

BECOME CHILD-LIKE

Unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the Kingdom of Shamym (Heavens).

WHAT IS CHILD-LIKE?

A child is dependent and trusting. A child has Amunah (Faith) that it will be fed, clothed, and provided for each and every day. A child puts its hope and confidence in someone else other than itself. Every single moment of his day, a child is wholly leaning on someone else to provide the life-giving elements he needs to keep breathing. In a word, a child is humble because he looks to something outside of himself for what he needs to survive. **OWYAZL** (Yahusha) calls for us to turn from our proud ways and become like children.

CHARACTERISTICS OF BEING CHILD-LIKE

1. HUMILITY

A childlike heart is a heart of humility. A child sees no differences of race, class, color, status etc. Children are friendly among themselves without noticing their differences. **AYAZL** (Yahuah) wants us to become humble like children. He wants us to stop comparing ourselves with others and to stop competing with others for greatness and superiority. Instead He wants us to become humble like little children and relate with everyone without distinctions. Then we will be considered the greatest in the Kingdom of Shamym (Heavens).

Matthew 18:1-6 "At that time the disciples came to **OWYAZL** (Yahusha) and asked, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of Shamym (Heavens)?" He called a little child and had him stand among them. And he said: "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of Shamym (Heavens). Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of Shamym (Heavens). "And whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me. But if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea. "

2. AMUNAH (FAITH)

A child-like heart is a heart of Amunah (faith). A child's heart is simple and trusting. A child is not filled with doubt and suspicion. A child's Amunah (faith) is a simple Amunah (faith). It is not filled with arguments and questions. A child is not cynical and skeptical. **AYAZL** (Yahuah) wants us to have such a simple child-like Amunah (faith) in Him and His promises. With this child like Amunah (faith) we can receive great Barakah (Blessings) from **AYAZL** (Yahuah). **AYAZL** (Yahuah) warns us that without this childlike Amunah (faith), we will not enter the Kingdom of **AYAZL** (Yahuah). A child

like heart is quick to repent . A child like heart will accept forgiveness easily and be restored to fellowship immediately . It will not bear long grudges and separation. **אֵלֹהִים** (Yahuah) wants us to have such a child-like heart and repent and receive His forgiveness and be restored to fellowship with Him.

Luke 18:15-17 " People were also bringing babies to **אֵלֹהִים** (Yahusha) to have him touch them. When the disciples saw this, they rebuked them. But **אֵלֹהִים** (Yahusha) called the children to him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of **אֵלֹהִים** (Yahuah) belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of **אֵלֹהִים** (Yahuah) like a little child will never enter it."

I John 2: 1,12 "My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—**אֵלֹהִים** (Yahusha) HaMashiach, the Righteous One. I write to you, dear children,because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name. "

3. INNOCENCE

A child-like heart is a heart of innocence . A child’s heart is a heart of love. A child’s heart is not filled with evil and malice and wickedness . It is a pure and innocent heart. **אֵלֹהִים** (Yahuah) wants us to have such a child-like heart of innocence and purity and true love. Our hearts must never be involved in plotting evil and planning harm to anyone. We must be filled with a true love for **אֵלֹהִים** (Yahuah) and our fellowmen. However **אֵלֹהִים** (Yahuah) wants us to be wise and prudent and be mature in our thinking and decisions . We must not be childish but childlike in our hearts.

Children are innocent from birth until they learn prejudice and practice discrimination “through living in and observing a society where prejudice exists”. Children’s thoughts and feelings are significantly influenced by the people around them (i.e..Mother, Father, Family, Friends), thus they loose their innocence when they begin to judge, discriminate and practice prejudice.

I Corinthians 14:20 "Brothers, stop thinking like children. In regard to evil be infants, but in your thinking be adults. "

I John 3:18 " Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth."

I Peter 1:22 " Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart "

I Corinthians 13:11 " When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. "

4. VICTORY

A child-like heart is a heart of victory over the enemy. **אֵלֹהִים** (Yahuah) delights in using a child-like heart to defeat all the wiles and forces of the enemy. A child with **אֵלֹהִים**

(Yahuah) can defeat the enemy because greater is He who is in us than he that is in the world . **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah) uses the praises from the mouth of babes to silence the enemy. When we praise **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah) with a child-like heart, we will experience victory in our battles.

I John 4:4 "You, dear children, are from **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah) and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world."

Psalms 8:2 : " From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise because of your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.

Matthew 21:16 "Do you hear what these children are saying?" they asked him. "Yes," replied **וְיֵשׁוּעַ** (Yahusha), "have you never read, " 'From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise'?"

