

## *Become Like a Child*

*Throughout our living experience, situations arise which can quickly escalate beyond our control kindling an emotional response, a primal need, prompting us to come back close to God. Whether it is because we have suffered a loss or just become tired and defeated by the grind of trudging through hard times, we feel the overwhelming emotional necessity to talk to our Lord, to experience His genuine love and support that only He can give to those who believe and follow in his ways. But first, the decision to go before our Lord requires a surrender into humbleness, by first putting off our pride and social stature and then exhibiting before Him the same honesty and openness found naturally exuding from a child. Thus we must go before God stripped of our sins and doubts, full of wide-eyed inspiration that comes from our total faith in Him. Webster's dictionary describes being "childlike" as "becoming a child; meek; submissive; dutiful." God seeks a childlike submissiveness and meekness, a gleeful childlike heart ... and a childlike faith. Faith builds character with the process starting in childhood. Without faith, we cannot please God.*

Mt 18:1-6 At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. "Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. "Whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me. "But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea.

Mark 10:13-16 Then they brought little children to Him, that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked those who brought them. But when Jesus saw it, He was greatly displeased and said to them, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. "Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it." And He took them up in His arms, put His hands on them, and blessed them.

Luke 18:15-17 Then they also brought infants to Him that He might touch them; but when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. But Jesus called them to Him and said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God." Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it."

*These words spoken by our Creator stress that we must become increasingly receptive like a child's mind operates, open to God's ideas and teachings. If we want to establish a close relationship with God, we must be willing to be taught, investing ourselves in an active effort to follow His commands to insure our lives reflect a loving obedience to our Lord. This righteous state of living in God's favor will incline God to empathize, be there compassionate for us, when*

*challenging conditions come into our lives causing us to petition for help and or forgiveness. If we ask for something while not following His ways, why would He then want to help us?*

John 8:31-32 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

*If you follow My word then the truth will set you free. God's statutes and ordinances are starkly contrasted to the blaring, demonic entreaties from the host of false gods thriving in this present age, all vying to steal our morality from us. Thus Yah and Yahshua believers must choose to live in loving obedience to them by adopting to this new way of life that has been incredibly designed to offer us freedom from sin and a resurrection as spirit beings into His kingdom. This magnificent outcome for us solely rests upon IF we trust, have faith, possess the mindset of a child open to receive and live in a manner that shows committed action, works that exemplify the true teachings of God our Father and Yahshua His Son.*

James 2:14-26 What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe--and tremble! But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead? Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." And he was called the friend of God. You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only. Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way? For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

*As affirmed in James, once we have heard the teachings of our Father, and decided to make them our own, we must then change our ways to follow His ways, having faith in Him to guide and protect us. Show me your faith by your works... This statement shows all that belief in the Lord is not founded on word but action: we must not only talk the talk, but also walk the walk. These works will not only help us to be in likeness of our God but also show to others that the Lord's ways bring prosperity and happiness.*

Mt 7:15-29 "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. "You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thorn bushes or figs from thistles? "Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. "A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. "Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. "Therefore by their fruits you will know them. "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My

Father in heaven. "Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!' "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: "and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. "But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: "and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall." And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

*You can judge people by their fruits...by their works. When we go through life and see some people who seem to be helping the poor, showing kindness to all, helping anyone in need, you would see this person and say they are following the good ways of our Lord by showing love for his brother. This person would be following this concept exactly, by showing others his faith in God through the good works that he is doing. God will judge us by our works, the actions of a genuine faith. Having our minds open as a little child, we are now fully able to assimilate huge amounts of learning material. In this case we are being taught by the ultimate Parent learning how to live His right and fruitful way that places each one of us on the straight and narrow path to ultimate salvation, eternal life in the kingdom with Him.*

Mt 19:13-15 Then little children were brought to Him that He might put His hands on them and pray, but the disciples rebuked them. But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven." And He laid His hands on them and departed from there.

*The kingdom of God is for the little children, those who follow the truth of his word, have faith in him, and puts forth the fruits of his faith for all to see.*

1 Peter 2:1-3 Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.

*As newborn babes desire the sincere milk of the word that we may grow nevertheless the older we get, the more hurdles of doubts and concerns we tend to place in front of us. These hurdles slow us down, knock us off stride, or make us give up completely in what should be a growing relationship with God. Whereas an adult is more likely to give up the race, a child sees the prize at the finish line. As you near the end of your adult life, can you look forward as a child and say, as Paul said, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." Children don't have adult hurdles in their race with God and are likely more willing to accept new teaching and have faith in their Parent, Our Father. Childlike faith, along with childlike love, are an open road to God's heart.*

Proverb to ponder:

Prov: 29:17 Correct your son, and he will give you rest; Yes, he will give delight to your soul.

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