

THE



“The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest” (Luke 10:2)

March 2025

No. 471

AS A LITTLE CHILD

And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. (Mat. 18:2-4)

Jesus states that unless you are converted and become as little children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. Since I am confident that you want to be part of the kingdom of heaven, let us consider how you need to be con-

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verted and become as a little child.

There are some characteristics of children that we do not want to emulate. For example, when a child throws a tantrum to get what he wants, that is not a good thing. However, small children typically have some good characteristics that we should desire.

The first characteristic to consider is that they are dependent upon their parents. Small children do not have the maturity, knowledge or physical ability to take care of themselves; they need their parents. In the same way, we need to depend upon God, rather than upon ourselves. *“But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus”* (Php. 4:19).

One of the main reasons we pray to God is to request help for our needs. Jesus criticized those who did not pray as they should. Then He said in Matthew 6:8, *“Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.”* The purpose of prayer is not to tell God what we need, because He already knows what we need. We should pray to God in humility to express our dependence upon Him and request his help. *“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need”* (Heb. 4:16).

We are also dependent upon God to show us how to live our lives and the direction we should take. *“O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps”* (Jer. 10:23). We should be dependent upon God just as little children are dependent upon their parents.

Little children must be obedient to their parents. Children have to be trained to develop good habits and the skills they need. Children do not understand the dangers that sur-

round them. Do not run into the street; do not touch the hot stove; do not go with strangers. Children need to learn to obey their parents because the parents are watching out for their good. In the same way, we must obey the commandments of God because they also are for our good.

He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him. (John 14:21)

And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. (1 John 2:3-5)

We must keep the commandments of our heavenly Father just as little children must obey the commandments of their parents.

Little children are teachable and desire to emulate their parents. We have probably all seen small children copying the actions and words of their parents. They learn from the instruction and example of their parents. In the same way, we follow the example of Jesus.

For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his

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mouth: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously: (1 Pet. 2:21-23)

Jesus gave us many teachings and examples to follow. We must follow Jesus as little children follow the teaching and example of their parents.

Children want to grow up to be adults. The apostle Peter encouraged us to be converted and desire the word so that we may grow spiritually.

Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious. (1 Pet. 2:1-3)

The Word of God teaches us how we can grow and mature spiritually.

Little children typically are humble. They know that they do not have the strength, the knowledge, and the ability to do the things that adults can do. School teachers often like working with small children because they are humble and like sponges, soaking up knowledge.

Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. (1 Pet. 5:5-7)

Perhaps this characteristic, more than any other, is how we must be converted and become like little children. Jesus said in Matthew 18:4, “Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest

in the kingdom of heaven.”

Perhaps there are other characteristics of little children that you can see that you need to emulate. I encourage you to be converted and take on the appropriate characteristics of little children so that you can enter the kingdom of heaven.

ED ANDERSON
Sierra Vista, AZ

“HOW DID GOD GET HERE?”

Children have an inquiring mind. They constantly seek answers; and this tendency is a healthy sign of proper growth. But sometimes they ask questions which even their elders find difficult to answer.

A letter was received [some years ago] from seven year old Anthony, who worships with his family at a congregation where I often preach. He wrote:

Dear Brother Cobb:

How did God get here? Please write back and tell me.

Thank you,

Anthony

On my next visit following receipt of the letter, I found that several older persons were also interested in my answer. Perhaps it might be well to share the reply with our readers. I wrote:

My dear friend, Anthony,

I was very pleased to receive your letter and to see your concern about God and his importance in our lives. I am happy to answer your question, “How did God get here?”

We do not always understand things as completely as we might like. Almost everything around us is something we

can either taste or see or feel or hear, but some things are not so easily explained.

How does an ugly worm turn into a beautiful butterfly?

Why is one rose red and another yellow?

You can't hold a shadow or the moonlight in your hand, yet you can see both and you know they both exist.

Where does the wind come from, and what makes it blow?

There are some things we cannot fully explain, even though we know something about them. The fact that we do not understand them completely does not mean they do not exist, but it merely shows that our minds are not big enough to take it all in.

This is the way it is with God. God is not human, so we cannot expect to understand Him as we would humans. God is a spirit, and we humans are not yet able to completely understand where He began. Perhaps we someday will. Jesus used the wind to explain our relation with God. He taught that the wind blows where it will, and we hear the sound of it, but we cannot tell where it comes from or where it goes (John 3:8). We do not know how God got here, but we do know He is here!

I heard once of a little boy who was flying a kite so high it was hid in the clouds. A man who came along asked, "What are you doing, son?" The boy holding the string said, "I'm flying my kite." The man looked up, and not being able to see the kite hid in the clouds, he asked, "How do you know your kite is up there?" The little boy answered, "Because I can feel the tug."

We cannot see God with our eyes, and we do not understand all we might like to know about how He got here, but because of His "tug" felt in so many wonderful ways every day, we are aware of His presence and power.

It has been a real pleasure to discuss this question with you, and I hope these thoughts may help us both to better understand our God.

The Master's humble servant,

Harry

HARRY COBB
(Deceased)

PETER'S ADVICE FOR THE PERSECUTED

(1 Peter 4:12-19)

Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evil-doer, or as a busybody in other men's matters. Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.

For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear? Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.

**THOSE WHO STAND FOR NOTHING
FALL FOR ANYTHING**

GOSPEL MEETINGS

DATES	PLACE	SPEAKER
February 28 - March 2	Mount Carmel Road Gay, GA	Wilbur Bass (Auburn, AL)

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. Who did Abram marry?
2. What was the second plague upon Egypt?
3. What animals were carved on Solomon's throne?
4. Which disciple looked after Mary, after the death of Jesus?
5. For how many days did Jesus appear to his disciples after his resurrection?

...ANSWERS NEXT MONTH

And remember last month's questions?

1. What is the first recorded dream of Joseph, son of Jacob?
SHEAVES OF WHEAT BOWING DOWN TO OTHER
SHEAVES (Gen. 37:5-7)
2. What sin stopped Moses from leading the children of Israel
into the Promised Land? HITTING A ROCK TWICE
(INSTEAD OF SPEAKING TO IT) (Num. 20:11-12)
3. What was unusual about the 700 Benjamite soldiers who
could sling a stone and hit their target every time?
THEY WERE ALL LEFT-HANDED (Jdg. 20:16)
4. In the parable of the Pharisee and the Publican, what did
the Pharisee thank God for? THAT HE WAS NOT SIN-
FUL LIKE OTHER MEN (Luke 18:11)
5. How many times did Jesus say you should forgive your
brother when he sins against you?
SEVENTY TIMES SEVEN (Mat. 18:21-22)