

THE LITTLE CHILD

We need to move on from the baby stage where we are learning how to experience the unwavering, overwhelming love of God and begin to learn how to start to walk and step up into a higher level and dimension of spirituality.

Our spiritual growth is dependent upon the moving of the Holy Spirit in us, motivating us to take a step into the destiny that he has opened up our eyes to see. Our spiritual growth is not dependent upon time, but upon our willingness to step out in faith towards our destiny. Just like a little child jumping into the arms of a loving Father, trusting that he will catch them, so we too have to step out in faith to obey the word he has spoken to us.

The next stage is called paidion in the Greek. It refers to a little child up to the teenage years. It consists of some very important steps that we have to take in our experience of God. In the natural it is like the terrible twos. We are learning all these things that we are not suppose to do. We have to learn how to share our toys; we're learning how to interact with other people in a way that doesn't harm them. We start learning how to walk in the spirit and become partakers of God's nature, how to become great in the kingdom.

Matthew 18¹At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? ²And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, ³And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted (to turn around), and become as little children (paidion- signifies a little or young child), ye shall not (no-never) enter (aorist subjective tense, active voice- it is a climatic experience that we initiate subject to a condition "to go in") into the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

The kingdom is a spiritual dimension inside of us where we experience the nature and abilities of God in a flow us His spirit into us where our spirit becomes aware of it.

It is in this stage of growth that we are beginning to learn how to take our first steps in God. It is in this stage that we begin to experience the gifts of the Holy Spirit, which are given to us in our immaturity.

The church at large is in the baby stage, in the little child stage we have to humble ourselves, because when our spirit is quickened, the soul becomes religious and thinks it knows something, but we do not yet know what to think. The little child is still dependent upon the Father, and must see what the father is doing, and then do the same thing. To hear what the father is saying and then say the same thing.

We won't enter the reality of the experience of the kingdom in our life; we won't see it and we won't engage with it, unless God enables us to humble ourselves like this little child. To enter the kingdom we have to see it and then step into what we are seeing. The kingdom is the government of God over our lives.

When we are in Christ we have been translated into the kingdom in the eternal realm, but we will not be able to see it or enter into the fullness of it here upon earth unless we are clothed with the humility of the little child who is not depending upon their knowledge but asking the father and responding to what he says.

Unless we become like a little child we won't be able to embrace the reality of the kingdom, and receive its benefits. The reality of the kingdom is different from the world we are living in. We will not be able to access a domain that is so powerful and amazing unless we have some child like qualities.

We cannot enter the kingdom in terms of an experience from a logical, rational, reasonable, intellectual perspective. We will always talk ourselves out of that kind of believing. Unless we become like children we will not be able to enter the kingdom, we will not be able to see it, embrace it or access it.

He who humbles himself like this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom. The word converted means totally turned around as a believer so that we become like children in our thinking, in our attitude, in our approach to God. This does not mean being childish.

We are becoming like children in simple faith and trust. A way of seeing things that is beyond logic. Children have the capacity to create things that adults cannot. It starts from the place of dreaming. Of desiring, wishing, seeing, the opening up of the imagination gate in our soul. Afterwards the wisdom comes to do it. We don't think about these things we dream them.

God has given us our imagination as a gift, but we have been taught that it is not real. But God uses our imagination through a flow of His Spirit, so that we can receive God given dreams revealing our destiny so that we can begin to walk in it.

All our life in the kingdom, we will always be much loved children; it is an attribute that we put on at times when we are relating to God. Every time we do something new in the Lord, we become like a little child in our thinking.

Just like if we have a natural son, he will always be our little boy, because we cherished that time when they were little, so we become like a little child towards God. We put on childlikeness in having a

simple faith and trust in the Lord that cannot be swayed by events and circumstances around us.

