



THE LOVE LETTER

Abba's Arms International, Inc.
(Kings Kids Unlimited, Inc)

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Praise Report for the Fatherheart A School!



We wanted to thank all of you who prayed for the school that was held in State College, PA April 14 – 20th this year. It was a very positive week! This year's school seemed to go deeper, and during the whole week we were aware of Father's gentle, tender Presence overshadowing and touching us!

A few of the highlights:

- ♥ We had an amazing team of nine people who helped with the school. One member, Mark Gyde from the UK, added much to the week with what he shared. He spoke on having a childlike heart and what it means for God to be our Father. He also spoke of orphans returning to sonship.
- ♥ Thirty-eight people attended. Besides State College, there were people from six other states, several other parts of PA, and one person from Nigeria.
- ♥ Great healing took place on Thursday afternoon when the men asked the women's forgiveness for how they had mistreated them as the feminine expression of Father. It was a powerful time that didn't take place last year.
- ♥ Many received comfort and release of pain as they came forward to receive Father God's holy embraces.
- ♥ About 50 additional people came to the open evening on Thursday and received Trevor's message on Father's comforting love.
- ♥ Many experienced major breakthroughs by the end of the week and shared their testimonies on Saturday!

Are You Being Childlike or Childish?

I (Rick) started exploring this idea of being childlike and what that means after reading Mark Gyde's book *A Father to YOU*. Some of the ideas I share in this article come from the chapter in his book entitled "A Childlike Heart." Mark's website www.afathertoyou.com and the title for his book are taken from **2 Cor. 6:18** "I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters." Our Heavenly Father wants us to come to him as little children so that He can be the father we always wanted to have, but may not have had growing up. God wants to be a father to us in every area of our lives and "re-parent" us in areas where we may not have been parented correctly growing up. But how do we become little children (childlike), especially if we are living in adult bodies?

My attempt to answer this question started with **Mark 10:15** "... whoever does not receive the Kingdom of God as a little child, will by no means enter in." Jesus gives us more understanding in **Matt. 18:3-4** "Therefore, whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven." Obviously, Father considered it very important that we learn how to live like little children (be childlike)! As we begin to live our lives like little children, a little more of the Kingdom will come here on the earth. The whole earth is crying out for the revealing of the sons of God.

Through our sonship with Him, the earth will be delivered into the "glorious liberty of the children of God." **Rom. 8:14-21** We all need to live with a childlike heart!

Some Qualities of a Childlike Heart

Dependent – Jesus was the perfect example of this, depending upon His Father for everything. Jesus only spoke and did the things that the Father had taught Him. **John 8:28** **John 14:10** Young children are totally dependent on their parents for everything. There is freedom being children of God without any worries or concerns! Food, shelter, clothing, a place to live, transportation, etc. are all taken care of by their parents. Parents are also supposed to provide for all of their training, guidance, love, and nurture so that they can grow into mature adults.

Trusting – We can only be totally dependent upon someone else if we trust that other person to keep their word and take care of everything for us. Father made us with childlike faith so that we would trust Him to provide for everything. A child starts life with total trust in their parents to take care of them. They have not done anything to deserve or earn that care other than to be a son or daughter. They allow their father to throw them up in the air fully believing that he will catch them. Or they will jump off the edge of a pool before they can even swim

into their mother or father's waiting arms. It is only by experience that a child starts to doubt their words and loses trust in their parents and other people (ex. coarse jesting, making fun of, lying, not keeping their word).

Carefree – Children do not take a "risk assessment" before they do something, and rarely do they think about the possible consequences of their actions. They just do whatever comes into their head or what someone else suggests that sounds fun or exciting. Children don't have deep thoughts, and they just live in the moment without any worry about the future. As adults, we have the expression, "They act like they don't have a care in the world!" like that is supposed to be a bad thing. But in reality, that's the way we should be! People often say as they part from us, "Take care!" But as sons and daughters of the King, we should reply, "No thank you!" Our Heavenly Father cares for us and promises not to let us fall. **1 Pet. 5:7** **Ps. 37:24**

Fearless – Children are fearless and do not have any concerns about what other people think, being rejected, failing, making mistakes, etc. Because they are fearless, they do not instill fear in others around them. Most kids are willing to try just about anything when they are very young. The fears begin



to creep in only as they grow older and respond to the knowledge, experiences, and hurts of life.

Innocent – Mark Gyde describes innocence in a child as “unspoiled simplicity.” They come into this world spiritually without spot or blemish and with a wholesome spirit. They wear their heart on their sleeve with no need to wear masks or costumes. Their hearts are open towards everyone and everything. Their conscience is clear and they have no need for words like sin, shame, guilt, and self-condemnation. They are free to just be themselves.

