

December 2015

From the Desk of Rev. Chuck

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Dear Friends,

December, the last month of the year and the time of the year when parents take their children to see Santa so that they can tell him what they want for Christmas. They sit on his lap and pour out a list of things they wish to receive on Christmas Day.

Someone once wrote:

Childhood is the world of miracle and wonder. The end of childhood is when things cease to astonish us. When the world seems familiar, that is when we have become an adult. It would seem to me that our relationship with God must be born out of a sense of childlike wonder and the attributes of a child.

What if we as adults, sat of Spirit's lap and poured out our list of things we would like to see on Christmas Day? What if we allowed our inner child out to experience what it is like to be a kid again by just allowing our faith, love, peace, and joy to be our guide?

In Matthew 18:1-5 we find Jesus in another discourse with his disciples as they want to know who is the greatest among them and which one is going to enter into the kingdom of heaven:

At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them, and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me."

As adults we tend to lose our sense of childlike wonder and awe about the world in which we live and move and have our being. We get so wrapped up in our daily lives and the hustle and bustle of making a living that we forget to allow the inner child out to reap Spirit's gifts of

faith, love, peace, and joy.

Carl Jung has written that: *There is a natural child within us every adult, the wonder child that is our innate potential toward exploration and awe and creative being.*

What happened to this child within us, what happened to the rebirth of the Christ child in our hearts? Why haven't we been able to express the wonder child into our personal world?

Using Jung's theory, John Bradshaw has given us some incredible insights into the why's of our wonder child, John writes:

For most of us, our wonder child becomes our wounded child because we don't recognize it and we don't nourish it and care for it. You see, in our desire to gain status and prestige as responsible, mature and educated adults, we ignore that little child within us. We repress it and suppress it in the world of rational thinking.

For the wonder child, life is really natural and spontaneous. Life is like a mystery to be lived.

An eight year old boy was overheard having a serious discussion with his friend about parents. They were trying to figure out just what it was the parents wanted from them.

His friend responded, *"Yea, I know what you mean. First they teach you to talk, then they teach you to walk, and as soon as you do it, they tell you to sit down and shut up!"*

Robert Fulghum, in his book *All I Ever Need To Know I Learned in Kindergarten* had this to say about Christmas:

I know what I really want for Christmas. I want my childhood back. Nobody's going to give me that. I know it doesn't make any sense to ask for it. But since when was Christmas about sense anyway? Christmas is about a child of long ago and far away. And it's about the child of now in you and me, waiting behind the door of our hearts for something wonderful to happen.

May the inner child in you experience all the joy, love, peace, and wonder this holiday season!