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**Theme:** Childlike Faith or Childish Faith?

**Scripture:** Mark 10:13-15 NKJ

“Whoever does not receive the Kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it.”

**A Thought:**

We should never outgrow our childlike faith. We trust our Lord. He loves us. It is as simple as that...1 John 4:8 (NIV) “*Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.*” To be sure, God’s love does not want us to be foolhardy or dismiss intellectual thinking. Hence, the importance of his wonderful parables and his blatant exhortations. Simple but straightforward learning tools to exemplify our love for God. With this spiritual maturity we should be in the front lines defending Him. To do so we must read and study the word. A man with childish faith resists or is hesitant to learn the deeper meaning of the Word. Not unlike a child who does not learn from their parents. They eventually become defiant and lazy and spiritually fall away. In the book of Hebrews Paul takes a stand on the problem of immaturity. Hebrews 5:12-14 HCSB “*For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of God’s revelation. You need milk, not solid food. Now everyone who lives on milk is inexperienced with the message about righteousness, because he is an infant. But solid food is for the mature - for those whose senses have been trained to distinguish between good and evil.*” In his book *Essential Truths of the Christian Faith*, Theologian and author R.C. Sproul states “*the New Testament does describe a certain childlike faith as a virtue.*” But he goes on to say that there is a tremendous difference between childlike faith and childish faith.” That said, we must not be bullheaded in our spiritual growth.

Now....what are your thoughts? Write them down.

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**Talk to yourself:**

- In your own words - what is the difference between childlike faith and childish faith?
- Why does the New Testament describe childlike faith as a virtue?
- Give one example of practicing a daily childlike faith activity?
- What is meant by spiritual maturity? Are you working towards that end?

**Scriptures to read:**

- Read the complete chapter of Matthew 18.
- Mark 9:36-37; Deuteronomy 11:18-21

**Quote:**

Matthew McDonald's Blog....My Thought for the Day

*"Lord help me this day to live life as a child of the King, Abba father, help me today to worship you and enjoy you forever!"*

**Bottom Line:**

I have on occasion at various speaking events for young folks conveyed the following thought..... *"I do not know what I want to do when I grow up!"* I am truly a child at heart. With the Lord by my side I continue to have a childlike faith...I trust Christ Jesus. This faith and sixty six books reveal our Lord and Savior. He will not disappoint me even when I do not deserve His mercy and grace. I want to be his child....Matthew 18:3-5 *"Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever welcomes one such child like this in my name welcomes me."* Jesus does not mess around. Now men, this is not child talk but straight talk!

**NOW.....THAT'S THE BOTTOM LINE.**

Spiritual Dabbler, Your bro, Ray

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