

WE MUST BECOME AS LITTLE CHILDREN!

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NOTE: - All Bible texts are taken from the King James Version; and the compiler has supplied all emphasis throughout this Study Document.

We must become as little children if we are to enter into the kingdom of heaven. A little child will heed the call of the Saviour and obediently come in humility to his side, as the little child did in the following teaching of Jesus to his disciples..
Matthew 18:1 - 4: - "At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? **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.**"

The Psalmist declares that the behaviour of a child is one where the heart is not haughty, and the mind is humble, far removed from pride and ego.

Psalm 131:1 - 3: - "**LORD, my heart is not haughty, nor mine eyes lofty: neither do I exercise myself in great matters, or in things too high for me. Surely I have behaved and quieted myself, as a child that is weaned of his mother:** my soul [is] even as a weaned child. Let Israel hope in the LORD from henceforth and for ever."

The mind or our inner thoughts must be of humility and meekness.

Colossians 3:12: - "Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, **humbleness of mind, meekness,** longsuffering."

God has promised to come near and dwell with all who will have a humble and contrite heart..

Psalm 34:18: - "The LORD [is] nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; **and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.**"

Isaiah 57:15: - "For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name [is] Holy; **I dwell in the high and holy [place], with him also [that is] of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.**"

Humility is one of God's simple requirements for his people.

Micah 6:6 - 8: - "Wherewith shall I come before the LORD, [and] bow myself before the high God? shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves of a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, [or] with ten thousands of rivers of oil? shall I give my firstborn [for] my transgression, the fruit of my body [for] the sin of my soul? **He hath showed thee, O man, what [is] good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?**"

God resists all the proud, but he gives his grace to those who humble themselves as little children. He will lift them up.

James 4:6 - 10: - "**But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.** Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse [your] hands, [ye] sinners; and purify [your] hearts, [ye] double minded. Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and [your] joy to heaviness. **Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.**"

Luke 14:11: - "For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; **and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.**"

A humble man does not see anything good in himself, or despise other people as being sinners. The Lord will exalt the humble child-like follower of Christ. Such is the lesson of Jesus' parable of the Pharisee and the Publican.

Luke 18:9 - 17: - "**And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others:** Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. **The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men [are], extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican.** I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. **And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as [his] eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified [rather] than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.** And they brought unto him also infants, that he would touch them: but when [his] disciples saw [it], they rebuked them. But Jesus called them [unto him], and said, Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God. **Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter therein.**"

Humility is the way to life.

Proverbs 22:4: - "**By humility [and] the fear of the LORD [are] riches, and honour, and life.**"

Good children obey their parents. God loves to see this.

Ephesians 6:1 - 3: - "**Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.** Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth."

Colossians 3:20: - "**Children, obey [your] parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.**"

And so it is with our heavenly Father. We should obey him, for we are his children.

Romans 8:14 - 16: - "**For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.** For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. **The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:**"

Galatians 3:26: - "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus."

The Lord wants us to be obedient children and holy in behaviour.

1 Peter 1:13 - 16: - "Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; **As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.**"

A little child will hear the voice of God in the Scriptures, and will humbly obey.

1 John 2:1 - 6: - "**My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not.** And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for [the sins of] the whole world. **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. He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked."

1 John 3:2 - 7: - "**Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.** And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure. Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law. And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. Whosoever

abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him. **Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.**"

Obedience to our Heavenly Father, and loving our Christian brethren makes manifest that we are indeed God's children.

1 John 3:9, 10: - **"Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother."**

By keeping God's commandments we show that we love our brethren, the children of God.

1 John 5:2, 3: - **"By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous."**

SUMMARY: -

- Unless we follow the example of the little child in our opening passage, in coming to Christ, in submission to him and in obeying his voice, we will not be able to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.
- Jesus' use of the example of a little child applies only to obedient and respectful children.
- God does not recognize disobedient, rebellious or disrespectful children as his.
- Thus it is in the Christian walk. God only recognizes humble, submissive and obedient people as his children.