

The Faith of a Child

Children, so young, so tender, and so innocent! Is it any small wonder that Jesus Christ would love them so much? At an early age their little minds are not encumbered with the complexities of life. Through their little eye's life is so simple. In their child like faith they are so innocent but God's Word, the Bible, still says that they are sinners because, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" {Romans 3:23} At such a young age a children do not need to know and understand all of the theology of the Bible but, they do need to understand that God does love them and that He wants to save them. As innocent as they are, they are still sinners because they inherited a sin nature from Adam; it was through him that sin came into the world of humanity. "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:" {Romans 5:12} Children, normally speaking, are not full of self-righteous pride like adults often are. Everything is so simple and innocent and yet they can understand when they do something that is wrong, like telling a lie or taking something that does not belong to them. Lying and stealing are sins and it does not matter at what age a person does it. Even at a tender young age, children can understand that this is wrong.

Many adults believe that a young child cannot be forgiven and saved but, the Bible teaches otherwise. Jesus Christ had this to say about children when very young ones were brought to Him, "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 18:16} In Matthew 19:14 and Mark 10:14 the same thing is said when children were brought to Him to be blessed by Him. Yes, Jesus does love little children.

Children do have the sin nature they were born with and, because of that nature, they do commit sin. Despite this, God loves them so much and He wants to forgive and save them. In fact, it was the love of God that sent His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to the Cross of Calvary where He suffered, bled, and died for them and the rest of humanity. What do children need to do to be forgiven and save? First, admit to God that they are a sinner {God already knows this, but they are just admitting it to Him}, that they know this is wrong and do not want to live that way. We call this repentance. They must believe that Jesus did pay their sin debt with His innocent blood when He died on Calvary. As they pray in their own simple way, they ask for God to forgive them and for Jesus to come and live in their hearts. Will God really forgive and save them? Yes, He will because He promised He would, and we have this promise in His Word. "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." {Romans 10:13} Other promises He gave are, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." {John 3:16} "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ... These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God." {1 John 5:11, 13}

The faith of a child – a simple faith taking God at His word to do what He promised He would do for all those who will repent, and put their faith, their trust in Him. Jesus, when talking to His disciples said, "For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission [deliverance, forgiveness] of sins." {Matthew 26:28}

~Richard A. Ciarrocca/April 2020

All Scripture references are KJV