

# Bedrock

Gail Allwine  
October 21, 2024

My title today is:

## Bedrock

Which I think is a strange title, but it came from Matthew 7 so let's start there.

**Matthew 7:24** *“Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: 25) and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. (NKJV)*

There are absolute things—there are absolute truths and many things that are questionable. I think it's important for us to cling to what is absolute with all of our being and take these things that are questionable or that we don't really know and be very cautious. I was looking through some old papers recently and came across a paper by Frank Nelte that he wrote back in 2001. The title, “When Will Christ Return” really caught my eye, as you can imagine. In his paper, Mr. Nelte discusses the thinking and the assumptions that were made back in Worldwide days in calculating when Jesus Christ would return. Worldwide used the 7 times of Leviticus 26. If you recall the 7 times were the 7 times that God ordained, as a punishment for Israel, if they were to fall away from Him. So they took the 7 times as 7 years and multiplied by 360 days per year and came out with the number 2520 which was considered a time of punishment for Israel. Considering that this could mean 2520 prophetic years, were there 2520 years of punishment ordained. That was what was considered back then.

Israel went into captivity in 721 to 718 B.C. and they became the lost Ten Tribes. If you take that time and you add the 2520 it comes out to the early 1800's. This is the time where the U.S. really began to shine as the great nation that it was going to become. This seemed quite important and we thought this was the end of that punishment of Israel since we considered the U.S. to be part of the lost Ten Tribes. Again, as this number—2520—became quite significant to us. Then we added 2520 to the fall of Babylon which was in 539 B.C. and came up with 1982 A.D. Then it was considered perhaps we should subtract the 7 years that Nebuchadnezzar was out of his mind living with the animals and that brought it back to 1975. This gave rise to the book, “1975 in Prophecy” as you recall. These dates are proved false. They tried adding 2000 to the birth of Christ—His first coming as a human. Perhaps 2000 would be his second coming. That came out to be about 1987 so that didn't work out either. All of our assumptions were false.

There was one prophecy that was amazingly accurate and that was the 70 weeks prophecy of Daniel 9. I would like to look there.

**Daniel 9:24** *Seventy weeks are determined For your people and for your holy city, To finish the transgression, To make an end of sins, To make reconciliation for iniquity, To bring in everlasting righteousness, To seal up vision and prophecy, And to anoint the Most Holy.*

25) *Know therefore and understand, That from the going forth of the command To restore and build Jerusalem Until the Messiah the Prince, There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks [in other words, 69 weeks]; The street shall be built again, and the wall, Even in troublesome times. (NKJV)*

Here we have 69 weeks of the 70 weeks that mark the beginning of the Messiah. If you take 69 x 70, we have 483 years. From the decree of Artaxerxes in 458 B.C. to restore Jerusalem, this brings us to 27 A.D. which seems to be a very proper time when Jesus began His ministry. The last of the 70 weeks, the last 7 years really are unaccounted for and there have been a number of ideas and speculation as to what to do with that time. But the accuracy of this prophecy about Christ's coming as the Messiah really wet our appetite to dig more deeply into the idea of just when Jesus Christ would come.

Considering today's morality and the world conditions, it seems amazing to me that back in the '70's and before, that we thought the world was about to collapse; that was the end. Things now are a mite or two worse or more and it's just amazing that we thought that back then.

We certainly were not the only ones trying to decide or determine when Jesus Christ would come again. Many groups and organizations have tried different calculations. For a very long time, with equally poor results. Nobody has got it right and there is a very good reason for that. Jesus Christ, when He was asked about His return, His response in Matthew 24:36 was that no one knows but My Father only, not even the angels of heaven—only the Father. We should all like to know when Jesus Christ will return. That's something that has occupied our minds. But He said it would be totally unexpected like in the days of Noah. Let's look at that scripture in Matthew 24.

**Matthew 24:36** *But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.*

37) *But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.*

38) *For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark ... (NKJV)*

I kind of like to joke with my wife sometimes when we are at a restaurant full of people eating and drinking, not knowing what's going to come.

