

LIKE CHILDREN

Thirteen years ago, I wrote this article. I was reminded of it a few days ago and wanted to share it with you. Shalom, Ryan

The other day I watched as two of my children tried to put on their shoes. At first glance, it was somewhat comical. However, a closer look revealed something a little more serious going on. Children, at several points in their lives, attempt to put on their own shoes. It is a sign of growing independence. My children will sit for long periods staring at the laces and twisting them all around. Usually, the result is a knotted, twisted mess. At those moments, they make their way to me and look into my eyes. They beg me to help them tie their shoes. For the younger ones, I tie the laces for them as they eagerly watch. For the older children, I slowly take their hands and guide them through the process. Something very interesting is that the younger children usually come to me first. Their innocence leads them to cling to me more quickly and to ask me for help.

I find it interesting that Jesus tells his disciples
...unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.
Matthew 18:3

As these men were wrestling with the question and arguing among themselves about who would be the greatest disciple, Jesus pointed them back to children. Why? He could see that in their growing "independence," they were wrestling with and knotting things all up. Unless they become like children, they will not seek the solution from the one who could teach them.

We, too, need to become like little children. We need to run more quickly to Jesus, who can help us unknot our lives and teach us how to do things correctly. The one who can teach us said:

I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.
John 14:6

May God bless us with the desire and humility to become like little children!