5:16 – “Even so let your light shine before men; that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”

Are you fulfilling your obligations in life? ret