When Jesus put the child in their midst, he was saying that this is the beginning of greatness. We have to become like this child in attitude, in approach, in thinking, in dreaming, in creative imagination. We begin to access the kingdom by becoming that little child and dreaming with God, coming into that place of envisioning with God.

We ask the Lord so what do you see, let me see what you see. And when we see what he sees, then we ask him how do we get there from where we are this moment?

Jesus deliberately links power and authority and majesty, greatness in the kingdom with the attitude, the approach and personality of a beloved child.

The one place a child can access any realm, any domain, and do anything is in the power of creative thinking, and imagination. It starts in our imagination, but as our spirit grows we begin to get caught up in the inner world of the spirit.

Children are not victims of logic, reason or rational. They love stories and are always making up stories. For a child everything is a story. All of us have a story and all of us are on a journey.

Our life is like a book, we need to learn how to get out of one chapter and into the next one in a way so that we don't have to repeat this chapter again and again and again.

As a little child our life is a story and a journey, it is an adventure. We need to have the leading role in our story. We are not to be a victim in our story where we are dominated by relationships and

circumstances round about us. We have a destiny to fulfill; we are the little child, the greatest in the kingdom.

Our story has to see us overcoming certain things. We need to find out who we really are as a person in Christ. In our story we are on a journey we are going from one place to another. We are walking down a path we have not traveled before, so it is essential that we have simple trust and faith.

Children have a sense of wonder, they are fascinated. They have a sense of joy in creating something new. Children live in the joy and delight of participating in something bigger than themselves.

Our story and our journey is a really small part of what God is doing in the earth, so it is important to think that we are a part of something bigger. We need something greater to live for than just ourselves. We are living for the establishing of the kingdom of God upon the earth. So our story is being interwoven, we become a member of the body of Christ upon the earth.

As a little child we are learning how to live in dependency and wonder. God has a plan and purpose for our lives and if we do not see it right now we are going to rejoice and worship until the revelation comes. We become like a little child so that God can reveal our destiny to us.

It is so important to be childlike, having a creative imagination, to have a simple trusting faith. It is so important for who we are becoming. If we do not receive the kingdom as a little child we cannot enter it, we cannot access it, experience it.

We will never experience the kingdom, unless we have a mindset of a little child. To have the heart and the innocence and a sense of wonder like these children.

We have to see something in the spirit, before we can pray in faith for it. Before we pray we need to wait on the Lord in peace, until we see something, then we can pray in faith. The Lord will show us an outcome. God wants us to see what He sees. Becoming like a little child is about learning how to see and hear in the spirit (unless we become like this, child like, creative- we will not see the kingdom).

We are not to lean on our own understanding, but trust in the Lord in all our ways. As a little child we enter into the realm of the kingdom within, where all things are possible. This is where we receive revelation and begin to dream. Once we start thinking differently we will enjoy it. The only time it is a test is when the reality of God clashes with what we think is the reality of our life. When we are in the kingdom we are a part of a different reality.

We have to enter into this place of relationship consciously, deliberately, and intentionally. We have to become like this child. We have to have that childlike sense of wonder; this is where heaven and the earth come into alignment. It is the starting place of greatness.

Entering into the kingdom within takes us to a place where we are not bothered by the events of the world anymore, because we are trained to see something different, to enter into a different reality.

We have to learn how to be a much loved child. We want to be a partner in his creative genius. We need to get beyond thinking in the natural, to a place where we see something different in the spirit.

It is God's good pleasure to give us the kingdom. But first we have to see it, to see the possibilities of God. We see it in the power of creative thinking, the power of divine imagination, dreams, and visions. We begin to see it when we are in awe of who God is. It is in the ability to see it, that God can begin to move us into it.

We start Partnering with God and learning to speak his language. The Holy Spirit teaches us using all our life circumstances. He starts with all the things that bother us right now, until we see the provision that goes with it and appropriate it. We learn how to partner with him and walk with him; we begin to see the opportunities as we enter into the dimension of the kingdom realm within.