

God Needs Faithful Children

Dear children,

Has anyone ever asked you what you would like to do for Jesus? I wonder what your answer was. I can almost hear some of you saying:

"I want to be a preacher."

"I want to be a special singer like sister so and so."

"I want to be a missionary in Africa." Then I wonder, have any of you ever answered something like this:

"I want to watch my baby sister."

"I want to wash the dishes."

"I want to mow the lawn."

"I want to wash and vacuum the car."

By now some of you are probably thinking, "That doesn't sound very much like working for Jesus; that sounds like working for my parents." Are you sure? Let us see if the Bible has an answer for us.

In Matthew 25:40, Jesus says, "And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch

as ye have done *it* unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done *it* unto me." Then in Colossians 3:23 we read, "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men." Now let us see how this scripture applies to you children. Why do you need to mow the lawn? Why watch baby sister? If you watch your baby sister while your mother practices singing, are you not working for the Lord? Do you remember the scripture we just read said that whatsoever we do to one of the brethren (God's children), we have done it unto Jesus? What about if you wash the dishes so that Mother can have her devotions? And can you think of how mowing the lawn could be working for the Lord? Maybe you know already. If you mow the lawn for your father, then when he comes home your parents might have time to invite your neighbour family for the evening and be a blessing to them. Do you know how you could be working for the Lord if you washed and vacuumed the car? I think some of you will have an answer.

Those desires you have to be missionaries, singers, and preachers are very good desires, and that is what prompted me to write this to you. Some of you know that I was in Bolivia for a short mission trip this July, and oh, we do need workers for Jesus! But do you know that even in Bolivia on a mission trip, there are more things to do than preach behind a pulpit? I was able to be a worker for Jesus by washing dishes, getting breakfast ready, and helping cook. There is a scripture I am thinking of right now. It reads something like this: "He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much." See if you can find it in your Bible. Use your concordance or ask one of your siblings or your parents to help you. This is a scripture verse that all you children should memorize because it helps you to realize that you need to be faithful in little things like cleaning your bedroom, fixing your bed,

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brushing your teeth, having your personal devotions every day, and taking care of other responsibilities that your parents give you. But do you know what it means to be faithful? The dictionary describes faithful as true, trustworthy, loyal, the fulfillment of obligations. In other words, it means that you will do the jobs and chores the way you are asked to do them. It means that people can depend on you to do your duty. Therefore, children, if you will be faithful in these little things, then God can entrust you with bigger things. Just remember, you do not need to wait until you are grown to work for Jesus.

I would have enjoyed having some saved children with me in Bolivia. Let me tell you why. There were many children there that needed to hear about Jesus. We would sing children's songs to them, and you should have seen how attentive they were. In the homes and on the streets of Bolivia, the children were watching us with big eyes as they listened to the songs. A lot of these Bolivian children did not know anything about Jesus and much less how they could be saved from their sins. I think most of them had never heard the songs we sang for them. We sang songs like, "The Wise Man Built His House upon a Rock," "Read Your Bible, Pray Every Day," and "My Boat Is So Small." We sang children's songs mostly in the German language. If these children could have seen saved children singing these songs, I believe it would have been an even bigger blessing.


It could very well be that God may call



Some of the ones we sang for

your parents to a mission field somewhere, and then God will need saved children who are living holy lives to witness to the children there.

My dear, saved children, listen to me. You are *never* too little to work for Jesus! Just look around; there are *many* little things that you can do for Him. But remember, you must be *faithful* in the little things first. Then when God sees that He can trust you, He will give you bigger things to do for Him.

I love you and am looking for the Lord to use you in saving others. 

—Sis. Christy Schmidt

TESTIMONIES

I am glad to be saved at a young age. I love the saints; they are a blessing to me. Rom. 8:39 says: "Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." No one can separate me from God or His body. The Lord has done too much for me to want to go back. I desire to do all I can for Him.

Sis. Sarah Boevers (Age 11)
Oklahoma, USA

Dear saints,

Praise the Lord! I am thankful to be saved, sanctified and in the only true Church of God. Last Sunday Bro. Danny preached on "The Old Man." We had a very good service. I am very encouraged, and I am determined to make it all the way to heaven. Stay encouraged.

Sis. Julie Bontrager (Age 7)
Ohio, USA

Our Saviour

As He suffered upon the tree
His enemies laughed in wicked glee.
They thought they were rid of Him
They didn't know He would rise again.

The wicked guards sealed the tomb
While His friends mourned in gloom.

Then our Saviour rose again
Thank you, God, for sending Him.