39) *and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.*

40) *Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left.*

41) *Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left.*

42) *Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.*

43) *But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into.*

44) *Therefore, you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. (NKJV)*

There's an important scripture back in Deuteronomy 29:29.

**Deuteronomy 29:29** *The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law. (NKJV)*

So, there are secret things that belong to God. There's a very good reason for that, because God is teaching us. I think God likes surprises. Surprises are a very, very good teaching tool. When you get a surprise, it's something that sticks in your mind—you don't forget it easily. God seems to bring surprises upon us. We have put a lot of study and effort into trying to determine the Father's timeline. Has that been a good use of our effort? I don't think so.

Referring to Matthew 7:24, which I started with, what is it that we are to build upon a rock? I would say we are to build our very lives, what we believe, and really what we are as human beings—are we ready for Jesus Christ to come and establish His government and we become spirit beings. Our son Stephen came up with what he called the three "D's" in classifying doctrines. There are things to discuss, things to debate, and things to die for. Something to discuss might be, was Christ crucified on a cross or some kind of an upright stake. At this point, it doesn't make a bit of difference. It's something to talk about which might be interesting. Things to die for would include keeping the Sabbath and having no other god. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego gave an example of being willing to die instead of having to worship another god. The things to debate are where I believe we have a problem. God has withheld information from us I think as a test. He purposefully left some things vague to see what we would do with the information. I think we have sometimes put things to die for in the wrong category. Or put things into that category that didn't really belong there. How many splits in the churches this caused? How many people have gone away and perhaps even lost eternal life? God knows, I don't know.

I'd like to turn to Matthew 23:23.

**Matthew 23:23** *Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone. (NKJV)*

I think sometimes we have tended to strain out a gnat and swallow a camel by delving into things that are not the weightier matters. I have a couple of examples. There are many arguments that have occurred over the years concerning the calendar dates,

dates for the Holy Days. These arguments continue and even as we speak, it has caused splits in the church and many new groups have split off. Many have left and fallen away and there are groups now that are keeping the feasts at different times. Who is absolutely right? We do the best we can with what God has given us and I think that's what God, in trying to honor God, is what He looks at. There are currently debates on whether the Firstfruits will be resurrected on Pentecost. There seems to be a lot of evidence to support that. To make it a church doctrine, it seems me it's not a "die-for". It's not something I would judge anybody on. I just think that as long as God wants to resurrect me, I'll leave it up to Him when He wants to do it and leave it at that the time of His choosing. If it's on Pentecost, all the better and sooner. For me the important things are, are we humbly trying to obey and honor God with what we do. We have the Passover service that we keep and we do the best we know what to do as far as the information that we have. I think God honors that. God honors a lot of things.

When the United States began, we called ourselves a Christian nation and we do our best, even though we celebrated Christmas and some of those things, I think God honored that and allowed us to continue to become a great nation because we were doing the best that we knew to do.

We must realize that God withholds some information and He makes it vague to test our attitudes. So, what is bedrock? I would say having and worshipping the one true God and obeying His commands to the best of our understanding. Matthew 19:16 is bedrock.

**Matthew 19:16** *Now behold, one came and said to Him, "Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?"*

17) *So He said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments."*

18) *He said to Him, "Which ones?" Jesus said, "'You shall not murder, ' You shall not commit adultery, ' You shall not steal, ' You shall not bear false witness, '*

19) *Honor your father and your mother, 'and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. " ' (NKJV)*

Christ identified the Ten Commandments as bedrock. Matthew 18:1.

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

2) *Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them,*

3) *and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.*

4) *Therefore, whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. (NKJV)*

To me, this is bedrock. This is an absolute. An absolute requirement that God gave to enter the Kingdom of God or the Kingdom of heaven. I think it's one of the hardest to fulfill. It's stuck in my mind; how do we go about it? It's completely counter to our normal ego and our vanity that seems to be a natural part of our physical minds. Yet, it is an

absolute requirement to enter God's Kingdom. Righteousness can be very hard to see. God gave us the book of Job to point this out. David Hoffer went over that yesterday. It's such a powerful lesson I would like to go back and look at some of the scriptures there. Job looked like a righteous person. Everyone thought Job was a righteous person. Job thought he was a righteous person. Therein was the problem. He was deceiving himself until God showed him what he really was. Let's look at Job, starting at the beginning. Job 1:1.

