**Childlike Faith (Part 2)**

**See Persistence in Prayer**

**Matthew 18:10** “See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven.

Their once was this preacher working out in the yard when he noticed his neighbor looking up into a small tree. He walks over and asked “what are you looking at.” The neighbor pointed to a small kitten caught up in the tree and said we can’t get him down because the tree is too small to climb but he is to scared to come down. The Preacher had a great Idea to throw a rope over the top branch and pull the top branch down so they could grab the kitten. As the preacher was pulling, he realized it was much harder than he had though and right when he had the tree bent all the way over the rope slipped and the kitten went flying through the air over the fence and gone.

Well the next Sunday a young child comes running up to the preacher all excited. The Preacher says calm down tell me what this is about. The Child says “Well I was asking my mom if I could have a kitten but she kept saying I was too young. Well the other day we were working in the yard and I asked her again and she said we could kneel down right there in the garden and pray to God for a Kitten and if God wants me to have a kitten, he will give me one and you wouldn’t believe what happened: One feel right from heaven!!!

**Mark 11:24** therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

### There is a song by David Dunn called “I Wanna Go Back.” And In this song, he sings:

### *I wanna go back to Jesus loves me, this I know For the Bible tells me, for the Bible tells me so I wanna go back to this little light of mine I’m Gonna let it shine, gonna let it shine*

### What I love about this song is that it reminds me of a simple time, when I was just a small child and I just believed in Jesus. I knew everything I needed would be provided, I had a whole world of adventure to look forward too and I knew Jesus was there with me and that I could trust him every step of the way. But then I grew up. I made bad decisions, I listened to the wrong people, I fell into the wrong crowds and Jesus stepped out of the picture.

### It is so easy to love Jesus when we are little. All the proof we ever need is our parents telling us that Jesus loves us. We didn’t need to understand every word Jesus ever spoke, how he fulfilled hundreds of prophesies or how he fits into the model that science and public schools teach. We just knew Jesus was Lord and He loved us and we loved and trusted Him back.

### As we got older people start telling us that “you can’t believe everything you read” and “you can’t trust everything people tell you” and we start questioning everything we are told and want proof before we trust anything.

### Now if you did not grow up a Christian you can still understand what I am talking about by just substitute Jesus for Santa Clause. Remember when you just believed! A present under the tree was proof enough. Then you get older.

### Note: I know comparing Jesus to Santa may offend some people but if you think about it Jesus and Santa have many of the same qualities: Both know when you are bad or good, Both can see you when your sleeping and awake, Both spread Joy and Love around the world. They both represent the same Holiday but only one was at the actual event in History.

### We often associate wisdom with age and look down on younger people as being naive, especially children. You have probably heard things like “Stop acting like a kid” or “Grow up and act your age.” But if you look in the Bible you will find that Jesus most often spoke about children in very positive terms and often encouraging people to be more like kids, especially when it came to faith.

**Luke 18:17** Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.”

### Matthew 19:14 But Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.”

### Children just believe - they don’t need proof – no questions asked – Then we grow up to be cynical adults. The Bible tells us over and over to just believe.

### [Genesis 15:6](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+15:6&version=NIV) Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

### [John 1:12](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+1:12&version=NIV) Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God

**Mark 9:23** Jesus said “If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.”

### [John 6:47](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+6:47&version=NIV) Very truly I tell you, the one who believes has eternal life.

### Jesus calls us to be more like Children when it comes to our walk with Christ but It is more than just Childlike belief. It is also unconditional love, trust, humbleness, acceptance, quick to forgive, slow to judge, always hopeful for the future, willingness to learn and submit to our heavenly father. All these traits a Child has at birth but then they are taught the exact opposite because of the world we live in.

### 🡪Don’t let what is wrong with this world keep us from worshiping what is right with God

### I remember when my son was a small child, maybe 4 or 5, and we were having a garage sale. My son followed some elder lady out to her van and was standing at her door as she got in. Next thing we knew the lady in the van was holding her hands out for my child to come in. I was ready to dash over there but my wife calmly said let see what he does. I was so proud of my son when he shook his head NO but the down side was, we had taught our son not trust anyone. That is the fallen world we live in.

### Another thing I remember as a Child was my prayers. They were simple. I would pray for everything: healing, pets, grades, friends. (Looking back I am glade God did not answer all those prayers) But as adults we tend to try to do everything our selves and then when all else fails we say a prayer.

### As we get older, we “Think” we are in control of our lives. We thing that we can handle every situation on our own. We stop trusting in God.

### Then Our lives become busy, complicated, and filled with selfish ambition. Our trinity becomes me, myself, and I. We question everyone’s motives, everything we are taught and everything we used to believe in. We build walls to keep out pain and rejection and we lose things like love, compassion and trust in the process.

### Jesus calls us to return to those childlike qualities. To be teachable, loving, humble, and innocent. He calls us to forget about trying to be number 1 and to lay aside our selfish pride.

### Matthew 18:2-4 And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

### The greatest in the kingdom of God will be the simple man, or woman, that manages to shake off the worldly standards that we are so accustomed to, and to become something that looks more like a Child and reflects Christ.

We should have childlike faith but our walk with Christ should not always be like a child. We should continually be growing and maturing as we see Paul writes in Corinthians:

**1 Corinthians 3:1-3** But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, for you are still of the flesh…

This also doesn’t mean we shouldn’t question things we are told. We need to be able to discern truth from fiction. Sorry to tell you, Santa is not real. But our philosophy should be to Trust in God and the Bible and measure everything back to that foundation.

Yes, people will always lie to you and yes there are bad people in the world. The world doesn’t want you to believe in God so they will make up other “Scientific theories” but only because they fear that if there is a God in heaven that they will have to answer to him for all the wrong things they have done in the end. They would rather make up new theories than turn from their evil ways and follow Christ.

**2 Timothy 4:3** For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.

Despite what the world tells us we need to get back to the simple truth of who God is and how we can Trust in him.

Hebrews 11:6 without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

**The simple truth is If you seek light in darkness, find truth in deceit, experience happiness in tragedy and Refuse to walk in the way of the world by keeping your eyes on Christ then people will follow you because they want that peace that they see you.**

Don’t ever let go of the truth that “Jesus loves you” and always let “your little light shine all the time”