

Talking With God

Christmas is almost come and gone. We have once again received the gift of the Savior. The babe has come. I love this time of year and rarely sleep in December. I become so excited about the shopping and gift giving and the gift receiving. I think about Christmas's past and my children when they were little and their excitement as they waited for Santa Claus. The Christmas eves that they received the Christ child and their wonder at it all. The time they spotted "the star" shining bright in the sky and were convinced they were looking at "the star" that led the Wise Men to Bethlehem, and I knew that it was the same Star that shone so brightly on that special night so long ago. It was a very bright star on a clear night, and I still remember their excitement. Oh, to see Christmas through the eyes of a child. To know God through their hearts. My granddaughter recently called me to tell me about my great grandson saying his nightly prayers. He asked her if it was okay to tell God a joke. She assured him that she thought that would be fine. He said in his prayer, "God how did the polar bear catch fish?" Then continued, "With his bear hands." He has been learning a lot of jokes, coincidentally this started with his Great Grandma Grace's visit this summer. I decided to introduce the two great grandchildren to knock knock jokes which they loved and then discovered that they could get even more from Alexia and entertained us all day with knock knock jokes. But as my granddaughter was relating the story of her child wanting just to please God with a joke, I thought if only we could please God in our prayers like a child. It seems as if most of my prayers are asking to receive or asking for guidance or healing for others. A child wanted to please God with the only gift he could give, a joke that he had just learned. He is developing a relationship with God that we should all strive for, a relationship of giving instead of receiving, a relationship of pleasing God instead of a relationship of expectation of pleasing us from God. A relationship of giving what he had to give and wanting God to receive his gift. My wish for all this Christmas is that we accept God and Christ with the belief and trust of a child and that we give what we are able to give to further God and his glory. Maybe not a joke but maybe a gift of service, a gift of loving all God's children, of talking to God with all our heart and trust that he is listening.

Matthew 18:1-4 At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? Jesus 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. Therefore, whoever humbles themselves like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

Lord, We come to you this day thankful for the day you have given us, thankful for the gift of a babe, laid in a manger, who would go on and claim all people in your name, who would lay down his life for the forgiveness of our sins, who would teach us how to love in your name with forgiveness and acceptance of all your children. We thank you for the gift of our Pastor and his leadership, we thank you for those in our midst who give so willingly to serve you, our leaders and workers. May we serve you with your guidance by serving those who hunger for sustenance and your word. May we follow wherever you lead us always in your service with trust and to your glory. Amen

Grace Epperson