

ONE FROM THE HEART

Like a Child

There is something really special about hearing when a child is used by God. Kids don't have a junior Holy Spirit. They can do anything an adult can. It's not a matter of access to the Holy Spirit; it's a matter of obedience and trust in the Holy Spirit. Children seem to have no reason not to trust what God is saying to them. They seem to have an abandoned and trusting faith.

What happens when a child asks God "what do you want to say today?"

Jesus welcomed all the children to come and be with Him.

Mark 10:13-16

Matthew 19:14

Luke 18:16

There is something about a child and the way they engage with God that is actually to be embraced, even desired.

Children are.....

- + Trusting
- + Obedient

And they are all these things because they are rooted and established in love. When we feel loved we trust, we do not assume wrong and we are willing to follow.

Love vs Knowledge

As we get older, we gain more knowledge. Knowledge of life (good and evil) can start to become a tension point that can pull us off balance when it comes to being rooted in love.

For example, a child knows they are loved, but they also start to learn that people can be mean. Should they share what they have, or will sharing mean they miss out?

The more knowledge we gain about the world, the worse this gets. It destroys our trust, and our obedience.

“I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, **being rooted and established in love**, may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to **know this love that surpasses knowledge**—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to **do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine**, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.”

Ephesians 3:16–21 NIV

We are to be rooted in love, a love that surpasses knowledge. and that love can do immeasurably more than we could ask or imagine. We are to filter our knowledge through God love.

The Garden

It all broke down very early in the garden. Adam and Eve were in perfect relationship. Rooted and established in love. But Satan tempted them with Knowledge. The knowledge of Good and Evil.

That knowledge very quickly took their innocence, and it made them not trust God and become disobedient.

Knowledge produced:

- + Fear
- + Pride
- + Worry
- + Desire

These things then become filters through which we hear God. Instead of knowing He loves us, trusting He is speaking to us and following what He says, we test God's word against these things.

Filtering Love through knowledge

Childlike Trust

Knowledge filtered through love

God's kingdom is not gained by human achievement or knowing everything; it's God's gift to us received through simple trust.

We don't have to go and become little kids again and draw pictures on the ground to know that God loves us. But being childlike means that we would never be afraid of what anyone would think of that.

Being childlike means never being afraid to be loved. Children are so zealous in their desire to be loved that they run into the arms of people they love. Maturing in our faith does not mean knowing a lot—it means loving a lot—being like Him. Maturity means having nothing to prove and knowing you have nothing to earn.

Discussion Questions

1. What do you think God is saying when he says children will inherit the kingdom?

2. What does being childlike mean to you?

3. What has been lost in your faith since childhood? Are there any filters that you hear God through that are of the world?

4. What knowledge have you gained that may be a hindrance to God speaking to you?

5. Read Ephesians 3:16-21. What part of this prayer stands out to you?

6. What does it look like for you to be rooted and established in love? Are there any things you need to change to ensure this is true for you?

7. What are some fears that need to be surrendered to God? and what would it look like for His love to enter into those areas of your life?