5. REVELATION

A child-like heart is a heart which receives revelations from **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah). A child-like heart is teachable . A child is always eager to learn new things. **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah) reveals His secrets to those who have a child-like heart . Those who consider themselves very wise and knowledgeable will be not be eager and humble enough to learn from **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah) and they will not receive revelations from **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah). But those who have a child-like heart will be Baruk (Blessed) by **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah) by His divine revelations. We must must be teachable and hungry like a child for the revelations from **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah).

Matthew 11:25-26 "At that time **וְיֵשׁוּעַ** (Yahusha) said, "I praise you, Father, Master of the Shamym (Heavens) and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure. "

6. TRANSFORMATION

A child-like heart is a heart which can be transformed . It is easy to train and mold and shape a child. Therefore **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah) wants us to have a child-like heart so that He can mold us and transform us into the image of Mashiach. If we do not become child like in our hearts, it would be very difficult for **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah) to transform our lives, as we would have become set and rigid in our ways. Therefore we must have a child-like heart which is pliable so that we can experience transformation in our lives.

Galatians 4:19 " My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of child birth until Mashiach is formed in you, "

7. HUNGER

A child-like heart is a heart which is hungry for spiritual nourishment. Just as a new born babe craves for milk, a child-like heart will crave for the spiritual milk which is the word of **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah). Hunger is a sign of good health . If we have lost our spiritual hunger, it is a sure sign of a spiritual malady in our lives . However **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah) also wants us to grow up and learn to take solid food and strong meat. We should not always

live on milk, but we must progress and grow into taking strong meat which are the deep truths of the word of **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah) .

I Peter 2:1-2 " Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation,

Hebrews 5:12-14 " In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah)'s word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

8. TRUSTING

Children know how to trust without hesitancy. They giggle when they are tossed into the air and plunge recklessly from high places, all because they know that they will be caught in the outstretched arms of their daddy. They are oblivious to danger and fearless in their exploration because they take for granted the sheltered bubble of their parent's love.

9. TRANSPARENT

Children are not good at hiding their flaws, their wrong doing or their emotions. What you see is what you get and there is little or no guile or image management with them. They are quick to reveal what they think and what they feel, to confess what they have done and to receive what they need in terms of forgiveness and comfort.

Oh that we all could be like the woman who shamelessly crashed the Pharisees' dinner party in order to make her life right with **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahusha). With a repentant heart she washed His feet with her tears, dried them with her hair, kissed them and poured expensive perfume on them. What a poignant picture of the true nature and reward for transparency. "Your sins are forgiven." **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahusha) said. "Your Amunah (faith) has saved you; go in Shalum (Peace)." **Luke 7:44, 50**

10. CAREFREE

Children are free to live in the present with no concern for the future. They have no worries about a bank account, the price of gas, the next doctor appointment, politics at the office or what people think. They can focus and revel in the moment because they are not entangled by the complications and distractions of this life.

Surprisingly, the one person who is a good illustration of this child-like quality is John the Baptist. Consider the simplicity of his life, his wilderness home and diet, his narrow focus of ministry, his unwavering message of repentance, his magnetic presence that spared him the inconvenience of traveling and his freedom from the fear of man. Can you think of a more care free individual? Oh that our lives could be lived in the service of **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahusha) with such unencumbered focus on the things that really matter.

11. INSISTENT

As everyone knows children can be persistent. They never tire of asking questions and making requests. Like the widow with the unjust judge they think that if they are insistent enough for long enough they will get what they want. And they are right. “Can I, can I, can I . . . please, please Daddy, just this once!”

When Bartimaeus, the blind man heard **OWYAZL** (Yahusha) was passing by he began to shout repeatedly like an insistent little child “**OWYAZL** (Yahusha), Son of David have mercy on me!” Though people rebuked him and tried to silence him he shouted all the more. He was so insistent that **OWYAZL** (Yahusha), like any badgered parent could not help but stop and address his need. And that is exactly what **OWYAZL** (Yahusha) did – “Go, your Amunah (faith) has healed you.” **Mark 10:52**

12. SPONTANEOUS

Children are always game for a new adventure. They are too young to be prisoners of tradition and the status quo. They do not want to put off until tomorrow what they believe can be done today. They have few if any past experiences to convince them to hold back for fear of failure or discomfort.

The apostle Kepha (Peter) takes the cake in this category. His child-like spontaneity delighted **OWYAZL** (Yahusha). As a result he was the only one to walk on water and the first among the apostles to declare who **OWYAZL** (Yahusha) really was, “the Mashiach the son of the living Aluhym.” **Matthew 16:16**

13. IMAGINATIVE

Children see possibilities where many may see problems. Their imagination knows no limitation. The world is their stage upon which their dramatic creations are enacted without self consciousness. Little do they care or are they aware of what an audience might think. Creativity at its best is nurtured in a child’s world of unconditional love and acceptance that is free from critique.

