



Lights and Perfection, Inc.

Go and make disciples!

E-votional 27

Be as Children

Matthew 11:25-26 (ESV),

At that time Jesus declared, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will."

Are you a child of God? What does a child of God do or look like? Even better, what is the number one characteristic one who is deemed a child of God?

When I read this passage of scripture I first of all, immediately see joy and thanksgiving coming from Jesus. When I see this, I then have to realize that if Jesus was thankful for this, I might want to understand why.

Secondly, after discovering that Jesus was thankful, I endeavored to seek a little deeper as to the meaning of this word Jesus used 'thank.' To do this I looked to Strongs Concordance (1890) and found the exact definition of this word from its original Greek format.

1843 eksomologéō (from 1537 /ek, "wholly out from," intensifying 3670 /homologéō, "say the same thing about") – properly, fully agree and to acknowledge that agreement openly (whole-heartedly); hence, to confess ("openly declare"), without reservation (no holding back).

What I found interesting was this part, 'fully agree and to acknowledge that agreement openly (whole-heartedly).' The reason I found this interesting was because it showed a serious amount of attention to the intent of the Lord's heart in proclaiming the truth about what He was thanking the Father for.

The basic explanation for this was that Jesus was extremely pleased with the wisdom of God to conceal the truth about the Kingdom of God from the hardened and impenitent religious leaders of His time and reveal it to the unlearned children. In other words, those who sought after their own version of wisdom did not find what they were truly looking for but the children received it freely. Notice the

similarity also when Jesus taught about the reasoning behind the parable in Matthew 13:10-12 (ESV),

Then the disciples came and said to him, "Why do you speak to them in parables?" And he answered them, "To you, it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them, it has not been given. For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away."

The last part of this was very similar to some of what we touched on in last weeks teaching, 'the one who has, more will be given.' The idea here was that of a person aligning themselves in such a way to receive spiritual truth. And yet, this was clearly not of themselves but of the Spirit of God or revelation from the Father. The idea of God's children receiving everything by revelation is a remarkable concept all throughout the New Testament. In fact, when Peter first proclaimed that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the Living God notice what Jesus said to this in Matthew 16:17 (ESV),

"Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven."

Praise the Lord! There it is, true revelation from the Father. This is the very thing Jesus was thanking the Father for when He said,

"I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will." (Matthew 11:25-26)

We will do well to realize that the pursuit of God in Christianity is literally to live by this very principle and be as children, for such is the Kingdom of God. Matthew 10:14-15 (ESV),

"Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it."

This same thought is further spoken of in Matthew 19:14 and Luke 18:15-17. Because of this, I find this concept something that we all need to find as critical information.

Again, are you a child of God? What does a child of God do or look like? Even better, what is the number one characteristic of one who is deemed a child of God?

I must pose this because I think somehow we have really gotten off base with the idea of being like children. What I mean is that we are living in a time where everyone has their own interpretation of Scripture and therefore, their own personal meaning thereof. I wonder, is it actually supposed to be much simpler than this? Maybe you have your own thoughts on this as well.

When I read the Bible, I see the children of God living and moving and shaping the world around them simply by revelation and inspiration from the Father above and not some mere method or practice. Don't get me wrong, because there are certain spiritual disciplines that are and always will be powerful building blocks. Let's not forget prayer and Bible study are more of a discipline. However, what would it be like if every time we prayed it was inspired by the Father through His Spirit.

Do you think your prayers would be much more effective if you were praying from His inspiration rather than from your own desires?

And what about Bible study, do you think your time in the Bible would be much more effective as well if you were authentically inspired by God's Spirit continually?

What does all this have to do with being a child?

I will tell you, it has everything to do with being a child. A child very simply depends on the parents for everything. I really think that said it all. However, to illustrate it further, I want to share something that Billy Graham said in a documentary that I watched. These are actually his words and detail a struggle that he was having with some friends who were really intellectual and had to reason everything out. In some conversations with these friends, he began to doubt the Bible. He continues to talk about this intellectual struggle and sums it up by saying in his own words in the summer of 1949

"I remember many years ago, I went through a terrible struggle, intellectually, about the Bible. And, I was concerned and worried and battling with myself. And I remember going out in the moonlight, out in the forest. And I took this Bible, and I said Lord, I don't understand all about this Bible. There are many things I cannot explain. I remember laying the Bible out on a stump. And I said, Lord, this is Your book. I'm going to accept it by faith like I accepted the Lord Jesus Christ by faith and He saved me and transformed me. I am accepting this is Your Word by faith."

Brothers and sisters, I wonder if today we have made a mess of things and made this Christian walk so much more demanding than it ought to be by our reasoning,

intellect, structures, personal interpretations, and inconsistencies. I further wonder if we are willing to be courageous enough to become like children and return to our first love. By this, we can let the light of Jesus Christ shine through our childlike and humble faith and determine daily to trust in no one but God alone for all that we need as a child would.

Father God, we in like manner thank You that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and revealed them to babes. Help us, please, Holy Spirit to remember these very simple truths so that we do not make this Christian journey out to be something it was never intended to be. Let us come to you with weary and heavy burdens and trade them for your rest (Matthew 11:28-30). Only a life fully trusting in You will suffice. Restore, refresh, and revive us again Father, in Jesus name. Amen

In Christ's Love,
Chris and Jeanne
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