

CHILDLIKE NOT CHILDISH

In Matthew 11:25, Jesus said: *“I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike.”* Here we see the importance of having a childlike attitude in order to receive revelation from God. While spiritual practices should be approached with intense commitment and resolve, they should not be a cause for too much severity.

Rather, we must be like a child full of innocence, wonder and trust. When we look through the eyes of a child, we see a beautiful world full of promises and an exciting life surrounded with love and no worries. If only we step aside from our adult wisdom and interpretations and assume this childlike attitude, we can readily live and serve God according to His divine will. For it is written: *“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the learning of the learned I will set aside.”* (1 Cor 1:19).

In our ministries, we know we have to be humble and obedient to what we are called to do. But when our duties are seemingly maligned by other members and our efforts pushed aside to give way to our leaders’ directions, do we resort to a childlike or childish attitude? If pride is still very much in us, we either refuse the work assigned to us or quit altogether. This is the childish attitude, letting our ego soar high and thinking that our human wisdom is sufficient to guide us. We must learn to humble ourselves and be childlike asking God for a pure heart. We must always pray to the Holy Spirit to empower us to discern with humility on “duty to know” matters, to be kind even in our disappointments and to exercise fraternal correction and self evaluation, for our spiritual transformation.

As we go through our ministry work, there are many instances that we may act childish but not recognizing it due to one’s pride. Only when our hearts are heavily burdened that we later realize that we had let pride and malice got into our actions. A childlike attitude, on the other hand, makes us feel free and happy, enriching our relationships with the community and most especially with God.

“Amen, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.” (Mt18:3-4)

Let us ask the intercession of our Blessed Mother, the most humble handmaid of the Lord to teach us humility and may her childlike attitude shine in all of us.