

# *Childlike Faith*

# The story of Little John, the 'Baptist'

"Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And who ever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me. "



Johnny's mother looked out of the window and noticed him "playing church" with their cat.

He had the cat sitting quietly and he was preaching to it.

She smiled and went about her work.

A while later she heard loud meowing and hissing and ran back to the open window to see Johnny baptizing the cat in a tub of water.

She called out, "Johnny, stop that! The cat is afraid of water!"

Johnny looked up at her and said,

"He should have thought about that before he joined my church."

**The cat that Little John baptised!**



# Legacy of a Childlike Faith

Key verse : Matthew 18:1-4

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, " Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"

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."

# Legacy of a Childlike Faith

Bible verse : Mark 10: 13-15

People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "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."

# Legacy of a Childlike Faith

What did Jesus mean when he said that we must change and become like little children?



## Some attributes of children

- naïve
- simple
- innocent
- blind resolve
- authentic
- trusting

# Legacy of a Childlike Faith

Having childlike faith does not mean being childish or acting like a child towards others...



Contradict with some teachings in the bible:

**Proverbs 3: 13**

Blessed is the man who finds wisdom, the man who gains understanding

**Heb 6:1**

Grow in Christian maturity

# Legacy of a Childlike Faith

Having childlike faith does not mean being childish or acting like a child towards others...



Contradict with some teachings in the bible:

[Ephesians 4:14](#)

Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming.

# Legacy of a Childlike Faith

## Bible verse : Mark 10: 13

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Note that the verse does *not* say we are to "become like a child;" instead, it says we must receive the kingdom like a child.

# Attributes of a Childlike Faith

## (1) Trusting as little children...



There are adequate evidences presented on the authenticity of the Bible which is God's Word and Jesus' existence.

Many of us have tasted God's grace and faithfulness to us.

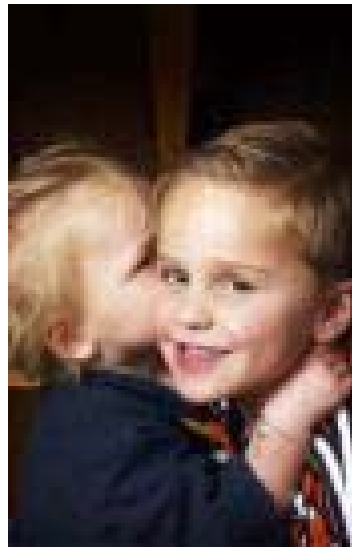
We can therefore trust God with a child's simplicity and receptivity.

Hebrew 13: 5

God is faithful and will not forsake His children

# Attributes of a Childlike Faith

(2) Our faith and examples must be authentic, sincere.



James 2: 15 - 17

Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food.

If any of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it?

In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

# Attributes of a Childlike Faith

## (3) Humility

(one attribute of children that is naturally lost in most grown-ups)



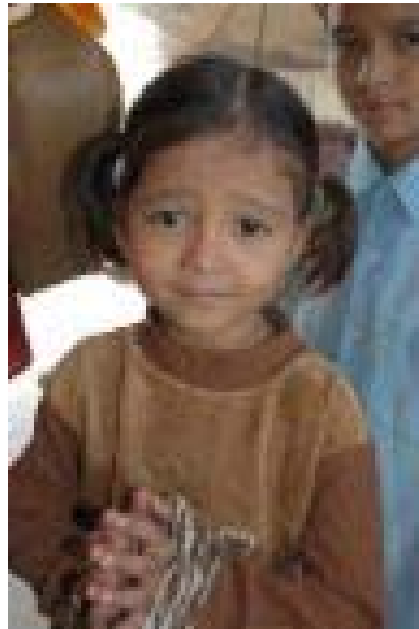
Disciples of Jesus were arguing who would be the greatest among themselves?

### Jesus' reply:

- Whoever humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of God;
- Jesus means the willingness to accept oneself as being of little account and to be regarded as unimportant - but God to be of great account and of utmost importance!



# Attributes of a Childlike Faith



## James 4: 10

Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

Our worth comes from God alone!.

It is God who lifts us up in love and gives us our worth and dignity, not by our own merits and deeds.

# Attribute of a Childlike Faith

## (4) Contentment



### 1 Timothy 6: 6-8

But Godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into his world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.

### Philippians 4: 12

I have learned the secret of being content in any situation whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through Him who gives me strength.

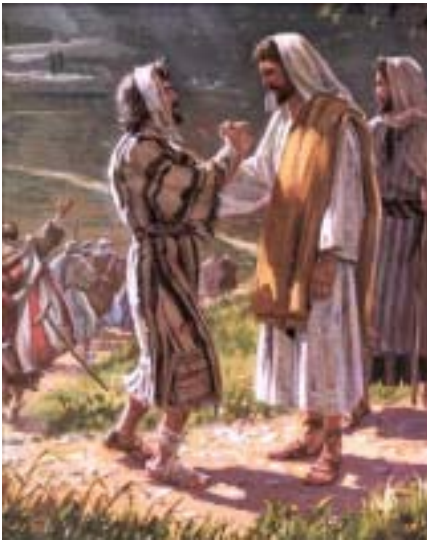
# Mission Trip Experiences



Cambodia

## Wangsa Maju





## Mark 9: 14 – 29

-An account of how Jesus heals a demon-possessed boy;

- shows what happens when one possesses a childlike faith...

