

Childlike Attributes (Part One)

Matthew 18:1-3

1 In that hour the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who then is greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven?" 2 Jesus called a little child to himself, and set him in their midst, 3 and said, "Most certainly I tell you, unless you turn, and become as little children, you will in no way enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.

Matthew 18:4-5

4 Whoever therefore humbles himself as this little child, the same is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven. 5 Whoever receives one such little child in my name receives me, (WEB)

Matthew 18:4

Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. NIV

So anyone who becomes as humble as this little child is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven.
NLT

Matthew 18:4

Whoever becomes simple and elemental again,
like this child, will rank high in God's kingdom.

MESS

Luke 18:15-16

15 They were also bringing their babies to him, that he might touch them. But when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. 16 Jesus summoned them, saying, "Allow the little children to come to me, and don't hinder them, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these. (WEB)

Luke 18:17

17 Most certainly, I tell you,
whoever doesn't receive the Kingdom of God
like a little child,
he will in no way enter into it." (WEB)

Matthew 11:25-26

²⁵ At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. ²⁶ Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.

NIV

Greek Word for 'little children'...

**Untaught, unskilled,
wordless infants.**

**There is a huge difference
from being 'childlike' to being
childish.**

**Some of the most childish people
are adults who like to use manipulation
and control to get what they want.**

**Why are little children so great
in the Father's eyes?**

**They are the closest that a human can be
to their original design and purpose.**

**They are born with beautiful, innocent,
trusting hearts.**



**God intended
that our parents
would be a foreshadow
of His parental love.**



**Our lives are like
growth rings
in a tree...**

How God sees us...

Isaiah 46:3-4

3 “Listen to me, you descendants of Jacob, all the remnant of the people of Israel, you whom I have upheld since your birth, and have carried since you were born.

Isaiah 46:3-4

4 Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you. (NIV)



10:48

Sun, Jul 1





**There is only one way
for us to relate to God
as Father...**

And that is as His little child!

1 John 3:1

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

(NIV)

**When I came into this revelation,
Jack Winter asked me a question...**

**Barry, can you be a little boy
that needs to be loved?**

...and I have stayed there ever since!

**The Father wants to restore our ability
to return to the beautiful simplicity of
a childlike heart again...**

... So He can reparent us!

Childlike Trust

God wants to restore childlike trust to you!

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;
⁶ in all your ways submit to him, and he will make
your paths straight. (NIV)

**Little children
find it easy to trust...**

**But as we get older,
we get hurt by people**

**People violate our trust
The pain causes us to become
untrusting and cynical**

**My children used to love to
jump off the stairs into my arms.**

**They had no trouble believing that I
would catch them**

**Now that they are adults,
they wouldn't be as confident**



**God has made a promise
to care for us...**

**When we don't believe him,
we don't trust him**

Is it a faith issue or a trust issue?

**Father wants to restore
childlike trust to us!**

**He wants to bring healing
to areas of broken trust**

**He wants us to be able
to trust again**

**Jesus wants us to trust
our Heavenly Father!**

Matthew 6:25-26

25 “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes?

Matthew 6:25-26

26 Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? (NIV)

**God intended that we would learn to trust
Him at our mother's breast...**

Psalm 22:9

Yet you brought me safely from my mother's
womb and led me to trust you at my mother's
breast. (NLT)

Isaiah 49:15

“Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne?

**Though she may forget,
I will not forget you! (NIV)**

**Many of us didn't learn
to trust at our mother's breast**

**We learned that love was
conditional.**

Basic trust was broken.

It wasn't your fault!

**God created you with
a trusting heart!**

**And your Heavenly Father
wants to restore childlike trust
to YOU!**

An honest prayer...

Mark 9:17-29

24 "I do believe, but help me
overcome my unbelief!"

