

How Does a Man Learn to Become Like a Child Again?

Kent Humphreys

PATHWAY *to*
PURPOSE

How many of you have children?



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How many of you have dogs?



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How many of you have grandchildren?



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Concerned Grandchildren



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Happy Grandchildren!



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Today We Will Discuss...

- Children (Jesus 45 times, John-13)
- Grandchildren
- Dogs
- Men
- Jesus Christ the Son
- God the Father



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PATHWAY *to*
PURPOSE

Fill in the Blank for Yourself

- Man
- Business Owner
- Leader
- Executive
- Wife
- Husband
- Mother
- Father



The Question

Matthew 18:1 (NIV)

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked,

"Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"



Change and Become

Matthew 18:2-4 (NIV)

*He called a little child and had him stand among them. And he said: "I tell you the truth, **unless you change and become like little children**, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, **whoever humbles himself like this child** is the **greatest** in the kingdom of heaven.*

(also in Mark 10 and Luke 9)

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Jesus Says

1. We as leaders must change. (not option!)
2. Becoming like a child is necessary for entrance into the kingdom of heaven
3. If we become humble, then we will be great in the kingdom of heaven.
4. If we welcome a child in the name of Jesus then we are welcoming Him! (verse 5)



Jesus Identified With...

- Widows
- Orphans
- Foreigners
- The Poor
- Children
- The Hurting, Helpless, Sick



Disciples Concerned

Luke 18:15-17 (NIV)

*People were also bringing babies to Jesus to have him touch them. When the **disciples saw this, they rebuked them.** But Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, **anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.**"*

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Jesus Loves Me

Jesus loves me this I know

For the Bible tells me so

Little ones to Him belong

They are weak but He is strong

Yes, Jesus loves me!

Yes, Jesus loves me!

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Jesus Loves the Little Children

Jesus loves the little children
All the children of the world
Red and yellow, black and white
They are precious in His sight
Jesus loves the little children of the world

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Three Questions:

1. What are some of the characteristics of a child?
2. Why does God want us to become like a child and like His Son Jesus?
3. How do we as adult leaders become more like a child and more like Christ?



What are some of the characteristics of a child?

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Disciplined Child

- Loves Unconditionally
- Innocent
- Tenderhearted
- Listens
- Teachable
- Creative
- Forgives easily
- Trusting of parents
- Fearless
- Obedient
- Inquisitive
- Optimistic by nature
- Thankful
- Imitates parents

Examples: Samuel, David and Daniel



Undisciplined Child

- Selfish
- Disobedient
- “Mine” and “NO!”
- Screaming
- Inattentive
- Ungrateful
- Immature
- Fearful
- Childish
- Disrespectful
- Jealous
- Dishonest
- Misbehaving
- Obstinate

Examples: Hophni and Phinehas



Obstinate Children

Isaiah 30:1 (NIV)

*“Woe to the **obstinate children**,”
declares the LORD,*

*“to those who carry out plans that are
not mine, forming an alliance, but not
by my Spirit, heaping sin upon sin;”*

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Deceitful and Unwilling

*These are rebellious people,
deceitful children ,
children unwilling to listen
to the LORD's instruction.*

Isaiah 30:9 (NIV)



Dogs and Children Teach Us!



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Example of Dogs

- Davidene (Owner)
- Provider
- Protector
- Plays with them
- Talks to them
- Walks with them
- Sleeps with them
- Travels with them
- Sissy and Champ
- Watch her continually
- Follow her around
- Go room to room
- Sit at her feet
- Wait by the door
- Protect her by barking
- Listen for her voice



**Why does God want us to
become like a child and
like His Son Jesus?**

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Children of God

Romans 8:16-17 (NIV)

*The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit
that **we are God's children** .*

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Become Like Christ

Romans 8:29 (NIV)

*For those God foreknew he also predestined to **be conformed to the likeness of his Son**, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.*



We Will Be Like His Son Jesus

- Voluntarily or Involuntarily
- But, that is God's Plan for our lives
- Pain
- Suffering
- Trials
- Tribulation



God's Plan for Each of Us

1. Dependent on parents (as children)
2. Independent from parents (as adults)
3. Dependent upon God
(as His children)



Growing Up Physically and Spiritually

1 Corinthians 13:11 (NIV)

*When I was a child , I talked like a child , I thought like a child , I reasoned like a child.
When I became a man, I **put childish ways behind me.***

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Stages of Parenting

1. Discipline (ages 1 to 6)
2. Training (ages 6 to 12)
3. Communication and gradual independence (ages 12 to 18)
4. Release (ages 18 to 22, college years)



Become Dependent Again and STOP Trusting Self

*He who trusts in himself is a fool,
but he who walks in wisdom is kept safe.*

Proverbs 28:26-27 (NIV)



Stop Trusting Others

*Stop trusting in man,
who has but a breath in his nostrils.
Of what account is he?*

Isaiah 2:22 (NIV)



Why?

His truths revealed to His humble children -

*At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, 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 .*

Luke 10:21(NIV) (also Matthew 11:25)

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Father says, “Come and Listen”

*Come, my children , listen to me;
I will teach you the fear of the LORD*

Psalms 34:11-12 (NIV)

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The Secrets

God's Secrets are given only to His children

*He replied, "The knowledge of the **secrets of the kingdom** of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. Whoever has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. This is why I speak to them in parables."*

Matthew 13:11-15 (NIV)

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Depending on His Power

“My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power...not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age...No, we speak of God's secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden ...before time began.”

