

## A Little Child Shall Lead Them Isa 11:6

Psalm 131:2 **Surely, I have calmed and quieted myself, like a weaned child who no longer cries for its mother's milk. Yes, like a weaned child is my soul within me.** NLT/NKJV

There is nothing more precious to God and nothing more precious that we can ever possess than a tender, meek, humble heart that only God can give. This kind of heart is of inestimable value to Him because it's only in this heart that He can fully and increasingly live & have communion, conversation, unbroken fellowship with – a real relationship – not just religion. It is an absolutely precious thing when a hard heart (and will) has been broken of its hard self-will, self-consciousness and self-seeking into that meek, tender, totally un-self-conscious heart that is enjoying the delightful freedom from sin of the children of God, because that humble heart is now trusting God and totally dependent on Him for everything. That broken and contrite heart God will not despise and He will dwell with that one and in that one & he or she in Him.

In general, as long as it isn't weighed down by the baggage of the enemy's thoughts, here is the nature of a little child (and we all know this to be true because we were all little children at one time): a child eagerly, easily and readily trusts and obeys; it is totally dependent on its parent for everything; it wants to grow, mature and be like those who are older than he or she; it loves to please the one it knows loves him or her; it is continually joyful and often playful; it's thankful and not continually complaining; it loves to be with its friends; it loves to learn new things, readily admits its ignorance and asks many questions, and doesn't care how it looks for not knowing; while not initially pleasant, it accepts and even learns to love correction; it doesn't want to disappoint its parent and genuinely has remorse and is repentant if it goes astray even for a moment; a childlike heart is care-free, has no self-image and no idols; in a word, it's humble.

Psa 131:1 **LORD, my heart is not proud; my eyes are not haughty** (self-exalting). NLT

Likewise, as a little child, a childlike believer only wants to please the Father (Jn 8:29). Is this a delightful, care-free place to live? If so, why are there so few little children?

Because nothing is more "natural" to our human nature than pride – independence from God or self-will, going our own way. Every one of us inherited that same evil, prideful nature from our parents, which is the nature of Satan, imparted to Adam and Eve. Being a little child is so contrary and repulsive to our human nature that wants to be seen a certain way, often wants attention or sympathy, continually seeks its own glory, gain or pleasure, and is largely consumed with itself. It is the exact opposite of the humility of a little child. It is this nature that needs to be replaced and Jesus Christ came, and died to that self-willed nature on the Cross to do something about it, and He offers to rid every one of us of it forever, through death with Him to it that we reckon and believe to be so (Rom 6:6, 11; Gal 5:24, 2:20). And we take up our Cross daily by believing this every day (Lk 9:23).

This subject of becoming or being made like a little child is so dear to the heart of our Father "**for of such (little children) is the kingdom of heaven**" (Matt 19:14) and in reality there are so few of His offspring that are currently, truly living as little children. Little children are also the only ones who really love Him because they have forsaken all pride and pretense and hate it with a Godly hatred, and are allowing Him to impart more of His humble nature to them, so they can be readily available to impart that nature to others, through preaching, making them also like little children. The Father

wants to move large numbers of people from the pride of adulthood into the meekness and humility of little children. His desire is for multitudes of little spiritual children to be living in His presence now and forever – His family who really love Him and do His will. This is the mission of every little spiritual child or disciple, to:

Luke 1:17 **...soften adult hearts to become like little children's, and (turn) the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous...** (So they become righteous children, disciples.)

Why is it so important that we and others be made and remain like little children? Because:

1. The only promise of living in the kingdom of heaven, in the Spirit, in God's presence, now and forever is to not just converted or born again Christians – that is not enough – but to little children:

Matt 18:3 (Jesus) **Unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter** (and live in) **the kingdom of heaven.** (Neither now or hereafter)

2. God's wisdom and understanding of any truth is only unveiled to little children. Pride will always remain in the dark and be shut out (because God actually resists the proud). It is a dreadful and dreary place of not knowing God through an increasing inflow of His living words, and the reasoning, intellectualism, and mental assent that are so common in hard-hearted adults can never know them:

Matt 11:25 (Jesus) **"I thank You, Father...that You have hidden these things from the intelligent and well-educated and have revealed them to (spiritual) babies ("little children" TLB).**

I Ki 3:7,9 (The king of Israel) **"Now, O LORD my God, You have made Your servant king (are you a king too? Rev 1:6) ...but I am a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in...**

3. Only trusting, obedient little children are of God, righteous, and so kept safe from their enemies:

1 Jn 4:4 **You are of God, little children, and have overcome them** (the world, my flesh & the devil)

Prov 18:10 **The word of the LORD is a strong tower; The righteous run in to Him and are safe.**

So how do we become little spiritual children? By receiving God's Spirit and His humble nature:

Matt 11:29 **Take My yoke (My Spirit) upon you and learn of Me, for I am meek and humble of heart, and you will find rest for your souls** (your wills– free from the pride of adulthood).

Jn 5:30 (Jesus) **I can of Myself do nothing...I have no desire to do what is pleasing to Myself, My own aim, My own purpose but only the will and pleasure of the Father Who sent Me.**

Now, like a little child and weaned from the milk of God's word or basic teachings (Heb 5:12), we can begin to be used to help others turn to God and become like little children, for surely some will.

So we too can say:

Heb 2:13 **Here I am** (in Your presence, in Your kingdom), **and the children God has given me.**

And who will teach these little children? You and me, anointed by God's Holy Spirit, if we are willing:

John 21:15 (Jesus says to you and me) **"Feed My lambs."** Mt 28:19 **"Go...make disciples..."**