

Child-like Faith

There were a few times in the Bible when Jesus openly became quite upset. In Mark 10:13-16, Jesus becomes “indignant” when His disciples would not permit the children to come to Him. Jesus proclaimed that “whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it.” What was Jesus talking about? Could it be that He wanted us to have a “child-like faith”? What does it mean to have a child-like faith? It’s about trust—trust that Jesus loves us and will show us the way.

It also means that we no longer have to have the answers to all of the questions that arise in our lives. How many times do you feel the pressure to know-it-all, to see far around the bend, to “be perfect like your Father is perfect”? Sometimes we take on more responsibility to create positive outcomes in life than we need to. Fact is, God is so great that even our deepest and most intelligent thoughts are nearly nothing compared to the “thoughts” of God. So, why all the pressure to “get it right?” This is so freeing not to have to have all the answers and express THE intelligent response in any given situation.

Notice when a toddler falls...she gets right back up until she falls again, and up again she goes. Unlike the child, often, when we adults fall or fail, we just give up on the whole process and let defeat be our companion. I doubt that a child even knows what self-pity is, but we can easily head down that path if we don’t watch it. Why do we feel that we have to know all the answers anyway?

I believe it has much to do with the *fast-paced world* we live in. We once thought technology would make our lives simpler and easier—that the computer could simplify our lives by making difficult and mundane activities easier to complete. On the contrary, with the dawn of social media and the oodles of new-fangled electronic devices, our lives have become more complicated than ever.

Often, SPEED and EFFICIENCY have replaced our attempts to communicate in a personal and effective manner. In conversation, do you realize the fact that only 7% of our communication stems from the words we choose, and over 50% is affected by our tone of voice and “body language”? In that, we can see how many texts or emails are misunderstood because they are just words. They have no inflection or volume variation that a phone call or person-to-person interaction would offer. Truly, how many of us often find ourselves sending a text, reading an email or surfing the web rather than using the phone to make a call? I’m not advocating that we give up our texting or emailing, but to point out how this fast-paced, technology-driven life of today takes away our ability to experience this simple child-like faith.

I think Jesus was talking about taking time to get back to the basics of experiencing the joy, the trust and the innocence of a child—like noticing the wonder of being alive, living in the moment, or seeing golden beauty (not a pesky weed) in a dandelion—three things that children do so well. Jesus most likely enjoyed the joy, the hugs and the simplicity of spirit that children give so freely. After all, in Mark's Gospel, Jesus just wanted to touch the children and give them His blessing—expressing HIS child-like faith through personal connection and love.

Would you consider giving up the façade of knowing it all and experiencing the simplicity and beauty of expressing your child-like faith? For, as Jesus sternly told His disciples, “Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it.”

by Rich Melcher