1 Corinthians 2:4-8 (NIV)

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Contrast:

Man's

Intelligence

(Isaiah 29:14)

Wisdom

(I Corinthians 3:19)

Plans (Isaiah 30:1)

God's

Knowledge of Christ

(Colossians 2:3)

His Secret Wisdom

(I Corinthians 16:10)

His Ways (Isaiah 55:8, 9)



As a Child, We Climb Higher!

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD.

"As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Isaiah 55:8-9 (NIV)



Why?

- If we want to truly mature as followers of Jesus and become like Christ,
- Then, we must become like children so that we can experience His thoughts, His ways, and His power for our life!



Simple Life of God's Child

Oswald Chambers,

*“The test of Jesus Christ’s salvation is that it produces **Christlikeness**, a life of **abundant simplicity** before God.”*

The Place of Help, page 97

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A Child Becoming Like Christ

Oswald Chambers

“Our Lord always preached anti-self-realization; He is not after developing man at all, He is after making a man exactly like Himself, and the measure of the Son of God is self-expenditure...He pours through us...He squeezes the sweetness out of us.”

The Place of Help, page 134

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**How do we become
like a child
and more like Christ?**

What are the steps?

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Step #1

Admit Our Own Weaknesses and Failures

Reach up with our hand to Him.



Embrace our Weaknesses

*But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, **for my power is made perfect in weakness.**" Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. **For when I am weak, then I am strong.***

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 (NIV)

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Give Up All Our Boasting

This is what the LORD says:

*"Let not the wise man boast of **his wisdom**
or the strong man boast of **his strength**
or the rich man boast of **his riches**,
but let him who boasts boast about this:
that **he understands and knows me**,*

Jeremiah 9:23-24 (NIV)



He Wants the Glory!

*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. He 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.*

1 Corinthians 1:26-29 (NIV)



What are You Relying On?

- Your ability to figure it all out?
- Your talents and strong work ethic?
- Your net worth and investments?



Step # 2

Totally Trust God in Every Detail of Life

Open up our mind and heart to His Word.

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Start Trusting God

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil.

Proverbs 3:5-7 (NIV)



Keep Your Mind on Him

*You will keep in perfect peace
all who trust in you,
whose thoughts are fixed on you!*

Isaiah 26:3 (NLT)



Rely on Him Alone

*“But blessed is the man who **trusts in the LORD**, whose confidence is in him. He will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It **does not fear** when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.”*

Jeremiah 17:7-8 (NIV)



Delight Yourself in Him

*Trust in the LORD and do good;
dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.
Delight yourself in the LORD and he will
give you the desires of your heart. Commit
your way to the LORD; **trust in him** and
he will do this.*

Psalms 37:3-5 (NIV)



Step # 3

Instant and Complete Obedience

We must give up our will.



Obey as Children

As obedient children , do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance.

1 Peter 1:14-15 (NIV)



Obedient, Wise, and Innocent

*Everyone has heard about your **obedience** , so I am full of joy over you; but I want you to be wise about what is good, and innocent about what is evil.*

- Romans 16:19 (NIV)



Loving Obedience

*And this is love: that **we walk in obedience** to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love.*

2 John 6 (NIV)



Step # 4

Be Filled Daily with His Spirit and Power

Pray first and often.

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His Spirit and Power Linked!

*I pray that out of his glorious riches he
may strengthen you with **power** through
his Spirit in your inner being,*

Ephesians 3:16-17 (NIV)

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His Spirit and Power Linked!

*For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a **spirit of power**, of love and of self-discipline.*

2 Timothy 1:7 (NIV)



His Spirit and Power Linked!

*But you will receive **power** when **the Holy Spirit** comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

Acts 1:8 (NIV)



His Spirit and Power Linked!

So he said to me, "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the LORD Almighty.

Zechariah 4:6 (NIV)



Four Steps to Victory

1. Admit our weakness and desperate need of Him and come as children
2. Trust Him alone
3. Obey Him
4. Be filled with His Power!



We Make Some Exchanges

- Ambitions
- Pride
- Ownership
- Greed
- Our Weakness
- Pleasures
- Control
- His Plans
- Humility
- Stewardship
- Generosity
- His Power
- Sacrifice
- Surrender



We get His Wisdom

*To those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the **foolishness of God is wiser** than man's wisdom, and the **weakness of God is stronger** than man's strength.*

1 Corinthians 1:24,25 (NIV)



We get His Presence

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.

Isaiah 43:2 (NIV)



We get His Strength

*So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. **I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.***

Isaiah 41:10 (NIV)

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We get it “ALL” with Christ

*A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him —the Spirit of **wisdom** and of **understanding**, the Spirit of **counsel** and of **power**, the Spirit of **knowledge** and of the **fear of the LORD***

Isaiah 11:1, 2 (NIV)



Look at the Benefits List

- His Spirit
- His Strength
- His Love
- His Wisdom
- His Counsel
- His Understanding
- His Presence
- His Power
- His Protection
- His Knowledge
- His Revelation
- His Righteousness



Conclusion

- We voluntarily give up everything to become a child again
- We place our hand into His hand
- We keep our eyes on our Father at all times



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