

Receiving the Kingdom Like a Child

The 1-year old boy was into everything. With youthful enthusiasm he explored his world, pulling toys off the shelf and crawling up and down the hall, laughing all the way. He was curious how things worked, pushing all the buttons on his electronic toys. He giggled when he thought he was doing something special or in response to interaction with others. Even though he wasn't walking yet, that didn't stop him from getting to where he wanted to go. He could stand holding onto things and if he fell down, he would get right back up again and try again. Put things up high and the youngster will try to find a way, any way, to reach the object of his fascination.



At the baptism the pastor read the familiar scripture verse: Jesus said, *“Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 18:3).*

Looking at our smiling, happy grandson, the Bible verse made sense. Adults set up arbitrary boundaries that limit their achievement. Adults are preoccupied with the enormity of life and look for reasons to avoid investing themselves fully in deepening their faith. In contrast, a child has no boundaries.

He just wants to explore and learn. So, when Jesus said, *Truly I*

tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it (Luke 18:17), it made perfect sense. A youthful zeal and an eagerness to learn is the key to a true relationship with Jesus.

The world of a 1-year old is fueled by the bond of love for family, with a dependency for daily nourishment. We can learn from a child if we let down our guard and allow Jesus Christ into our lives, to nourish our soul.

Our faith can be strengthened with the unbridled enthusiasm of a youngster, eager to explore and to learn. That's what God wants us to do. Don't let obstacles or complicated agendas deter you from seeking a pure, loving relationship with Jesus Christ.



Scripture: *Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it (Mark 10:14-15).*



Question: Can you put aside the tendency to be so carefully guarded and only let Jesus impact a small part of your life? How can you show youthful enthusiasm for your faith?

Prayer: Dear Lord. Help us to let down our guard and let you more fully into our life. Help us to overcome the obstacles we place in our own path and seek you with our whole heart. Amen.