

Pure Stream 5 Child's Play

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- The cares of this life can make it hard for us to surrender to God. *Luke 21:34 "Watch out! Don't let me find you living in careless ease and drunkenness, and filled with the worries of this life."*
- Things in our past can many times effect the way we respond to God and effect how we perceive God to respond to us.
- Our lives develop a certain way and our response to God is usually based on how we have developed.

Luke 18:15 And they brought unto him also infants, that he would touch them: but when his disciples saw it, they rebuked them.

Luke 18:16 But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God.

Luke 18:17 Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter therein.

Innocent

- The innocence of a child is required of every believer that comes to God. Childlike innocence is needed because the younger the child, the more dependent it is.
- The enemy's desire is to disrupt our development during childhood so we can lose our purity in coming to God. This happens in various ways.
 - **Abandonment** - When a child is abandoned by a parent, whether through neglect, divorce, or selfishness, then the child responds by replacement. The child will replace the missing parent with something else that can fill the void. But later in life, the hurt and pain never goes away so the person has a hard time allowing the

right people in their life because they learned at an early age how to replace the "right" person with other things.

- **Abuse** - Whether sexual, physical, mental, or emotional, abuse will cause a child to live in fear. When a child lives in fear, they fear everything, especially forming relationships. When you try to love a person that abuses you, you learn that those you love are bad for you. This learned behavior causes the abused child to grow up choosing bad people and dangerous relationships.
- **Anxiety** - When a child grows up with emotional issues that stem from the sins or issues of the parents, they experience anxiety at a young age. Worrying and stressing at a young age teaches the child to create various personalities or seek pleasures to overcome these feelings. These actions become more dangerous as they grow older and usually cause them to make a life altering decision. These decisions change who they are to become and negatively alter how they respond to life in general. These decisions make it hard for them to ever trust others.

Growing Up

- All of these issues that occur in the developmental stages of a child can make it very hard for them to love and accept the love of others later in life. *Gal. 5:14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.*
- Not only will they have a hard time being loved and understanding love, but they will have an even harder time opening up to others. When we cannot be honest with ourselves and those that love us, then



we make it hard to really be free to love. *Col. 3:9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; And these problems transfer from the natural to the spiritual realm.*

- It's hard to love God if we cannot open up to him. All of the issues that occurred in our lives block the pure stream of hope that once flowed through us as a child. There was a time when we could trust and believe without reservation, but the cares of this life came along and caused us to protect our hearts from abandonment, Abuse, and/or Anxiety. *1John 3:18 My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth. And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him.*
- The saddest part of this is that the same hurts that we experienced as a child, when not dealt with, will be the hurts our children will experience. Because of your own hurt, your child will, in most cases, experience hurt from you because if you have not dealt with those areas, they will affect the way you behave and treat your own children.
- These cycles keep going until someone breaks it by becoming a child of God. Coming to God as a child requires us to do what children do.

- ☑ A child loves unconditionally. *Rom. 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*
- ☑ A child loves without fear. *1John 4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.*
- ☑ A child forgives instantaneously. *1John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*
- ☑ A child does not withhold itself from loved ones. *Psa. 84:11 For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.*

Summary - God wants us to have childlike purity when we come to Him. Yet because of how we were raised, we find ourselves behaving toward God the way we behave with people. When people hurt us, we quickly outgrow our childlike instincts and learn to hide ourselves and our true feelings from others. Over time, we begin to hide ourselves from God and it becomes difficult for us to have a true relationship on His terms and not our own. This is why we must be born again! The born again experience should put us

back in infancy, and allow us to have childlike faith and trust again. We should be able to come to Him as a child, ready to learn and receive so we can do away with our past and not allow the pain of it to hinder our walk with Him. This is the only way we can be a new creation and old things be passed away. For all things to become new, we must start life over again with the heart, mind, and spirit of a child.

Matt. 18:4 Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

Matt. 18:5 And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me.

Matt. 18:6 But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.