**Job 1:1** *There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was blameless and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil. (NKJV)*

Down in verse 8.

8) *Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?" (NKJV)*

So even God mentioned that. Let's look ahead to Job 29:14. Job was talking about himself.

**Job 29:14** *I put on righteousness, and it clothed me; My justice was like a robe and a turban.*

15) *I was eyes to the blind, And I was feet to the lame.*

16) *I was a father to the poor, And I searched out the case that I did not know.*

17) *I broke the fangs of the wicked, And plucked the victim from his teeth.*

18) *Then I said, I shall die in my nest, And multiply my days as the sand.*

19) *My root is spread out to the waters, And the dew lies all night on my branch.*

20) *My glory is fresh within me, And my bow is renewed in my hand.'*

21) *Men listened to me and waited, And kept silence for my counsel. (NKJV)*

Over in Job 32:1.

*Job 32:1* *So these three men ceased answering Job, because he was righteous in his own eyes. (NKJV)*

Finally in Job 42:1.

**Job 42:1** *Then Job answered the LORD and said:*

2) *I know that You can do everything, And that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You.*

3) *You asked, Who is this who hides counsel without knowledge?' Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, Things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.*

4) *Listen, please, and let me speak; You said, I will question you, and you shall answer Me.'*

5) *"I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, But now my eye sees You.*

6) *Therefore I abhor myself, And repent in dust and ashes.*” (NKJV)

Even Christ said, no one is good but God. Christ said that about Himself. We can feel we have it made sometimes because we keep God’s commandments, Holy Days, we go to church every Sabbath. For most of us, God’s calling required a lot of changes in our lives. Some probably difficult, some not too hard. For me, the example of clean and unclean foods was not hard. The holidays versus the Holy Days was something very different. Easter was not a big thing in our family. We didn’t go to church very regularly. My mother colored some eggs and that was about it. We thought Sabbath keepers were kind of strange. As a child I thought Sunday was the seventh day but my mother corrected me on that. She showed me the calendar that actually showed Saturday is the seventh day. It didn’t mean much back then; it was still part of the weekend. As I began to study the Bible later, I realized the Sabbath is the day we are to observe. Christmas on the other hand was huge. It was a very hard thing for me. Our family actually celebrated Christmas as the happiest and joyous time of the year. My mother died in the fall, in November, just as I was learning about the truth of Christmas. So Christmas was very, very hard. Probably one of the hardest times I can remember. My dad had been dead for 10 years so I was by myself. I just turned 21 so I was out in the world and it was hard.

Another thing I had to tell an aunt, who was probably one of the closest relatives to me that I was no longer going to keep Christmas. She thought I was no longer a Christian and was really going off the track. That was hard. But these things fade. Now I don’t even want to think about Christmas. It’s gone and is just a physical thing and all these things are in the past.

Other physical activities that we can put behind us. To me, this is like grade school in God’s educational plan. But God requires us to not only change what we do but what we are. I would liken this to high school. In which we have to graduate as spirit beings in God’s family. This is the hard part. God does provide help to us. Changes in our very nature are not something we can readily do by ourselves. God does provide. Let’s look at John 14:23.

**John 14:23** *Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.*

*24) He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father’s who sent Me.*

*25) “These things I have spoken to you while being present with you.*

*26) But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. (NKJV)*

So God provides a portion of His Holy Spirit to help us and teach us—to bring to mind things that we wouldn’t otherwise know. In 1 Samuel 16:7—I won’t turn there—it says God looks on the heart and He wants to know what’s in our hearts.

Three years ago, I gave a sermon entitled, "Little Children". To me, what Christ said in Matthew 18 is such a prime directive and I can't get it out of my mind. I would like to reiterate parts of that sermon in the time that is left because it is an absolute. Christ said it was an absolute thing for entering His Kingdom. You might call the rest of this sermon, "Little Child, Part 2".

