



### Little Children, Baptism, and New Life!

**“[Jesus said,] ‘Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it.’ And He took them up in His arms, laid His hands on them, and blessed them” (Mark 10:14-16).**

My newborn was dressed in white lace, cradled tenderly in her godmother’s arms. To the eyes, she was the picture of perfection, a tiny cherub. However, while the text above was being read during the Rite of Holy Baptism in our church, she certainly didn’t act the part of cherub: No one could hear the pastor’s thundering voice reading God’s Word over her screams and shrieks of dissatisfaction! Her godmother looked at me questioningly over the font, having swayed and bounced the baby to no avail. I nodded, and we transferred the baby to my arms in the middle of the reading. Immediately, my baby hushed her wailing! Her contented silence was so abrupt that the congregation gasped audibly, and then we all chuckled!

We could hypothesize whether my “angelic” infant was at that moment having a struggle with her sinful flesh or just expressing her emotional need for “mama.” But one thing’s for sure—Baptism effects in us a change much more dramatic, much more striking than a screaming baby suddenly silenced: Baptism brings to life that which was dead!

Each and every one of you, each of your children, is precious to the Lord. Thus, He instituted Baptism for them and for you! Baptism “works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.” This Baptism is what makes us like little children who receive God’s kingdom: **“See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God”** (1 John 3:1, NIV)! When we see the reflections of sinful nature cropping up in life, we can cling to our Baptisms and to the forgiveness of

sins found at the font. When we reflect on Baptism, we see God giving new life to His children, and that life shines through them to others in their lives and communities.

New life in Christ can't help but be contagious! Life shining in God's children, both young and old, permeates our interactions with others. Jesus, in the Sermon on the Mount, says that like a city on a hill or a lamp on a stand, Christians let their lights shine before others in good works, so they give glory to the Father who is in heaven (Matthew 5:16). As God's beloved child, serving your family and community, you have been appointed to bear fruit—chosen to share God's love and life and forgiveness with others!

*All who believe and are baptized  
Shall see the Lord's salvation;  
Baptized into the death of Christ,  
They are a new creation.  
Through Christ's redemption they shall stand  
Among the glorious, heav'nly band  
Of ev'ry tribe and nation.  
With one accord, O God, we pray:  
Grant us Your Holy Spirit.  
Help us in our infirmity  
Through Jesus' blood and merit.  
Grant us to grow in grace each day  
That by this sacrament we may  
Eternal life inherit. (LSB 601)*

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank You for creating faith in my heart through the precious waters of Baptism. I am now Your child, given new life through the Holy Spirit. Guide me to cling always to Christ with a childlike faith and to share the joy of salvation with others. Please help me to love and serve with Christlike love all those whom You would bring into my life. In Jesus' name, Amen.

For further meditation: Matthew 5; Romans 6:1-11; Mark 10; 2 Corinthians 5