
First Baptist Dyersburg • Sermon Notes

Personal Growth Plan for 2026

Sunday, January 4, 2026 • Mike Hickman, Senior Pastor

³⁹ When Jesus' parents had fulfilled all the requirements of the law of the Lord, they returned home to Nazareth in Galilee. ⁴⁰ There the child grew up healthy and strong. He was filled with wisdom, and God's favor was on him. (Luke 2:38-40, NLT)

⁸ "Physical training is good, but training for godliness is much better, promising benefits in this life and in the life to come." (1 Timothy 4:8, NLT)

⁴ "LORD, remind me how brief my time on earth will be.
Remind me that my days are numbered—
how fleeting my life is.

⁵ You have made my life no longer than the width of my hand.
My entire lifetime is just a moment to you;
at best, each of us is but a breath." (Psalm 39:4-5, NLT)

¹² Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom. (Psalm 90:12, NIV)

⁵² Jesus grew in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and all the people. (Luke 2:52, NLT)

How did Jesus grow?

- 1. Wisdom – developing the skill of applying God's _____ and _____ in order to live life in a way that honors Him.**
- 2. Stature – becoming physically _____ and _____.**
- 3. Favor with God – growing _____ close to the Father.**
- 4. Favor with Man – growing _____ with other people.**

Questions to prompt your planning for 2026:

1. What action steps will I take to grow in wisdom?

- *How do I plan to grow in my knowledge of God?*
- *What Biblical reading plan will I follow this year?*
- *What books do I plan to read for personal growth?*
- *What is one new thing I want to learn?*
- *Am I willing to find a mentor for my life?*

Evaluating 2025

- *Did I gain a heart of wisdom during 2025?*
- *Am I a better person?*
- *What consequences have resulted in my life, and the lives of others, from the decisions I have made?*
- *Did I gain a greater knowledge of God through reading the Bible regularly this year?*

2. How will I grow stronger in 2026?

- *How do I plan to include physical exercise in my daily routine?*
- *What foods do I need to cut out of my diet?*
- *What harmful habits do I need to remove from my life?*
- *Do I glorify God with the Temple He has given me?*

Evaluating 2025

- *Did I successfully improve my diet or exercise plan in 2025?*
- *Am I physically stronger than the year before?*
- *What would those closest to me say I need to do to improve in this area?*

3. How will I grow in favor with God in 2026?

- *When will I daily meet with God to worship Him and talk to Him?*
- *How do I plan to grow as a disciple this year?*
- *Who is in my life that needs to hear me tell them about Jesus?*

Evaluating 2025

- *Did my prayer life grow deeper with God?*
- *Have I become more Christ-like this year?*
- *Have I used my spiritual gifts in my church?*
- *Who did I share Jesus with this past year?*

- *Have I honored Christ with the resources He has provided for me this year?*
- *Am I confident I am fulfilling God's will for my life?*

4. How will I grow in favor with Man in 2026?

- *What relationships in my life need to grow? Husband/wife; parent/child; boss/employee; neighbor?*

Evaluating 2025

- *How have I invested in the lives of others?*
- *Am I serving others through my church?*
- *What happened in my family relationships in 2025?*
- *Has my circle of friends enlarged this year?*
- *Have I been ethical in all of my relationships?*

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you and lead me along the path of everlasting life.

(Psalms 139:23-24, NLT)