Little children were a very special part of Jesus Christ's life. He had such love and compassion. He had love and compassion for the little children that the apostles didn't have. They wanted to get the children away—they were bothering them. He said *let the little children to come unto Me and do not forbid them as such is the Kingdom of heaven*. That's in Matthew 19:14. *Of such is the Kingdom of heaven*. Beings in the Kingdom of heaven have the characteristics of little children. Being humble, loving, and what He says here, there are no egos in heaven. I have to think how hard it must have been for Jesus Christ to come and live amongst we human beings with our egos and vanities and all of that. When He came out of heaven, where He was previously.

There are some amazing analogies, types and anti-types, in the Bible that God uses to teach us about His plan of creation. There's an analogy of Abraham sacrificing His son and God the Father sacrificing His Son, Jesus Christ. There's the analogy of God working with the physical nation of Israel and now working with the spiritual nation really—people He is calling and working with. There are many parables that Christ gave, talking about the analogies to the Kingdom of God.

One of the most profound analogies is the analogy between a human birth and spiritual birth. This is covered in John 3. Christ was talking to Nicodemus.

**John 3:1** *There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews.*

2) *This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him."*

3) *Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."*

4) *Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"*

5) *Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God."*

6) *That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.*

7) *Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'*

8) *The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."*

9) *Nicodemus answered and said to Him, "How can these things be?"*

10) *Jesus answered and said to him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not know these things?"*

*11) Most assuredly, I say to you, We speak what We know and testify what We have seen, and you do not receive Our witness.*

*12) If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things? (NKJV)*

Jesus Christ told Nicodemus that unless he was born again, he could not see the Kingdom of heaven. Being born again was a completely foreign concept to Nicodemus. He didn't understand that physical conception and birth is a type of human beings receiving God's Spirit and then growing spiritually until they are ready to become spirit beings. It says in Job 32:8 that there is a spirit in man. There's been some arguing over the years just when that comes into a person. Is it at birth or some time later? There is a spirit in man and it is part of us. I'd like to turn to 1 Corinthians 2:11.

**1 Corinthians 2:11** *For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. (NKJV)*

A human spirit enables our brain to understand physical things—things of man. But the Holy Spirit is given at baptism. Then I'm sure a gestation begins in which we are to grow spiritually and analogous to a baby growing in the womb until we reach a point where we can be born as spirit beings. Continuing on in this chapter, 1 Corinthians 2:12.

*12) Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.*

*13) These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.*

*14) But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. (NKJV)*

When God gives the Holy Spirit, we begin to understand things that we couldn't with the spirit of man. We're all looking forward to being born as spirit beings. Surely, we've always pondered a great deal what that would be like. In this life we are learning the good versus evil and learning to develop loving and humble characters so we will be ready when that time comes. God does say that we really have no idea what it will be like. God likes surprises and I think it will be quite a surprise when we become spirit beings. I've kind of likened that to a baby who is born and knows nothing. As we are born spirit beings there are an awful lot of spiritual things we will have to learn at that point. We don't just take over and start controlling the world and take over governments.

The Feast of Tabernacles—we are here to observe or celebrate that time that is coming. God has revealed to us that the Holy Days are a layout of His whole plan of creation. The Feast of Tabernacles is picturing the culmination of this plan. The coming of the millennium and this wonderful time to come. The establishment of God's Kingdom on earth. There are many passages that give a glimpse of what is ahead. I'd like to turn to a few. 1 Corinthians 15:49.



**1 Corinthians 15:49** *And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man.*

50) *Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption.*

51) *Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—*

52) *in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.*

53) *For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.*

54) *So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."*

55) *O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?" (NKJV)*

In Revelation 21:1.

**Revelation 21:1** *Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.*

2) *Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.*

3) *And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.*

4) *And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."*

5) *Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful."*

6) *And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts.*

7) *He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. (NKJV)*

So we are to be the very children of God. Back a bit in 1 John 3:1.

