

**Renewal Is
Upon Us**



**Psalm 103:5
Matthew 18:1-5**

PLEASE READ WITH ME, PSALM 103:1-5

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits-- who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. ^{NRS}

**Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name. Bless
the LORD, O my soul, and do
not forget all his benefits-**

- Who forgives all your iniquity
- Who heals all your diseases
- Who redeems your life from the Pit
- Who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy
- Who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagles.

Who satisfies you with good...

...so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.



**Jesus specifically
addresses this renewal**



**Within the context of a decidedly
unsatisfied, not so pleasant discussion,
among people who should know better.**

**At that time the disciples came to Jesus
and asked, "Who is the greatest in the
kingdom of heaven?"** NRS **Matthew 18:1**

Pride



E dging

IT'S ALL ABOUT

ME

G od



O ut

NO RENEWAL HERE!

Jesus Calls A Child

**He called a
child, whom
he put
among them,
NRS Matthew 18:2**



Please, Listen Closely to God's Words

**...and said, "Truly I tell you, unless you
change and become like children, you will
never enter the kingdom of heaven.**

NRS Matthew 18:3

Change and Become Like Children

Strepho: turn, change direction and take on a childlike lack of self-concern.



Stop worrying, stressing about what others may think of your enthusiasm for fun, for goodness, for life, for God.

Children...

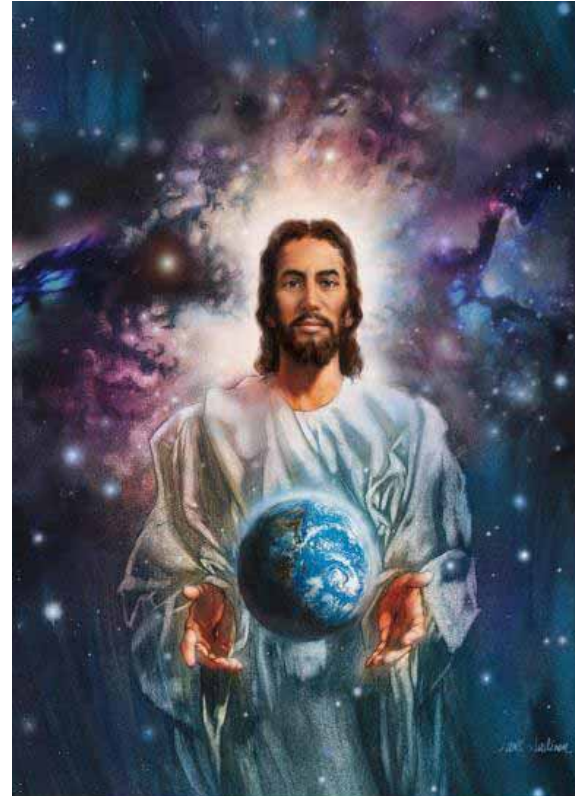
- **have heroes**
- **embrace mystery**
- **are fearless**
- **live in the moment**
- **are excited and energetic**
- **are loving**
- **have vivid imaginations**
- **are open to new things, in fact everything is new**
- **are inquisitive**
- **are playful**
- **are innocent**
- **are wide-eyed**

Too many adults lose this childlike nature...

- **becoming pragmatic : concerned with practical results.**
- **change becomes the enemy rather than a source of adventure and an opportunity to grow.**
- **becoming set in our ways**
- **only able see our own needs**

➤ **we balk at mystery, thus leaving no room for God to move in our lives.**

➤ **We become so fixed in our ways that God, who wants open hearts filled with play and song, can't find a crack in which to move.**



**Sing to him a new song; play skillfully on
the strings, with loud shouts. ^{NRS} Psalm 33:3**

**When was the last
time we had a
good belly laugh.**



**When was the last time we had fun with God. So
much fun, others took notice. Not a lack of
reverence but truly enjoying God.**

AN IMPORTANT QUESTION

Q. 1. What is the chief end of humanity?

AN IMPORTANT ANSWER

**A. Humanities chief end is to glorify God,
and to enjoy him forever.**

Westminster Shorter Catechism, 1647

What do others see?



**DOUR,
SOMBER,
BLAND
PEOPLE?**



OR JOY?

