

The Work of Weaning: Psalm 131

PSALM 131 by King David, one of the shortest Psalms to read, one of the longest to learn.

"...unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of Heaven." Matthew 18:3

I. Babies are usually adorable.

A. Even though they are self-centered and demanding:

Howls in the night--that sound bad tempered, but are not really so. Howls and cries announce distress--especially--"I'm hungry".

B. Babies know *the law of demand and supply*--forcibly expressed demands that will be problematic if *weaning does not occur*.

1. Fathers are told to "bring up children in the training of the LORD"
2. There is something better than a plump healthy baby with smooth cheeks, little waving hands and feet--namely, *a weaned child*.

Parents are no longer there merely to meet an infant's desires and demands. Mom is wisely authoritative and speaks the truth in love. Weaning ends babyhood. Weaned persons wait quietly, confidently—even under pressure: Isaiah 30:15.

This is the point of the Psalm. We know something of ourselves. We know the LORD. We quietly hope in Him--weaned from demands, content with His choices.

II. God spiritually weans His children.

A. A weaned child has a place at the table that a tiny infant does not.

1. The weaned little one can eat solid food and say "thank you" and "please" and wait his/her turn.

2. Things change not just at the table. We take responsibility for the state of our dispositions and our desires. This is responsibility, the “work of weaning.”

B. In initial forgiveness, justification, and the new birth (regeneration) we do nothing--nothing but believe--that is all: Romans 4:5, Exodus 14:13,14, John 4:10.

1. Not so in sanctification: "Surely, **I have calmed and quieted my soul**--like weaned child..." Effort required: think **taming a tiger**.

2. "my soul" is a many faceted word--*emotions, passions, desires, appetites*--that makes up my inner person.

3. "fightings within and fears without, O Lamb of God I come" every believer is a battleground--the battle surges this way, then it surges that way. James 4:1 "Your desires that battle within you"

4. Galatians 5:16,17. "This is the situation created by the fall--dislocation of the human personality" (Alec Motyer *Journey*)

Solved by Christ at the cross and at the last sinless, yet **we wrestle** not with flesh and blood--but the powers of darkness.

By holy effort we master our spirits--toward God we are not rebellious, toward man we are not haughty. Focused effort required.

C. When our personal lives are disrupted, our souls are stormy--we are tempted to be babies again--forcibly expressing our demands!

How many nursing infants are there who should be fathers by now?

How many wives are shocked to find out not long after they are married that they married a boy who never grew up—never knew of, or attended to, “the work of weaning”? And husbands vice versa?

III. Weaned Children *hope*.

A. Hope is a permanent stance toward the future, near and far: I Timothy 1:1; Colossians 1:5; I John 3:1-3

1. What if we are not like George Mueller? What if we are even close to "praying Hyde" or Amy Carmichael?

Maybe God likes to hear you talk to Him, naturally, confidently, familiarly--through the day--about your various weaning situations.

2. "my heart" vs.1 The heart is every facet of the hidden life: what we do, feel, and think on the inside.

Proverbs 4:23 Keep your heart...do not let it put on unreal shows--"not haughty"

Luke 24 shows how a slow heart turns to a burning heart--exposure to the scriptures in the presence of Jesus.

3. "Nor my eyes not lofty": wrongly self-important. Pride has its seat in the heart and its expression in the eyes."

Why do all lives really matter? Genesis 1:27

4. I do not preoccupy myself with problems I can never solve.

"great matters" human projects of great scale.

“Things too profound" questions in the divine sphere. There will always be an infinite gulf between God's creatures and Himself.

B. That I may know Him: John 17:3 Philippians 3:10

1. **Note how the Psalm begins:** "LORD"

2. **Note how the Psalm concludes:** hope in the LORD...forever.

Hymn 290 Who is this song addressed to?

