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## As Little Children

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To: bishoprexawilliams@gmail.com

Sat, Feb 19, 2022 at 11:52 PM

Hello my friend,

Little children are awesome. Jesus loved the little children. In fact, He said that unless we become like little children we can't enter into the kingdom of heaven. (Matt. 18:3)

Our children are all grown, so we don't have young children in our home any more. But I remember when we did, our older ward friends would say things like, "Treasure your time with them, because they grow up so fast." I tried to appreciate that sentiment, and knew it was true because I knew how time had flown from when I was younger to where I was at then.

In fact, I remember when I was on my mission, one of the members told me, "Elder, one day, you're going to wake up with a wife and 4 kids and say, 'How did all this happen?'" And I remember thinking, "That's funny, okay, whatever, sure." That was so far down the road of life and out of my comprehension that I couldn't really fathom it.

Well, for some reason, I always remembered that. And one day (or actually many days) I woke up and thought, "Look at me, I have a wife and 4 kids. It happened just like that guy on my mission said!" It's true, time seemed to just fly by.

So, when I thought about that, I did believe my older friends when they talked about how much I would miss these times when my kids were little children. But it was still hard to fathom. Especially at times when there was lots of crying and emotional trauma :) I tried to remember that this too shall pass.

We don't have grandchildren yet, but I can understand how much we would love them, because we have a different perspective now, and it's this: everything children do is cute and wonderful. Even the crying! Because we know they are just learning how to deal with their emotions. (And maybe because we're not around it all day ;)

I think the special love that grandparents have for grandchildren can give us a little hint about how our Heavenly Father loves us. In the context of eternity, we know about as much as a little baby or child. So, our Heavenly Father is very patient with us, and knows that we are just learning how to deal with all the difficulties and perplexities of living life on this earth.

He's trying to help us as much as He can. He sent angels and prophets to teach us about His ways and the bigger plan for us. He sent Jesus to pay the penalty for our sins and teach us how to live. And He sent the Holy Ghost to help us feel the reality of His presence and this other world of eternity.

But sometimes He just has to let us throw a fit when we don't understand why awful things are happening to us. We need to remember to 'use our words' and pray to Him. We need to humble ourselves and try to understand what we are supposed to be learning. Remember that time flies, and someday we will be in a place where it all makes sense. Maybe we should even cherish this time of learning, because it won't last long.

Families are a microcosm of the eternities. That's why families are forever. So many principles in families are eternal. Just as babies and little children are completely ignorant about the world and rely completely on their parents, so are we, with our limited knowledge of eternity, and complete dependence on our Heavenly parents. (Or should be.)

I think that's why Jesus said we needed to become like little children. We need to realize we are dependent on our Father in Heaven and act like it.

Jesus did.

Look what He chose to go through. The greatest man on earth endured the greatest humiliation and suffering, because He followed His Father's will. Then gained the greatest glory.

We can at least suffer a little bit.

Divine joy and glory are on the other side of it.

Thank you for being part of my heavenly family experience, Brothers and Sisters.

I'm learning a lot.

Take care.

Bishop Williams

P.S.

- March is our month to clean the building. You may be getting a phone call and asked to help on a certain day.
- March 3 - 5 - Rootstech Family History Conference (virtual) <https://rootstech.org>
- March 7 - When our youth are eligible to register for FSY this summer. Have your week chosen before then.
- March 20 - Ward Conference
- The church is looking for young single adults to be FSY counselors. It's like a mission for the summer. They apply and could get sent anywhere in the United States for a few weeks, except they also get paid. Sounds like it'll be an awesome experience.

Check out the details here:

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/youth/childrenandyouth/fsy/about/counselors>

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