**1 John 3:1** *Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore, the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.*

2) *Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. (NKJV)*

**John 14:1** *Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.*

- 2) *In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.*
- 3) *And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. (NKJV)*

Christ has promised that He has reserved a place for us. We need to have the faith and be satisfied with this for now, knowing that God does know why. He has something absolutely wonderful and fabulous in store if we can just persevere. These are things he holds out for those allowed to be spirit beings. What is being held out for us? I'd like to go back to Matthew 18—I read this once but I want to read it again.

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

- 2) *Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them,*
- 3) *and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.*
- 4) *Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. (NKJV)*

According to Jesus Christ, this is an absolute requirement. We've all read it but what do we do with it? Does it really register in our minds. I think that might be the hardest part. I would like to go to Matthew 24 and look at something else.

**Matthew 24:3** *Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"*

- 4) *And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you.*
- 5) *For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ, 'and will deceive many.*
- 6) *And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.*
- 7) *For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places.*
- 8) *All these are the beginning of sorrows. (NKJV)*

Skipping down to verse 15.

15) *Therefore, when you see the abomination of desolation, 'spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand),*

16) *"then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.*

17) *Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house.*

18) *And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes.*

19) *But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days!*

20) *And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath.*

*21) For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.*

*22) And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened. (NKJV)*

From what Christ foretold here and also in Revelation; the earth is to become a ruinous heap—completely destroyed because of man's way. It appears that we are rapidly approaching that point, even as we speak. Romans 14:11, I won't turn there but it's quoting Isaiah 45:23, that ultimately every knee will bow to God, one way or another. However, that comes about. A lot of it through this end time, terrible event that is coming. God says that ultimately out of this, will come people whose egos and vanities that have been totally crushed. People that are starved for love and goodness, seeing all the evil and what it produces, and have become like the little children that God can finally deal with. If we call ourselves the Firstfruits, we have to reach that point at this time in our own lives, otherwise we'll be dying on the vine.

The analogy between spiritual birth and physical birth is tremendously profound. We start our lives with the characteristics of innocent little children and we are required by God to be ready for His Kingdom, to make a full circle back to become like little children again. It's a foreign concept and it takes our mind a little bit to get around it. The innocence we had as little children tends to fade as we grow up. We become more cynical as we see things around us. The greed, corruption, the politics—especially right now we're seeing that—and the general hypocrisy. We get set in our ways, our habits and thinking. Our habits and thinking can be very set in our minds. Kind of like concrete even. Christ said we had to become like little children, growing up spiritually in this life, we have to take on the characteristics of children.

What are some of these characteristics? Halley's mentions 4 of them that I think are good to examine. One, a child is humble or free of pride. You can tell a little child that he's doing something wrong and he doesn't automatically come with an excuse. A child is teachable. A child observes everything it sees. Likes to copy what its parents do, looks to them for examples. God designed us that way. That's why it is so important that what we teach our children are the right kinds of things. So many things that are taught today to children are just the opposite.

There was a song in South Pacific — “You've Got to Be Carefully Taught”.

*“You've got to be taught before it's too late,  
before you're 6 or 7 or 8.  
To hate all the people that your relatives hate.  
You've got to be carefully taught.”*

It's really a crime today what little children are being taught. A child is trusting—a child looks to its parents. For everything it trusts its parents for needs. That its parents will take care of him and provide for him and protect him. A child doesn't have the ego that later comes in the teen years when a child begins to think he knows more than his

parents do. A child comes to believe everything his parents tell him. The child will absolutely believe there is a Santa Clause. The physical problems of that really didn't bother me. My parents told me that so I believed it, but I had to realize sometimes that not everything parents tell us is the truth. There are reasons for that—there are things they want to hide from us to help us to be happy. But it comes as a shock that some of these things weren't true. A child is loving. Love is one thing a child readily absorbs. If it sees a loving environment. On the other hand, if it doesn't see love, it won't become a part of him or her.

Let's look at these things individually.