Imitators – Children imitate just about anything that they see and hear their parents do. They also imitate what they see other kids and adults doing. This can have good or bad results depending upon what things they decide to imitate! Through imitation is how a child learns to speak. They begin by making noises and end up speaking just like their parents, accent and all! We can learn to speak just like our Heavenly Father! We can become skillful in speaking God’s Word and releasing His creative power into the earth from our heart. I believe that our Heavenly Father wants us to be imitators of Jesus just like Jesus imitated His Father. **John 5:19-20**

Use Their Imagination – Children can dream BIG dreams! Nothing seems impossible to them in their imagination. They are able to fly airplanes, fight wars, slay dragons, rescue fair maidens, be rescued by knights in shining armor, get married and live happily ever after. They can take a pile of Lego blocks and build a spaceship or race car with them. They can take a collection of different shapes and colored pattern blocks or pieces of paper and turn it into an intricate design. Our Heavenly Father gave us an imagination as a language of the heart where we can communicate with Him through dreams and vision. Father wants to give us more than we can think or imagine! **Eph. 3:20-21**



Know How to Rest – Children can play hard all day and lay down in your arms or on their beds and fall fast asleep immediately. They can relax and fall asleep regardless of what might be going on around them. They can be in places where there is loud music, lots of commotion, or other distractions and still be able to rest and fall asleep. Children can get

caught up in what they are doing and go beyond when it is time to rest. However, once you get them to stop the activity, they suddenly realize that they are tired and easily rest or sleep. Jesus promises to give us rest. **Matt. 11:28-30**

Never Satisfied - There are many times when we are playing with our grandchildren that they will say, “Do it again grandpa!” Or when we are reading them a book, they beg us to read it again or read another one. We can take them for ice cream or give them a piece of candy and when they are finished, they are ready for another one. Children always want more of whatever tastes good or is fun to do. And they have no fear or reservations about asking for more! Father wants that to be our attitude too!

Keep Trying – For very young children who are trying to learn something new, quitting is seldom an option. Take for example a toddler trying to learn to walk. They fall down many times, sometimes even hurting themselves, but each time they get right back up and try again. They can stack blocks until they fall over and start right over again making another stack. Only after many tries with something hard or complicated to do might they finally get frustrated and stop. Of course, every child’s threshold for when they might stop will be different, but most children don’t give up easily!

Have Fun – Children know how to have fun and fill their time with lots of fun, exciting, adventurous things to do. Sometimes, however, their creativity and imagination can get them into trouble with their parents! Seldom do you see a child sitting in the corner with a blank stare with nothing to do. Instead they are constantly exploring their world and trying new things.

Full of Joy – By six to eight weeks every baby starts expressing joy through their smiles. I have heard people say that a child has a “belly laugh” about 300 times a day. Small children can laugh or giggle at just about anything. Our grandkids have a game they play where the object of the game is to try and get someone to laugh. It’s not hard to get them laughing even at things you might think aren’t that funny! Of course, I have not found many children that you can’t get to laugh just by trying to tickle them!

Believing – Have you ever heard the expression “childlike faith?” It’s not hard for little children to believe for even great things to happen because they have no reason to fear

or doubt. Children have faith in what the Word of God says and just believe that Father is able to do what He says He can do. They don’t have to memorize a bunch of scripture verses, have some great revelation of His Word, and make positive confessions to build their faith. They just believe. Children may not get all that excited when someone receives healing because they just believe what the Bible says is true. Young children are able to understand spiritual things and receive salvation though Jesus Christ and be filled with Holy Spirit.

Being Childish

By this point, you might be wondering about some of the scriptures where Paul admonishes us to stop acting like babies and grow up! Let’s take a closer look and find out just what Paul was talking about. In **Eph 3:14** it says, “...that we should no longer be like children, tossed to and fro and carried about by every wind of doctrine...” In the original Greek, it is referring to being like an infant tossed about by doctrines and teachings that were in error. Paul was admonishing the people not to fall for the doctrines of men and religious teachings that are of no effect (being childish). We are not to be drawn away with our own lusts and temptations, but to grow up spiritually in Christ speaking the truth in love. We are to stay in unity of the faith in Jesus Christ in total submission to the Father as sons and daughters. **Eph. 4:13-16**

In **Heb. 5:12-14** this becomes even clearer. The *Source New Testament* (SNT) version of verse 13 reads, “everyone who participates in milk is without experience in the just Word, and is childish, not speaking, unfit to bear weapons.” In the New King James version it refers to those who are “unskilled in the Word of righteousness” as babies. It takes applying the Word to our daily lives being able to “discern both good and evil.” Whatever you expose your mind to will control your actions, and your desires will be directed to where your attention is focused. We need to be childlike in obedience to the Father and His Word and not adrift being drawn away by the evils and temptations of this world.

Paul further develops this idea of being childish in **1 Cor. 3:1-3**. The SNT for verse 1 reads, “...I wasn’t able to speak to you as to spiritual people, but I had to speak to you as natural people, as to babies in the Anointing.” The Amplified version of verse 1 says, “...I could not talk to you as to spiritual



(men), but as to non-spiritual (men of the flesh, in whom the carnal nature predominates), as to mere infants (in the new life) in Christ. – unable to talk yet.” Paul goes on to say that the Corinthians were unable to receive the Word because of their carnality. There was envy, strife, and divisions among them and they were behaving like “mere men.” In the Amplified version it says “unchanged men.” They were still talking and acting like the world. Even though they were grown men and women, they were still behaving like spiritual babies (childish) untrained in the Word of God. They were unable to “bear weapons,” the spiritual weapons and armor that Paul talks about in **Eph. 6:10-18**.