**I will also praise you
with the harp for your
faithfulness, O my God;
I will sing praises to you
with the lyre, O Holy
One of Israel.**

NRS Psalm 71:22



Change, Renewal, Transformation

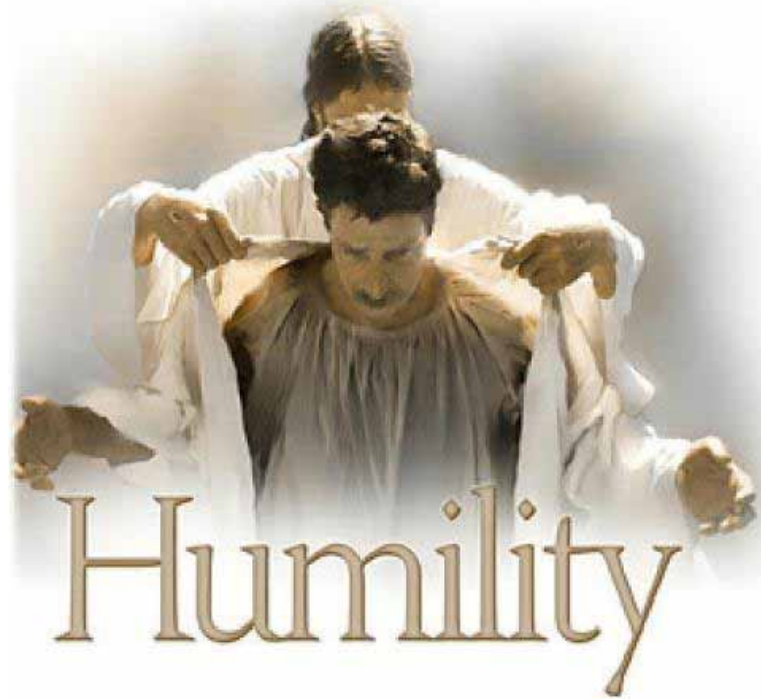
Transformation is the process of undergoing a radical change of mind and heart, a dying to the false self and continually assenting to ones true self, which reflects the image and likeness of God

Len Sperry, *Spiritual Direction
and the Care of Souls*, p. 178

Jesus is Talking About Humility

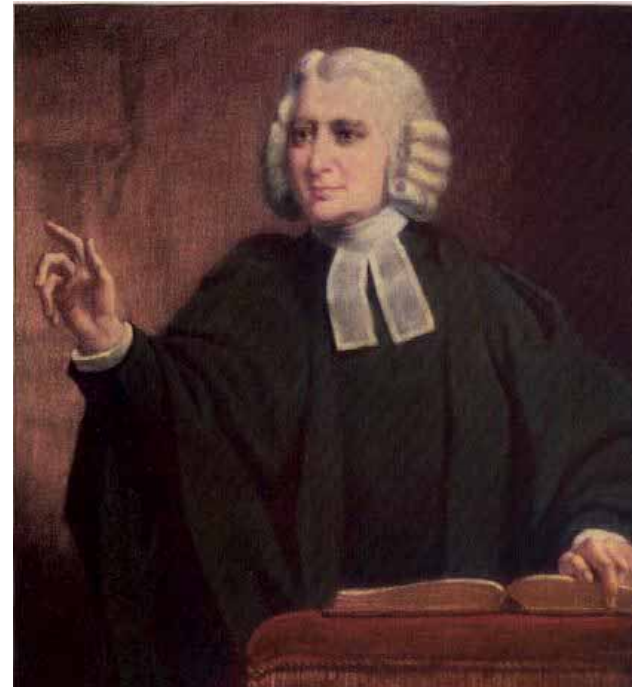
**Whoever becomes
humble like this
child is the greatest
in the kingdom of
heaven.**

NRS Matthew 18:4



**“Keep us little and
unknown, prized and
loved by God alone.”**

Charles Wesley



Welcome the Child



**Whoever welcomes one such child in my
name welcomes me. ^{NRS} Matthew 18:5**

What does it mean to welcome someone?

- Prepare for them.**
- Make them comfortable.**
- We sacrifice ourselves for them.**
- We provide their needs in a way that is relevant to them.**

The church is never about what we need, it is always about what those who are seeking Christ need.

Even discipleship is not about us, it is about preparing ourselves to give ourselves away for the glory of God.

“Spiritual formation is the process of growing into the image of Christ for the sake of other people.” Robert Mulholland

**God's Goodness Is The Foundation for
Renewal. Because Our God Is A God...**

**Who satisfies you with good as long as
you live so that your youth is renewed
like the eagles.**

**GOD'S PEOPLE, PRACTICE GOD'S
GOODNESS**

PRIDE PUT ASIDE

CHANGE: CHILDLIKE JOY

HUMILITY

SACRIFICIAL WELCOME

Please join us
in prayer.