OWYAZL (Yahusha/Joshua), Yasharal’s military commander had the unique privilege of being trained in **AYAZL** (Yahuah)’s creative ways of winning wars. He had seen miraculous victories won by arms lifted in prayer and seven day marches punctuated with a shout. It so stirred his Amunah (Faith) and imagination that when he found himself in a battle where he needed more time, he simply commanded the sun and moon to stand still. “There was no day like that before it or after it, when **AYAZL** (Yahuah) listened to the voice of a man; for **AYAZL** (Yahuah) fought for Yasharal.” **Joshua 10:14**

14. JOYFUL

A child’s joy is not so much based on the circumstances about them as it is in the people they love being with them. David, the great king and psalmist wrote frequently of the joy of being in the presence of the one he loved. “In your presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures forever.” **Psalms 16:11** Like a child smiling with glee

at the sight of their parent, we can smile with glee at the knowledge of יְהוָה (Yahuah) being with us, for He has promised to never leave us nor forsake us. Living in יְהוָה (Yahuah)'s loving presence is the source of a true and lasting joy that will always be independent of our circumstances.

This reminded me of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden and how they were naked and not ashamed (**Genesis 2:25**) before יְהוָה (Yahuah), until they ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (**Genesis 3**). I believe this is the heart of what יְהוָה (Yahuah) meant when He said that unless we become like little children, we will not enter the kingdom of Shamym (Heavens).

How much more would יְהוָה (Yahuah) be glorified in our lives if we were as trusting and dependent on Him as a baby son or daughter? We should go to Him for all our needs, knowing He doesn't look on the outward man (**1 Samuel 16:7**), but on the heart—and He can even give us a new heart **Ezekiel 36:26**.

But then, what about verses that make statements like, “When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things” **1 Corinthians 13:11**?

A few ideas need to be distinguished. There is being like a child, acting like a child, and understanding as a child. As we've seen, being like a child is a good thing in proper context. But what does it mean to act like a child? I've thought about this many times, and the conclusion I've come to is that children wear their emotions for everyone to see, good or bad.

As adults, we learn instead to hide how we feel, or at least the full extent of our feelings. Do we still want to have attention paid to us, to have the best, and to be first? We would be lying to say otherwise, but we learn to control ourselves and allow others to benefit over us on occasion.¹ To demonstrate: you are at a buffet and the person in front of you takes a large portion of the item you were going to get, leaving little or none for you. You probably would get annoyed. That person was selfish, inconsiderate, and, well, childish—and your inward response probably was childish, too. That is one reason why many buffets have a rule that parents must accompany children.

So children are sinners, but babies and toddlers often have a sort of honesty about them, they've not yet become skilled in deceiving others about how they really feel or what they really want. Childish actions reveal the sinful nature we inherit through Adam. Acting like a child, then, is not desirable, yet being like a child (in the sense of trusting) is.

It's pretty clear that understanding like a child would be a bad thing for an adult. There are many complexities to life that take time and age to comprehend—not just physics and mathematics, but also the wisdom to deal with this fallen world. **1 Corinthians 14:20** hits the nail on the head. “Brethren, do not be children in understanding; however, in malice be babes, but in understanding be mature.”

So in our “outward” relationships to אַײַז (Yahuah) our Father and to others, we are to be child-like (trusting and honest; not malicious), but not in our understanding (naive). Regarding what we take “in” from the world, we need to be wise, not carried off or tricked by others. Note that this wariness is necessitated by the fallen state of men, who desire to deceive. **Ephesians 4:14** says “that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting.” This wariness is something that is generally lacking in children, as well as in unwise adults.

CONCLUSION

So are we to be child-like? Well, yes and no. Just as ׀ׁׁׁ (Yahusha) said in **Matthew 10:16**, “Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.” Is there a conflict there? Absolutely not! Be loving and dependent on your heavenly Father, whom you can trust, but be wary of the things of this world, where trust can be a dangerous thing.

How, then, do we gain understanding? Scripture tells us that the beginning of wisdom is the fear of אַײַז (Yahuah) (**Psalms 111:10**) and that we should hide אַײַז (Yahuah)’s Word in our heart so we might not sin against Him (**Psalms 119:11**). Our knowledge of אַײַז (Yahuah) through His Word will aid us in growing spiritually and resisting the deceit and dangers of this world—from others and even from our own deceitful hearts (**Jeremiah 17:9**). Regardless, these verses are not in contradiction.

Scripture never exhorts us to have “child-like” Amunah (faith), at least not in so many words. In **Matthew 18:2** ׀ׁׁׁ (Yahusha) says that we must “become as little children” in order to enter the kingdom of אַײַז (Yahuah). The context of ׀ׁׁׁ (Yahusha)’s statement is the disciples’ question, “Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of Shamym (Heavens)?” (verse 1). In response, ׀ׁׁׁ (Yahusha) “called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. And he said: ‘Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of Shamym (Heavens). Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of Shamym (Heavens). And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me’” (verses 2–5).

