

Only those willing to become like a humble little child can enter the Kingdom of Heaven!

(Jesus) **Truly** (with certainty) **I say to you, “unless you are converted and become like little children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven!”** (Matt 18:3 NASB/NIV)

Whether we are young or old naturally, the new birth is the beginning of our spiritual lives as Christians. Jesus says in Matt 18:3, “...**unless you are converted...**”(changed, from not believing God to believing Him), Jesus says again, “**Truly, truly I say to you, unless you are born again (spiritually), you cannot see the Kingdom of God.**” (Jn 3:3 NLT/ESV). We can't see the kingdom with our natural eyes because the kingdom of God/kingdom of heaven is a spiritual kingdom. We were born again when we believed in our heart a word of the kingdom, the good news of forgiveness of sins and being made right with God, through the cross of Christ. God cleansed us by that word, removed our sin hardened heart, and put a new heart, a new spirit within us. Only the pure in heart can see God. Jesus said, “**that which is born of the flesh is flesh (natural), and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit (spiritual)**”. These words should settle the matter, “**flesh and blood (natural human bodies, with all their mental and physical abilities) cannot inherit the kingdom of God!**” Only our spirits can. That pretty much knocks the ones off their high horses, who think more highly of themselves than they ought, and levels the playing field wouldn't you say?

Just like our natural birth we were brought forth as spiritual infants, totally dependent. We knew little to nothing of God (except the words the Spirit of God used to give us life), we brought nothing to God (but our sins and nature to sin), and we come to Him with a continuous need for Him to make provision for us in everything. More good news!, it's the will of our Father to provide all for His little ones. These newborn spirits need spiritual food by which to grow. God makes provision for this through those of His children who love Him and have allowed Him to raise them up to be mothers, and planter's, and waterer's. They feed the milk of the word to His lambs, and God causes the growth. Like natural infants, He would have these newborn babes desire and drink deeply the milk of the word, by believing them in their hearts, so that they can begin to grow to know Him better.

1 Thes 2:7,8 (The Apostle Paul and the disciples)...**we were like a mother feeding and caring for her own children...we were well-pleased to impart to you...the gospel of God...** (NLT/NASB)

Jn 21:15 **Jesus said** (to the ones that love Him), “**Feed my lambs.**”

Matt 18:6 **these little ones who believe in Me** (in Christ)

1 Pet 2:2 **As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that you may grow...** (NKJV)

And the essential milk is to, “become as a little child” and receive the Holy Spirit,

It's a wonderful and beautiful thing to be converted, born again, and see with the spiritual eyes of faith God's kingdom that dwells within us. But we need to take the next step of faith and, “Become like a little child”. We need to be taught by the Spirit of our Father how His children enter in, and live in the kingdom. Jesus said, **Whoever humbles himself like this child is...in the kingdom of heaven.** (Matt 18:4 NLT) Did your heart hear that? Well, the humble will hear and rejoice! How do these “whoever's” humble themselves? God doesn't force anyone, clearly we need to decide, and in the valley of decision the humble willingly submit and side with God. They see with their hearts by the Spirit of adoption, this loving, intimate relationship the Father desires to have with them, and that He calls them His children! They take their place as students in the elementary school of God in full agreement with Him, that even though they may be fully grown, self sufficient, well educated adults in the natural realm, of God's spiritual kingdom they know nothing! Brothers and sisters, a person can receive nothing unless it is given to them by their heavenly Father. Whoever thinks themselves to be (or have) something (without God) when they are nothing, deceives themselves.

Jesus rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, “I thank you, Father...that you have hidden these things (knowing You personally in our hearts) from those who think themselves to be wise and well educated and revealed them to (humble) little children... (Lk 10:21 NLT/ESV). And, **these things** (the revelation of Himself) **God has revealed to us by His Spirit** (Whom His children have received). 1 Cor 2:10 NIV

This humility is not our own, it's the humble nature of Jesus Christ (the living word of God) imparted to our hearts by the Holy Spirit. God's humble little children have surrendered themselves to the Father of their spirits. They love and trust Him, are willing to obey, and have taken His yoke of humility, the Holy Spirit upon them. They left the life of the natural realm, when they made all their decisions by natural sight and hearing which ends in destruction. They've entered the kingdom and make right decisions, because they have learned to listen to the Voice of their Father, to do His will, to live in the kingdom, led by the Holy Spirit.

Jesus says,

Matt 11:29 Take My yoke upon you. Let Me teach you, because I am (the only one) humble in heart.
Jn 5:30 Jesus, who has all authority and power I am able to do nothing from Myself [independently, but only as I am taught by God and as I get His orders]. Even as I hear, I judge [I decide as I am bidden to decide. As the Voice comes to Me, so I give a decision], and My judgment is right (righteous), because I do not seek or consult My own will [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. (AMP)
Rm 8:14 those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. NIV Living in,
Rm 14:17 the kingdom of God... (and the kingdom) is in the Holy Spirit...

The great hinderance to our becoming like little children, and entering the kingdom of heaven, is PRIDE! The whole world and much of the church lies under the influencing nature of Satan, which is pride. The effect of this pride is three fold: 1) The newborns remain infants, and sadly eventually go back into the realm of the flesh, 2) The veil of the flesh, our prideful human nature limits God in His desire to increase His flock, because He is not able to raise up many shepherds who can feed His sheep, 3) Because there are so few standing in the gap, the world and multitudes of christians remain in captivity to Satan. Born again christians everywhere are resisting the Holy Spirit, and in the pride of their intellects refuse to humble themselves. They perform their religious duties of going to church, reading their bibles, and worshiping God in the natural man (the flesh), but their heart, their spirit is far from Him. Living in the realm of the flesh they cannot please God. There is no love for God in their hearts. They don't seek Him with all their heart, their wills are submitted to self not the Holy Spirit, and in all they're thoughts there's no room for God. In stiff-necked rebellion they don't agree with godly teaching, which grieves the Holy Spirit, and they continue on in the fleshly pursuit of self gratification.

Rm 8:8,9 (written to christians) Those who are in the realm of the flesh (Satan's realm, natural, Satan's children) cannot please God. You...are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit (kingdom of God, spiritual, God's children made like Jesus), if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you...if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ (not His children). NIV
1 Cor 2:14 The natural person (the unconverted and christians living by sense and reason without the Holy Spirit) does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. ESV
1 Tim 6:3,4 If anyone...does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching (even this message), He is proud, knowing nothing NIV/KJV God resists the proud!

Father, even though Your church is in this state, you are well able to make a straight path! Through the prayers and preaching of Your children who seek You day and night, what You have done for us, You will do for anyone. You're not a respecter of persons. Father, among Your church, of any and all who are willing, soften the prideful hearts of Your wayward children who are following their natural adult minds. Put a hunger and thirst for You in their hearts. No matter their age in the natural, make them humble and teachable little children who follow You, continuously led by Your Spirit, and living in Your kingdom!

Jer 31:9 (our Father speaking) With weeping they shall come, and with (humble hearts and) pleas for mercy I will lead them back, I will make them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble, for I am a Father to Israel (My Church, My children)... ESV

Jer 3:19 "Then I said, 'How I would (how I long to) set you among My children and give you a pleasant land, the most beautiful inheritance of the nations!' And I said, 'You shall call Me, my Father, and not turn away from following Me.' NASB God gives grace to the humble!