

# Power, Part 1

Hymns from "Favorite Hymns of Grace."

## Greeting and Opening Prayer

### Hymns of Worship

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## Devotional Summary: "Power, Part 1"

*Matthew 18:1-4 (KJV) At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? 2 And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, 3 And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. 4 Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.*

Vs. 1 - "greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" The question of "great" was asked from the standpoint of earthly, natural, mortal understanding. But, it was answered in the light of heavenly, eternal truth. So, as we approach the topic of "power" in our Christian experience, we must exercise the utmost trust in the teachings of our Master, our Savior, Jesus Christ. We will note that, though He would have been perfectly right in saying so, He did not reply with a resounding, "Me!" No, for here He underlines how precious and rare His humble little children are to Him. Even so, I believe when we all gather in victory and joy around the throne in Glory to praise our Majestic King we will find that **HE IS** the most humble and childlike and meek and lowly in all of the halls of heaven!

*Matthew 11:28-30 (KJV) Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*

Vs. 2 - "a little child" - What an object lesson! Not just a young person - a LITTLE child - humble, innocent, eager to learn and instinctively willing to follow. Can you see these big fishermen and tax collectors and freedom fighters pushing and shoving to get the best view around this tiny helpless one? How flabbergasted and confused they must have been for the Teacher to put on center stage such an insignificant member of the crowd. THIS ONE is the greatest?

Vs. 3 - "be converted and become" - Here we have a marvelous definition of Christian maturity. In order to grow "up" we have to grow "down." As Doug Small says, "Grab a towel and make a mad dash to the back of the line!" Jesus is our example. He is our Teacher. And He is teaching us here that there has to be more than a superficial adjustment in our lives: we have to change from the inside out. Our being has to be converted - transformed - from one thing into another. And this conversion is not something we can do by ourselves. We cannot earn or will ourselves into heaven - Jesus said, "You must be born again (or from above)!" To "become" has to do with the idea of "to begin to be." This beckons each of us to embrace the process of change that God Almighty is working into our lives. Right now. In this place. In these circumstances. God is still working in our lives. We are called to humble ourselves like a LITTLE CHILD and accept His handiwork, His will for our life...right now! Like a little child,

put your faith in your Heavenly Father...He is still working on you. He, most assuredly, still loves you. Look to Him for your sustenance. For strength to your faith. For courage to your hope.

***"While you have the Light, believe in the Light, in order that you may become sons of Light"*** (John 12:36 LEB). BELIEVE!!!!!!! Faith in Jesus Christ is the doorway into the passageway of HOPE of eternal life! "...that you may become..." If you are a child of God, you are a child of Light, **and**, you are "becoming" a child of Light. You are not as far along in your maturity as a Child of God as you could be but you are much farther along than you were. You proceed with every step by faith. You are pulled along in your faith journey by hope: hope that is anchored in the solid reality of God Almighty in your life, manifested by the presence of the Holy Spirit in your heart. So, hope is not based on a "theory." Hope is based on a relationship that begins and proceeds by your faith in Jesus Christ who lives IN YOU! You "believe in the Light" and, consequently, you are "becoming" more and more a being of growing Light - a fountain of FAITH and HOPE. There is "light at the end of the tunnel!" You can see it. It is there. You are not there yet, but you have HOPE! Hope that is based on your faith. Not faith in yourself, or the preacher, or the president, or your money, or your smarts...NOOOO! **Faith in Jesus Christ that He will do what He said He will do! What you cannot do for yourself!**

## Little Ones of the Master

by Jerry Johnson

I had the honor of getting to know a dear sweet lady a few years ago. Though a precious, weathered saint of God, she never preached great flowery sermons; never won a city full of heathens to Jesus; she never impressed anyone that I know of with being all that spiritually mighty. But what I learned from knowing her was God's perspective of His little children. He doesn't keep score the way we do...He's looking on the heart. No one took note as she faithfully read her little devotional book and knelt beside her bed most every morning for fifty years to ask God to somehow get her through each day. She was never the Bible teacher at church; she always went to learn. But the Lord gave me the honor of seeing into this magnanimous soul. I remember her drawing on all her courage to stand in a chapel service during "Testimony time," pushing her little fists down by her side, and with all her heart simply asserting, "I love Jesus!" Anyone can say the words. She meant it. Inside her humble soul, wrapped in a frail, worn body was found a rare, solid-iron, death-defying faith in her Savior. The time came for me to stand, shocked, beside what I knew to be her deathbed. I asked God what I could say. I felt He didn't want ME to say anything. I asked HIM what HE wanted to say. He replied in His tender way to my heart, "Suffer my little child to come unto me." I wrote this poem that night.

They're precious, innocent, trusting, sublime:

Little ones of the Master,

Unaged by the passing of time.

Believing beyond any hope of reason:

Little ones of the Master,

Warmed from within, this winter season.

Passing their memories, their faults and cares,

Little ones of the Master  
Feel pain only their Father shares.

A moment's suffering a lifetime long,  
Little Ones of the Master  
Bear their cross with a silent song.  
Touching everyone, holding no one firm,  
Little ones of the Master  
Lean on Him their hopes to confirm.  
Wordless, they defy the doubts of mankind:  
Little ones of the Master  
Are a shout of eternal rhyme!

Bold at the threshold of Destiny's door:  
Little ones of the Master,  
Childlike, embark from mortal shore;  
For they, most clearly, hear the call from across the sea  
To the little ones of the Master:  
"Suffer My little children to come unto me."

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**Vs. 4 - *"the greatest in the kingdom."*** Who are the mighty ones, the great ones, standing in the presence of the King in the kingdom of Heaven? His little children.

Do not despair if God tarries with you here. Do not give in to the temptation to give up on God. Do not think that you are insignificant in His eyes because you cannot teach Sunday School any more, or sing in the choir any more. If no one comes to you for advice, if you feel like life has left you behind, if you feel like you have been put on the shelf and forgotten...take comfort little child. He knows your loneliness. He knows your suffering. He will never leave you. He will never forsake you. Reach out and take the mighty hand that your Father extends to you. ***There is your power! Holding HIS omnipotent hand!*** Let Him lead you each step of the way to the Promised Land. His little children are the greatest...in His eyes!

### Closing Hymn

Only Trust Him p. 13

### Prayer Requests and Corporate Prayer

### The Lord's Prayer

### Recessional