

Truly Like A Little Child

by Genelda K. Woggon

Jesus commended little children because they were innocent and pure, eager for whatever blessings that were offered. All of us, children and adults, are to return to the innocent trust of a child, becoming childlike and open. But not childish and controlling, as does a spoiled brat with a “temper tantrum,” if we are to be able to receive the deeper and wider gifts God has to offer us. My husband, Harry Arthur Woggon, wrote the following poem ©1976/2005 that shares these sentiments:

1: Truly, truly, I say to you

open the door of your heart;

welcome the Lord as a start,

fold the wings of your mind,

grow in the Spirit to find:

the Peace of the Lord within, within,

the Peace of the Lord within.

Refrain:

like a little child

like a little child

winsome and wild

innocent and pure

trusting for sure.

2: Truly, truly, I say to you

the wind is blowing were it will;

calling us to be more still;

drawing us to higher heights

moving us to farther flights:

the Peace of the Lord without, without,

the Peace of the Lord without.

Refrain:

3: Truly, truly, I say to you

When you stumble on the rocks of sin,

missing the mark both without and within,

cry not in self-pity nor curse the land,

reach out and take His outstretched hand:

the Peace of the Lord above, above,

the Peace of the Lord above.

Refrain:

4: Truly, truly, I say to you

listen carefully as others speak

gently, forcefully, sometimes meek,

unfolding the wings of your mind, reply

in words that are gentle but do not deny:

the Peace of the Lord below, below,

the Peace of the Lord below.

Refrain:

5: Truly, truly, I say to you

close the circle and be at peace;
welcoming wholeness and pains release
by reaching out to the Father above
through Jesus' power and that of the Dove:
the Peace of the Lord all round, all round,
the Peace of the Lord all round.

Refrain:

Genelda Woggon has been ministered to and by children for over 40 years in her professional work as a Christian Formation Leader, most especially through the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd for the past 20 years. She coordinates the work of the Catechesis at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Asheville, NC and also serves as Consultant for the Catechesis in the Diocese of Western North Carolina. "In the summer of 1976 our friend, Rosemay Crow, was inspired to write a lovely piece of music for a shorter version of this poem. It was later recorded with other selections of her original music in 1982. At the time she was serving as the Choir Director of Trinity Episcopal Church, Asheville, NC."