

Faith Like A Child

*Dear God - surround me as I speak
The bridges that I walk across are weak
And the frustrations fill the void that I can't solely bear*

*Dear God - don't let me fall apart
You've held me close to you but I have turned away
And searched for answers I can't understand*

*They say that I can move the mountains and send them falling to the sea
They say that I can walk on water if I would follow and believe
With faith like a child*

Contemporary Christian group, JARS OF CLAY, burst onto the music scene in 1995 with their debut album that took the airwaves by storm and have been a fan favorite since with many classic hits like this one, "*Faith Like A Child*."

The Bible never uses the words "childlike faith," but faith is central to our walk with God. In fact, faith is essential to life as a believer. Faith is both necessary and a gift. Without faith, it is impossible to please God (Heb 11:6), and we are saved by grace, through faith - and that faith doesn't come from our works, it is a gift from God (Eph 2:8-9). Faith is not something that we produce within ourselves. Like an essential piece of armor, we are fitted with faith so that we are protected from Satan's warfare against us (Eph 6:16).

Faith is a humble quality, which is perhaps why it is associated with childlikeness. Jesus' disciples were concerned with which of them was the greatest, or the closest to Him, or the most important. But Jesus responded to their debate by taking a small child to His side and saying that the least among them was the greatest (Luke 9:46-48). He told them that they need to "become like children" (Matthew 18:3) in order to enter the kingdom of God. The faith God looks for is a humble, teachable, and trusting disciple - like a child. Jesus emphasized this kind of faith when he said "*Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it*" (Mark 10:14-15).

Childlike faith is saving faith. We are justified by faith with no condemnation but only peace - which is entirely of God (Rom 5:1& 8:1). We depend on God's provision for everything, even the good works we do in His name (Eph 2:10). The world misunderstands the idea of childlike faith, thinking that believers are childlike because they believe in myths and fairytales. But this is not the Bible's meaning when it compares us to children. Instead, childlike faith is a metaphor for love, trust, dependence, and an encouragement to ask for what we need from our Savior (Matt 7:11).

Keep the (Childlike) Faith,

Bro. Andrew