

### I. Last Time: Coming as a Child to the Lord

First, in what way are we not supposed to act like a child?

- 1) Be guided by feelings—live in the present
- 2) No discernment—ignorance isn't bliss it hurts
- 3) Life is all about me—"delayed gratification."

"Then he [Jesus] said: I promise you this. If you don't change and **become like a child**, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven." Matt 18:3 CEV

"I promise you that you cannot get into God's kingdom, unless you accept it the way **a child does**." Mark 10:15 CEV

Unfortunately, we are childlike in the way we are not supposed to be, but not like children in the way we are supposed to be.

### II. In what way, like children, are we supposed to believe and behave?

1. Children are eager **learners**, always asking lots of questions.
2. Children can accept things by faith that adults would otherwise struggle with. **Trusting**. See Hebrews 11—people who put their faith in God and watched him do the miraculous. They put away their skepticism, cynicism, and disbelief and simply trusted God, placing their faith in His promises to them. "**Holding On to the Promises of the Eternal Word of God.**"

3. Children often depend on others for help and advice. **Humble**.

You see Children are trying to satisfy three basic needs: Let me put them in question form

- 1) Identity—What makes me the person that I am? (Security)
- 2) Purpose—What do I have to offer? What am I good at? (Significance)
- 3) Belonging—Who cares about me? No one understands what I am feeling. I don't even understand what I am feeling (Love)
- 4) The point is this—Children will find whatever or whoever spends the most time with them to get these needs met. They have to be met! They don't have a choice. God made them this way. And as children of God, he has made us this way.

"**As you have** therefore **received Christ**, [even] **Jesus** the Lord, [so] walk (regulate your lives and conduct yourselves) in union with and conformity to Him." Col 2:6

**HDT—Humility. Dependence. Trust. The key to a childlike spirit.**

### I. What does it mean to "receive the Holy Spirit"?

### II. How do we receive the Holy Spirit?

### II. What does it look like when the Holy Spirit is in charge of our lives?

#### Eph 4:25-32—some dos and don'ts

1. "Since you **put away lying, speaking the truth**, each one to his neighbor, because we are members of one another." (v.25)
2. "**Be angry and do not sin**. Don't let the sun go down on your anger." (v.26)
3. "**No foul language is to come from your mouth**, but only what is good for building up someone in need, so that it gives grace to those who hear." (v. 29)
4. "**All bitterness, anger and wrath, shouting and slander** must be removed from you, along with **all malice**." (v.31)
5. "And be **kind and compassionate** to one another, **forgiving** one another, just as God also forgave you in Christ." (v.32)

### III. Questions for consideration:

1. Share your testimony on how you received the Holy Spirit into your life.
2. Which of the list above do you feel pertains to you? How have you found victory over them in the past?
3. What does it mean to "be angry and sin not"? What does "not sinful anger" look like? What are we allowed to be angry at in a godly way?
4. Why do you think Paul adds malice to the list after listing the first ones (v.4)?
5. What drives us to get angry at ourselves and/or others? What are the causes?
6. What changes will you make this week as a result of this passage?
7. What steps are you going to take to see these changes happen?