
Words of Truth

The World Hasn't Touched Him Yet

By: Brian A. Yeager

In November of last year Katrina, Taylor, and I met a young boy that really made an impact on me. This boy lives in Las Cruces. He was almost three years old at the time we met him. Before I met him I knew that he was very unhealthy. I knew that he had many surgeries and near death experiences in his young life. I knew that he was fragile. When we met him we learned that since his birth his intestines were not connected. He has no colon. He had tubes running outside of his body and some sort of external drainage that you could see even with his shirt on. He has been in and out of Children's Hospital here in El Paso many, many times. He just had a surgery and is soon to have another. My heart ached when I met him. I felt so sorry for him, his mother, his father, and his sister.

This story could not get worse, could it? Well, on top of all of the problems I have listed above, this young boy is also deaf. He doesn't get to communicate as we do or hear the wonderful sounds of nature. He is learning to communicate with sign language. He even used sign language with his little poodle puppy. In addition to all of that, he has also experienced his mother having breast cancer, chemotherapy, etc. His father works a job that has him on the road most of the time. He is rarely home. His life is terrible, right?

Brethren, the time we spent with this young boy was full of joy and happiness on his part. He had a smile on his face most of time we were around him. He ran around with his diaper, tubes, etc. like nothing was wrong with him. I played with him, chased him, and had a great visit with him. He was full of joy and innocence. He did not have a "care in the world." No one has taught him that his life stinks. No one has shared with him that he should be miserable. No one has taught him that he is not "normal". Let's think on this.

Put This Child In The Midst Of Us For A Moment

After Jesus was asked who was the greatest in the kingdom, we read this: *"And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven"* (Matthew 18:2-3). Jesus used children to teach lessons (Mark 9:33-37, Mark 10:13-16, and Luke 18:15-17). In certain ways, we as Christians MUST be child-like to be saved. For example: *"Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men"* (I Corinthians 14:20). There are lessons in my story.

If most adults were to have the kind of problems the young child I have mentioned in this article has, they would be miserable. Life would be over. They would fear how others look upon them. They would have no joy. Sadly, I know many brethren whom would act as though such health problems were life-ending. Is that true though? Why can this little boy I mentioned live without any anxiety over his problems, but “adults” cannot? In what is often called “The Parable Of The Sower” the Lord mentioned the “cares of this world” (Mark 4:19). The word translated “cares” in that passage of Scripture means this: “solicitude: — care; anxiety” (Strong’s # 3308).

This child does not see being deaf as a setback. He has not considered that most women would not want to marry a man that will have tubes running out of him and uncontrollable bowel issues his whole life. He doesn’t know those things yet. Why? Those things are “cares of the world”. They are learned things through the rules of this world. The Lord wants us to UNLEARN those lessons that cause such anxieties. We are supposed to be “careful” [anxious] for nothing (Philippians 4:6-9). We are supposed to avoid being entangled with the affairs of this life (II Timothy 2:3-4). We are not supposed to be worried about what we’ll eat or wear (Matthew 6:24-34). We have to be like this deaf, sick boy I am telling you about. We are not supposed to care about things we have no control over. We are supposed to live joyfully. This, for us, should be different than for this little boy. Why? Think about that!

What Advantage Do You Have Over This Child We Are Considering?

By “us” I am meaning faithful children of God (I John 3:1-10). For us, whom are in Christ Jesus, we have an understanding this little boy has yet to have gained. We know that no matter how bad things get in this lifetime, we have a home being prepared for us that is far greater than anything this present world could have for us (John 14:1-3, Acts 20:32, Romans 8:17, I Corinthians 15:52-54, Colossians 1:12, I Peter 1:3-12, and I Peter 5:4).

Notice what Jesus said to the Apostles: *“These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world”* (John 16:33). We are supposed to have the peace of God ruling in our hearts (Colossians 3:15). This deaf child, with all those other problems, is suffering. He is still happy. He doesn’t have anything he’s looking forward to. You do!

Conclusion

Are you at peace? When life stinks, think about the little children. Whatever is going on about them is rarely noticed by them. They are too busy enjoying life. Forget what you have learned in this world that causes you to be anxious. Time and chance will happen to us all (Ecclesiastes 9:7-12). You cannot control it, so don’t worry about it. As saints, we should find joy in our hope even when the world is literally beating us down (I Peter 4:12-19).