## 1. Humility

1 Peter 5:5-6.

**1 Peter 5:5** *Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."*

*6) Therefore, humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time ... (NKJV)*

We are to be submissive to one another, clothed with humility as God says. God resists the proud and gives rise to the humble. To me a number one problem is lack of humility. It's something we have to overcome. What would the world be like if everyone had true humility. There would be no wars, no political infighting. There would be happy families, there would be no church splitting up. In Isaiah 57:15—I won't turn there—it says that God will dwell with those who are of a humble spirit. How we get there is, humility is something we grow up in and we've grown out of as adults and something we have to regain. I think the key is to be ourselves with respect to God and that was a lesson given in Job. I think the book of Job is a good one to study periodically. To make that an absolute study to see ourselves more clearly. I think we can identify with so many things that Job went through.

Humility is taught by God if we let His spirit dwell in us. Let's look at James.

**James 4:10** *Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up. (NKJV)*

## 2. Teachable

In our lives we need to absorb the characteristics of Jesus Christ because He taught us the Father—He said if you've seen Me, you've seen the Father. It's no accident that 4 books of the Bible are about Jesus Christ, His life and what He taught and what He said. I would like to turn to Psalm 25:4-5.

**Psalm 25:4** *Show me Your ways, O LORD; Teach me Your paths.*

5) *Lead me in Your truth and teach me, For You are the God of my salvation; On You I wait all the day. (NKJV)*

**Psalm 90:12** *So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom. (NKJV)*

We need to number our days, pray to God for instruction. The third thing:

### **3. Being trusting.**

The heavenly Father really knows everything—you can tell that by the creation that surrounds us. The procreation, the protection in the human body. We have to realize that God is our teacher and He knows how to teach us, individually and as a group. He knows what we need, what kind of teaching. I remember some time ago I mentioned Randy Pausch, he was known for “The Last Lecture” you can look that up on the internet. He mentioned that at school he played football. A fellow player told him the coach has been pretty hard on you. That means he sees potential in you. If he hadn’t seen that he would have left you alone. Likewise, oftentimes we need some tough love. Sometimes we need to be aroused somewhat. I’d like to turn to Hebrews 12. We need to be corrected for our own good.

**Hebrews 12:2** *... looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

3) *For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.*

4) *You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin.*

5) *And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: “My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him;*

6) *For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives.”*

7) *If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten?*

8) *But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons.*

9) *Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live?*

10) *For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness.*

11) *Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. (NKJV)*

God does test us—He does give tough love at times. 1 Corinthians 10:13.

**1 Corinthians 10:13** *No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it. (NKJV)*

There will be what seems like brick walls, but the brick walls are not there to stop us, because God can find a way through and show us that.

#### **4. Loving.**

The Bible tells us that God is love. God created our feelings and our emotions. I think the feeling that God would like us to really become part of is love. We all know John 3:16, *God so loved the world that He gave His only Begotten Son; who so believes shall not perish but have everlasting life.* 1 John 4:7.

**1 John 4:7** *Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.*

*8) He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.*

*9) In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.*

*10) In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. (NKJV)*

Chapter 13 is the love chapter. I think we've all read that many times. It's a good one to review and go over. I'll just leave that for your review. Each of these is worthy of a Bible study on its own. I encourage you to do that. The problems of this world won't exist in His Kingdom because God is only going to allow into His Kingdom those attributes. Human nature is really gone. People will become like the little children.

Growing up to become like little children sounds odd, as it did to Nicodemus. That is what God is requiring of us. Becoming like a little child is foreign to our human nature and kind of daunting. I'm not there yet, I try to imagine what it will be like. In my mind, I kind of think it will be like withdrawing from an addiction. We have been addicted to our physical way of life. I'm somewhat acquainted with addiction. My father had an alcohol problem. My parents both smoked. I swore off both—alcohol and tobacco. Withdrawal is a monumental task. It requires many changes and requires a lot of prayer, meditation and God's intervention. We have to call on God for His help.

We have so much to look forward to. When I retired—it was a long time ago now, over 20 years—and it was a major physical change in my life. I remember commenting to people that it was like a second childhood. This cycle—I was able to keep my own schedule and take naps in the afternoon and it felt good. I'm thinking perhaps becoming like a little child, being free of ego and vanities that we build up. Being good is going to feel good. We grow up to be like little children, as odd as it was to Nicodemus—that's what God is requiring of us.