2 Timothy 2:13

if we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot disown himself. (NIV)

If we give up on him, he does not give up - for there's no way he can be false to himself. (MESS)

Trust is our 'second conversion'

Trust is our gift back to God, and he finds it so
enchancing that Jesus died for the love it.

Brennan Manning
Ruthless Trust

Jesus trusted His Father on the cross

Luke 23:46

Then Jesus shouted, "Father, I entrust my spirit into your hands!" And with those words he breathed his last. (NIV)

**This was a prayer that little Hebrew
children used to pray...**

Psalm 31:5...

**Into your hands I commit my spirit; deliver
me, Lord, my faithful God. (NIV)**

**Our lives have been a
continual journey of learning
to trust...**

...A Global vision

...Psalm 46:10

...Our daughter's treatment

...Covid

...And so much more!

Childlike Neediness

**When you think of a 'needy person',
what comes to mind?**

**Not complimentary
Implies weakness
Lack of moral fibre
Insecure, broken
Takers and not givers**

**The gold standard in
the world system...**

The opposite of being needy.

**Self-sufficient, independent.
Self made, successful.**

**Yet in the dog eat dog world,
people battle exhaustion, fear, stress,
depression, self hatred, etc., etc.**

So the million dollar question is...
How is that working out?

**Even in some church cultures,
our pursuit of 'maturity'
can lead us to a form of independence
where we have no need.**

Church of Laodicea

Revelation 3:14-19

¹⁷ You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.

**The promise of the Kingdom
is for those in need...**

**The Beatitudes
Matthew 5:3-6**

**“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs
is the kingdom of heaven.**

1 Corinthians 1:26-29

Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.

1 Corinthians 1:26-29

God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him.

The prodigal son had to get in touch with his deepest need before he came to his senses.

Luke 15:14

After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. (NIV)

**People don't enter the Kingdom without
experiencing their need for a Saviour.**

They need to be forgiven.

They need to be loved.

They need to be saved.

They need to be rescued.

**Jesus told us that little kids
are the greatest! Matt. 18:1-5**

**And they are the most needy
little people on the planet!**

**They need... to be fed.
...to be clothed. ...to be comforted.**



**The outstretched arms
of a little child
communicate need.**

**They are hungry.
They are tired.
They are hurting.
They need love.**

**Part of growing old is that we lose our
humble, outstretched arms.**

**We cross our arms
rather than extending them.**

We don't need God.

**We believe that neediness is a sign of
weakness... and it is.**

**Paul's revelation of weakness.
2 Corinthians 12:1-10**

**"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is
made perfect in weakness."**

The Truth...
Needing leads to bonding.

**And bonding leads to
deep relationship.**

**Without deep relationships,
we miss out on the point of our existence.**

‘The reason we never enter the deepest relationships with God is that we seldom acknowledge our utter neediness before him.’

Brennan Manning

**It's okay to put up our arms
towards God and express our need
to be picked up!**

James 4:10

Humble yourselves before the Lord,
and he will lift you up.

Isaiah 40:11

He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

(NIV)

Isaiah 61 is all about meeting our felt needs...

**Good news for the poor
Bind up the brokenhearted
Set the captives free
Comfort those who mourn
A crown of beauty for ashes
A double portion for our shame**

**Becoming childlike is the doorway to
bonding with our Abba.**

**And that bonding will lead us into a deeper
relationship with Him!**

'Getting in touch with this childlikeness is not an end in itself. It's a doorway into the depths of our union with an indwelling God - a sinking down into the fullness of the Abba experience, into the vivid awareness that my inner child is Abba's child held fast by him.'

Brennan Manning

**Would you be willing to ask God to show you
your greatest needs at this very moment?**

Psalm 46:1

God, you're such a safe and powerful place to find
refuge! You're a proven help in time of trouble—
and always available whenever I need you. (TPT)

**Would you be willing to
stretch out your arms to God?**

**If we try to relate to our Heavenly Father as
adults, we will have missed it.**

It is a Father-child relationship.

