

*"And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him." Luke 2:40 KJV*



God experienced childhood with its myriad of discoveries. Yes, He had created it all, but through human senses it must have been a delightful journey. God was wrapped in the growing pains of childhood, experiencing the trials of poverty and the pure joy of child play. The Wisdom of Eternity carried boards and fetched water, and went to school. Our Saviour was a Hebrew, born to poor, hard-working Hebrew parents. What about the gifts of the Magi? I believe they served a two-fold purpose. They were a heartfelt offering of adoration to the KING of Kings, and the financing for the flight and sojourn in Egypt, and subsequent return to Nazareth. Jesus knew the gnawing pain of hunger and the weariness of toil. His hands were the tough sinewy hands of a carpenter's apprentice. His body wore coarse clothing and slept on a mat on a dirt floor, but none of the hardships impacted His conduct. He was gracious to all. I believe His family adored him. He would have worked harder and longer than any. No action would have incited the slightest sibling rivalry. He was a jewel to Mary and a treasure to Joseph. He suffered the loss of loved ones. Joseph may have died early as we find no mention of him after Christ began His earthly ministry. Christ probably gave His meager inheritance to His family, taking care of them from afar. They were at the marriage feast in Cana, and Mary was at the crucifixion. Many believe that James, the apostle, was His sibling. Jesus is well acquainted with every human trial. *"Seeing then that we have a great High Priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an High Priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, YET WITHOUT SIN. Let us therefore come boldly unto the Throne of Grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."* Jesus knows every secret, soul-ache of loneliness, heartache of rejection, weariness of long hard labor, trial of temptation, and understands being misunderstood. His following sought only after His gifts. Even after He had calmed the sea His own disciples were dumbfounded! *"And [Jesus] went up unto them into the ship; and the wind ceased: and they were sore amazed in themselves beyond measure, and wondered. For they considered not the miracle of the loaves: for their heart was hardened."* Even believers go from gift to gift, miracle to miracle, doubting all the while, because we still trust our flesh and senses above God's Word! I wonder what would happen if we would just live by faith alone? *"He came to minister"* and still tirelessly intercedes on our behalf. *"We know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered."* Sinlessness in human form could only be accomplished by the *"Lamb of God,"* Himself! *"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus."* What mind? The Word of God believed and obeyed implicitly! *"If we believe not, yet He abideth faithful: He cannot deny Himself."* If you keep yourself from God's Word, you keep yourself from God!

The God-child grew, became a man,  
It all was our Creator's plan,  
To rescue lost and dying men,  
So they, could heaven, enter in. ~CGP

God has endured every human limitation including death, and emerged Conqueror! He wept for us, He prayed for us, and He bled for us. Jesus paved our way to heaven with His own Blood, Sweat, and Tears!

*"All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out." John 6:37KJV*