—Rosanne Yutzky (Age 10)

Handing out candy to the children in a poor area of a Santa Cruz suburb





The Young Heroes Of Faith

Walter was now thirteen years of age—one of the oldest children in the Orphanage. Many children, who had known him since he first came to the Home, noticed the great change in him. Some of them, in whose hearts the good seed sown by the former Christian workers had not been choked, grouped themselves around him, just as those with evil tendencies and bent on mischief had kept close to him before. As the lad was now soundly converted, he became an older brother, teacher and leader to those who kept close to him. Often, especially on Sundays and holidays, when the other children were busily engaged in their own pleasure and fun, this group would quietly steal away to some isolated place and sing the hymns which they had been taught by the Christian workers. Walter, who had heard many sermons since he entered the institution and observed how prayer meetings were conducted, would hold a prayer meeting in the Christians' rendezvous. He would read a chapter in the New Testament and encourage the little people to obey Jesus Christ, to remember all the good teachings of "Papa," and to be good and obedient. It did not take long under Walter's leadership for these followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, who loved Him from the depths of their young hearts, to become a little church of children. Secretly, whenever possible, they stole away from the administration and the other children, to hold their prayer meetings, where they read the Bible, sang hymns of praise and brought all their needs and sorrows to Jesus. That hollow in the ruins provided wonderful hiding places for the precious New Testaments which had been "Papa's" last gift to his little flock. From the blocks of stone lying about, they formed a sort of meeting place. Very seldom did anyone else venture as far as the ruins. Thus, from day to day, the believers lived under disciplinarians who were using every possible means to uproot all faith in God and to banish every thought of Him from the hearts

of their charges.

Walter had not attended any dance, theater, nor moving picture show since he had given his heart to Jesus, neither had he sung the revolutionary songs. Therefore, at one of their meetings, he explained to the other children about these things and asked them to give them up. "These things are sin before the Lord Jesus," explained their leader. "Jesus Christ never danced, nor did He teach others how to dance. He never went to theaters or put on shows for children or grown-up people. He never sang songs that would arouse evil passions in men, against one another or against God. These things are against the teachings of the Gospel, therefore, they are sin. Under 'Papa,' who loved and served Jesus, we did not have anything of the kind. He taught us to be good, to help each other and to love and obey the Lord Jesus Christ with the whole heart." "We will neither dance nor sing the bad songs any more," the children answered with one accord. "We will be punished," added Walter. "But Jesus says in His Gospel, 'They have persecuted me, and they will persecute you.' But I would rather be punished and remain in His love. Let us pray to our Lord to convert them also. Would you be willing to bear punishment for Jesus' sake?" "Yes, Walter," several voices answered. "Jesus suffered for us—so it is written in our Testaments—and we will suffer for Him." The decision of this youthful conference was carried out. Not one of them again participated in any of the activities which they considered as sin and against which Walter had warned them.

Persecuted For Jesus' Sake

It was announced that on the following Sunday there would be a show and that all who would take part in it by singing and dancing would be rewarded with candy. The young servants of Christ held a meeting on Saturday night. They decided not to yield to this temptation and thus sin against Jesus, not even for a price of candy. When Sunday brought its enticement, each child in the group stood true to his convictions and declined to participate in the entertainment. This action greatly annoyed the whole staff of workers. Then the superintendent questioned them, saying, "Why will you not enter into the pleasure? Who has influenced you?" Walter answered for the rest, "All these things are sinful in the sight of the Lord Jesus Christ! He has taught us not to sin, and we want to obey Him." This reply so enraged the superintendent that she de-

cidated to punish them all and thus force them to obey her commands. She warned the whole group that if they refused to take part the following Sunday, each of them would go without dinner for several days. For exceedingly hungry children, this threat was a severe trial. Of late the food had grown worse daily and decreased in amount, so that they had been hungry all the time. At the first opportunity they gathered in their refuge and wept and prayed. They told the Lord Jesus how they were abused and had no one else to whom they could go in their troubles. "Help us, dear Jesus, give us strength to endure all and not sin against Thee." Again they all decided rather to suffer hunger than to partake in any sinful activity. The week passed. Sunday came. The superintendent felt confident that the assembled children would yield to her demands and that her threats would have more effect than offering inducements. To her great surprise, the whole group resolutely refused to take any part in the show. The rage of the woman knew no bounds, and she saw to it that her threat was carried out the same day. That day was the beginning of many trials for these little heroes of faith. When the dinner bell rang and all the children came running from different directions to get their meager supply of food, this group of believing children was forced to remain without food for Jesus' sake. In order to intensify their punishment, they were compelled to ring the dinner bell and call the rest of the children to their meals. While the others were eating, they sought a quiet, unobserved corner, where they bowed their knees and prayed to Jesus. In a simple, childlike way they asked Him to help them in their trials and to forgive and save these cruel people. The superintendent and nurses became more incensed than ever as they realized that neither flattery nor inducements, nor severe punishments had any effect. Uncontrollably angry, they treated the children in a most heartless, cruel manner. But Walter was made to suffer the most. The rest of the children, incited and egged on by their educators, daily threw stones at the Christians, struck them and subjected them to every conceivable indignity. As a reward the offenders were praised by the administration, called "good communistic pioneers," and offered gifts for their bold acts.

Adapted from *Little Lame Walter*,
by N.I. Saloff-Astakhoff
To be continued