So, as the disciples focus on what constitutes “greatness” in Shamym (Heavens), ׀ׁׁׁ (Yahusha) provides a new perspective: the way “up” is “down.” Meekness is required (**Matthew 5:5**). ׀ׁׁׁ (Yahusha) exhorts the disciples (and us) to seek to possess a childlike modesty in addition to their Amunah (faith). Those who willingly take the lowest position are the greatest in Shamym (Heaven)’s eyes. A young child is destitute of ambition, pride, and haughtiness and is therefore a good example for us. Children are characteristically humble and teachable. They aren’t prone to pride or hypocrisy. Humility is a virtue rewarded by ׀ׁׁׁ (Yahusha); as James says, “Humble yourselves before ׀ׁׁׁ (Yahusha), and he will lift you up” (**James 4:10**).

At that time the disciples came to ׀ׁׁׁ (Yahusha) and asked, “Who then is the

greatest in the kingdom of Shamym (Heavens)?” 2 **OWYAZL** (Yahusha) called a little child to stand among them. 3 “Truly I tell you,” He said, “unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of Shamym (Heavens) 4 Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of Shamym (Heavens). 5 And whoever welcomes a little child like this in My name welcomes Me. **Matthew 18: 1-5**

People were bringing the little children to **OWYAZL** (Yahusha) for Him to place His hands on them. But the disciples rebuked those who brought them. 14 When **OWYAZL** (Yahusha) saw this, He was indignant and told them, “Let the little children come to Me, and do not hinder them! For the kingdom of **AYAZL** (Yahuah) belongs to such as these. 15 Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of **AYAZL** (Yahuah) like a little child will never enter it. **Mark 10: 13-15**

He called a child to him, stood him among them, 3 and said, “Yes! I tell you that unless you change (turn) and become like little children, you won’t even enter the Kingdom of Shamym (Heavens)! 4 So the greatest in the Kingdom is whoever makes himself as humble as this child. **Matthew 18:2-4**

The first (1st) thing that **OWYAZL** (Yahusha) says is needed to enter the kingdom is to change (turn). You need to repent of sin. “**OWYAZL** (Yahusha) says, ‘You must be converted (changed), you must be of another mind, and in another frame and temper, must have other thoughts, both of yourselves and of the kingdom of Shamym (Heavens), before you will be fit for a place in it. The pride, ambition, and affection of honor and dominion, which appear in you, must be repented of, mortified, and reformed.’” We need to turn from our sin, the pride that leads us away from **OWYAZL** (Yahusha). The second (2nd) thing that **OWYAZL** (Yahusha) says is needed to enter the kingdom is to become like a child.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO GO BEFORE **AYAZL (YAHUAH) AS A CHILD**

To go before **AYAZL** (Yahuah) as a child is to go before **AYAZL** (Yahuah) stripped of our sins and doubts, full of wide-eyed inspiration that comes from total Amunah (Faith).

Is **AYAZL** (Yahuah) going to be there when I need Him? A child would say, “Yes!” **AYAZL** (Yahuah) seeks a childlike submissiveness and meekness, a gleeful childlike heart ... and a childlike Amunah (Faith).

Amunah (Faith) builds character, and the process starts when you are a child. Without Amunah (faith), we cannot please **AYAZL** (Yahuah).

“And without Amunah (faith) it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to **AYAZL** (Yahuah) must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.” (**Hebrews 11:6**)

Adults have a tendency to become cynical with age, while a child has yet to be touched by the concerns of the world.

What Qualities Does a Child Have?

- A child is innocent.
- A child is trusting.
- A child believes without complication.
- A child has not had time to allow the preconceived notions of the world to form his decision-making process.
- A child receives with joy, forgetting with light-hearted abandonment.
- A child is humble.
- A child is content in the little things.
- A child has the faith to move mountains.
- A child is awed by majestic splendor.
- A child takes to heart **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah)'s Word in all its simplicity.

וַיֹּאמֶר (Yahusha) is telling us that we need to have this type of trust and Amunah (Faith) in the Father. After all, we are His children. We should be able to come to him as Children, full of innocence, come to their loving father and mother, trusting them to completely take care of them, to protect them, to provide for them, to correct them when they are wrong, and to love and cherish them. In the same way we come trusting, without a doubt, that He loves us and cares for us.

אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) reminds us in His Word that we are indeed his children.

1 John 3:1 “See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah)! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

Psalms 131:2 But I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with its mother; like a weaned child is my soul within me.

Psalms 8:2 Out of the mouth of babies and infants, you have established strength because of your foes, to still the enemy and the avenger.

Proverbs 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.