In **Gal. 4:1-7** we see Paul making a distinction between “children...in bondage under the elements of the world” and becoming true sons through the “Spirit of His Son” Jesus Christ in our hearts. We are no longer slaves to the ruler of this world, satan, and have become sons and “heirs of God through Christ.” And in **Gal. 3:23-29** Paul tells us that we are no longer under the Law and have become one in Christ, part of Abraham’s seed, and joint heirs with Jesus.

Childish Characteristics

Living like a son is to be childlike, but when we live like an orphan, we do childish things. As long as we live like we do not have a Father, most of our behavior is going to be very childish. We can be living in an adult body and still be stuck at some young level of emotional and spiritual maturity and act childish. We usually get stuck when we are hurt deeply enough to cause us to begin to withdraw from the relationship with our natural parents. But we can also get stuck from Type A wounds (things that should have happened, but didn’t) that we received growing up, especially during those first 6 years of life. For example, if we never sense the security and safety from our mother during infancy, it will be difficult to learn how to be at peace and rest or be able to return to joy when we are hurt or upset.

Instead of love, we respond out of fear to life’s situations. We try to take control of our life and replace God with self. That is how a grown man at the service counter in an airport can throw a temper tantrum like a 2 or 3 year old pounding his fist on the counter and demanding his own way!

Below are some childish characteristics that Father showed me:

Self Being in Control – This is an issue that we all have to deal with. Healthy self-control flows naturally out of giving up control to Father. (For more information about this see my article “Out of Control!” from issue 1 of this year) Self-control coming from truth, love, and Godly beliefs is childlike and easy, but self being in control coming from fear, hate, and unbelief is childish and hard to maintain. All of the control behaviors come from a lack of trust. Manipulation, lying, deceit, giving up, anger, passive-aggressive, silent treatment, etc. are all childish. Entitlement, helplessness, lazy, jealousy, pouting, tantrums, performance are all forms of the childish self being in control. We can also build walls and withdraw into “Numbville” like I did to protect myself from being hurt or rejected again.



Naïve or Foolish – When we are drawn away by every new doctrine of men and not going to the Word for our understanding, we are being childish. When we flit from church to church or go to every meeting or conference available with itching ears, we are being childish. Or we can be just the opposite and, in pride, settle down with just a few basic truths from the Bible and withdraw from fellowship with anyone who doesn’t agree with us.

Ask the Wrong Questions – When we don’t know our Father’s character, we will ask God the “Why” and “When” questions that can destroy our faith. “Why did you let this happen to me?” “When are you going to answer my prayers?” They just point the finger and blame God for everything that is not going right in their lives. We can also ask “amiss” for things that will only satisfy our own fleshly desires and needs. Sons ask the “What” and “How” questions that will give us understanding and help us grow. “What am I supposed to learn from this?” “How should I pray about this?”

Living Like the World – We become self-ish making self-focused decisions and live a lifestyle that looks just like the world. We indulge in all of the negative and sinful things that the world has to offer.

Making Some Choices

Even if we didn’t have the nurturing love from our mother that we needed to bond and be in harmony with her and our natural father growing up, we can still allow our Heavenly Father to re-parent us with His nurturing love and bond and be one with His heart and mind. This will allow us to grow into spiritual and emotional maturity. We can remain childlike as sons and daughters, but still grow to maturity in our behavior and response to life’s situations and challenges.

We all have to choose every day how we are going to live, whether we are going to be childlike or childish. The first step is to make Jesus Christ Lord and Savior of your life. Then you need to reconcile with your parents if they are still alive or through prayers of forgiveness if they are not alive so that you can return to sonship. It wasn’t until I was able to forgive my parents that I was set free from an orphan heart and could even consider living childlike as His son.

Since then it has been a process of getting rid of all the old habit patterns, breaking all the judgments, releasing control of my life, and choosing to walk in love. I had to cultivate a new intimate relationship with my Heavenly Father and start having quality time with Him every day. Even after 12 years of choosing to walk a new way, I can still act childish in any given situation! It is a process and an adventure that we all will be on for the rest of our lives. But I can tell you one thing, I’m sure enjoying the changes of being childlike and I am looking for much more in the future! I invite you to join the adventure with me!



Father's Blessing to be Childlike

I bless you to walk in your inheritance as sons and daughters of the Most High God. I bless you to walk childlike in every area of your life and with every person you have contact with each day. I bless you to have a greater understanding of what it means to walk in sonship with a loving Heavenly Father and experience all that He wants to teach you and give you. I bless you to have the courage to walk free from all of the past hurts, wounds, disappointments, and negative things that may have happened to you. I bless you with a greater understanding of what it means to have childlike faith, be full of joy, live in a state of rest and peace, and be fearless and carefree. I bless you with an active, alive, and awake spirit that is able to imagine and dream, to create and build new things, to solve difficult problems. I bless you with being able to walk in love, trust, and total dependence on your Heavenly Father to protect you and take care of all your needs.

Love



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