

Trusting Jesus with Simplicity of Heart

As I grow in years, I am finding that life becomes less complicated and as a result more peaceful. It is by no means peaceful on the outside, concerning actual circumstances, but it is peaceful on the inside because of His indwelling Spirit. This morning I came across that phrase in my quiet time with the Lord. As I reflected on my reliance on Him to direct my steps, I was convicted of the fact that sometimes I simply run ahead of Him like a child who can't wait to get started and doesn't fully receive the guidance He needs to make a prudent choice. But like every other part of my sanctification it is not my job to perfect but to allow myself to be perfected! Miles Stanford says it this way:

"If some of you who have been the Lord's for a long time cast a glance over your past history, you will be able to recall occasions when He spoke and you obeyed instantly. But you can recall other occasions when He spoke and you failed to respond; yet strangely, after a time you just found yourself in the way of obedience.

"Such is the fruit of the Holy Spirit's government in our lives. Even if we are totally unable to obey and cannot even exercise faith, **a day comes when the resistance has vanished and we are trusting the Lord Jesus in simplicity of heart. It is the tireless energy of the indwelling Spirit that has accomplished this.**

"Our union with the Lord Jesus is a union of life. We were raised with Him, we are made alive in Him. True, our bodies are to be changed, and those who have died in Christ are to be raised as to their bodies, but now we are raised with and are made alive in Him.

Stanford, M. J. (2002). Complete Works of Miles J. Stanford. Galaxie Software.

I have such joy in living with four beautiful children that my desire is to pour the love of God into their lives as living water. I love them in their simplicity of heart and enjoy just connecting with them on the most basic level. I am learning by His grace, that He desires to communicate with me in a similar manner. I need not worry about impressing Him with my complicated theological interpretations, but simply love Him with a childlike simplicity of heart. The aged apostle John wrote a member of the congregation in Ephesus; *"For I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified of the truth that is in you, just as you walk in the truth. I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth."* (3 John 1:3-4 NKJV)

Witness Lee in the Recovery Version Bible footnotes defines the "truth" as; "Denoting the divine reality of the gospel, especially concerning the person of Christ as revealed in John's Gospel and first Epistle, that is, that Christ is both God and man, having both deity and humanity, possessing both the divine nature and the human nature, to express God in human life and to accomplish redemption with divine power in human flesh for fallen human beings that He may impart the divine life into them and bring them into an organic union with God."

When Jesus walked on this earth the children loved Him and were loved by Him. Nothing has changed! His joy is made complete when we stop and sit at His feet giving Him our full attention. The bible calls this "abiding" and it is not complicated. He dwells in us and longs to fellowship with us. His own words allude to that in John 15:10-11.

"If you keep My commandments [if you continue to obey My instructions], you will abide in My love and live on in it, just as I have obeyed My Father's commandments and live on in His love. I have told you these things, that My joy and delight may be in you, and that your joy and gladness may be of full measure and complete and overflowing." (John 15:10-11 AMP)

So today rather than complicate everything as I have a tendency to do I will choose instead to abide in Him and trust Him in simplicity of heart.

Jim Freed