(1) Believes that anything is possible if we believe, because nothing is too difficult for God.

- v20 - So they brought him. When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion....
- v21 - Jesus asked the boy's father, "How long has he been like this?"
- v22 - "From childhood," he answered. "It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us."
- v23 - "If you can?" said Jesus, "Everything is possible for him who believes."

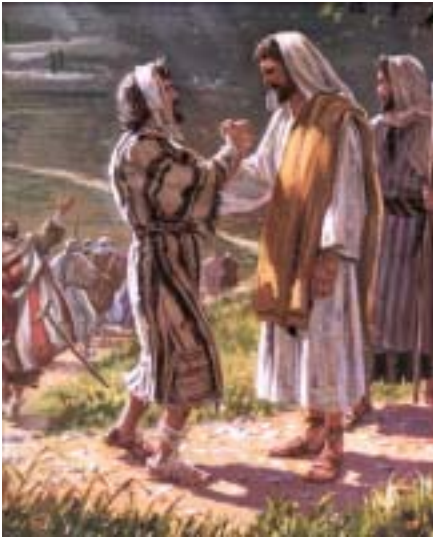


## Mark 9: 14 – 29

- shows what happens when one possesses a childlike faith...

(2) Admits our unbelief, weakness and lack of faith. We are not perfect. We have to ask for God's help.

v24 - Immediately, the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"



## Result of having childlike faith...

The father in this story watched as Christ did the impossible!

Jesus reply in verse 23

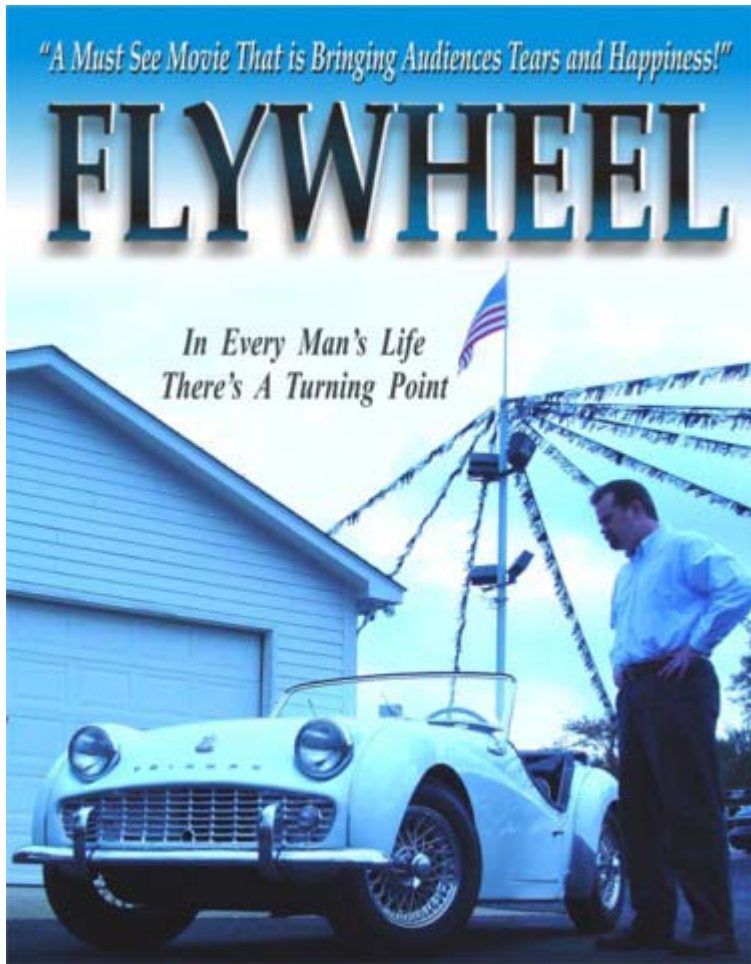
**"Everything is possible for him who believes."**

Verse 29

**"This kind can come out only by prayer."**

Growing in faith is a constant process of renewing our trust in Jesus daily.

We may not have everything we pray for but we know God gives us enough for our own good.



## Psalm 37: 4 – 7

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;

He will make your righteousness  
shine like the dawn, the justice of  
your cause like the noonday sun.

Be still before the Lord and wait  
patiently for him;

# Conclusion

Nothing matters more than to know that:

- God loves us so much that He gave His only Son to die on the cross for our sins;
- He understands our needs;
- He will provide for us if we abide by His Will

We can run to him like a child, for redemption, for forgiveness, for comfort and most importantly, for eternal life with Him one day...