

FROM MATURITY TO CHILDHOOD

MATTHEW 18:1-10

LUKE 18

16 But Jesus called for them, saying, “**Permit** the children to come to Me, and **do not hinder** them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. 17 Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it at all.”

MATTHEW 18

1 At that time the disciples came to Jesus and said, “ Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” 2 And He called a child to Himself and set him before them, 3 and said, “Truly I say to you, **unless you are converted and become like children**, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. 4 Whoever then **humbles himself as this child**, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

HOW DO I KNOW IF I AM GROWING?

- **Being teachable by God's Word**
 - Hear and sincerely accept the changes in attitude
 - Be a seeker to understand the changes.
- **Submit to God's requirements for changes**
 - Increase faith in accepting the demanding ones
 - Failure to accept takes one off the Path
 - Continuing growth may cease
 - Experience a plateau in your progress
- **Awaken to your condition and Repent**

GROWING CHRISTIANS

1Tim.4:12 Let no man **despise thy youth**; but be thou an **example of the believers**, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

2 Tim.2:15 Be diligent to **present yourself approved to God** as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, **accurately handling the word of truth**.

Tit.2:15 These things **speak** and **exhort** and **reprove** with all authority. Let no one disregard you.

ACTING ON CHILDLIKE FAITH

Matt.8:8 But the centurion said, “Lord, I am **not worthy for You to come under my roof**, but **just say the word, and my servant will be healed.** ⁹ For I also am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to this one, ‘Go!’ and he goes, and to another, ‘Come!’ and he comes, and to my slave, ‘Do this!’ and he does *it.*” ¹⁰ Now when Jesus heard *this*, He marveled and said to those who were following, “Truly I say to you, I have not found such great faith with anyone in Israel.

Mtt.9:2 And they **brought to Him** a paralytic lying on a bed. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralytic, “Take courage, son; your sins are forgiven.”

MATTHEW 18b

5 And **whoever receives one such child** in My name receives Me; 6 but whoever **causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble**, it would be better for him to have a heavy millstone hung around his neck, and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

MATTHEW 18c

7 “**Woe to the world** because of its **stumbling blocks!** For it is inevitable that stumbling blocks come; but woe to that man through whom the stumbling block comes!

8 “ If your **hand** or your **foot** causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it from you; it is better for you to enter life crippled or lame, than to have two hands or two feet and be cast into the eternal fire.

WEAKNESS OF FAITH

Mtt.17:20 And He *said to them, “Because of the **littleness of your faith**; for truly I say to you, if you have faith the **size** of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you.

Lk.17:6 And the Lord said, “If you had **faith like** a mustard seed, you would say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and be planted in the sea’; and it would obey you.

Lk.8:25 And He said to them, “Where is your faith?” They were fearful and amazed, saying to one another, “**Who then is this**, that He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey Him?”

MATTHEW 18d

9 If your **eye causes you to stumble**, pluck it out and throw it from you. It is better for you to enter life with one eye, than to have two eyes and be cast into the fiery hell.

10 “See that **you do not despise one of these little ones**, for I say to you that their angels in heaven continually see the face of My Father who is in heaven.