

**Weekly Devotions  
South Holburn Church  
17<sup>th</sup> August 2021**

## **READINGS**

Trust in the LORD with all your heart  
and lean not on your own understanding;  
in all your ways submit to him,  
and he will make your paths straight.

*Proverbs 3:5-6*

People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.

*Mark 10:13-16*

At that time Jesus said, 'I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure. All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.'

*Matthew 11:25-30*

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for.

*Hebrews 1:1*

## REFLECTION

I was watching television the other night; it was one of those reality police shows filled with car chases. One snippet they showed was a policeman approaching a car which he had just pulled over for speeding – not usually a pleasant situation for anyone. This officer went up to the car and said, “Now sir, any idea what speed you were doing?” In an attempt to avoid a penalty, the driver tried to look innocent and said, “No sir, I have no idea what speed I was doing.” The policeman wrote in his notebook as he read aloud – “No idea what speed you were doing – well I guess then I can write down any speed I like then?” The driver soon changed his story and admitted he was going about 15 miles an hour over the speed limit.

Some people approach God a bit like the driver talks to the policeman. Trying to manipulate God to get what they want. Others approach God with demands, telling God how to do what they want and when to do it.

Too easily we fall into a trap of thinking we know how God works, convinced that, because we have been good and faithful, we will get what we want.

It's arrogance to come to God like that. But yet many people do so. Even in Church. We work out our programmes, our campaigns, we hold our discussions and make our decisions, and then come to God sure that he will bless our plans! And then we wonder why God doesn't do what we wanted him to do!

The opposite of this approach is not a faith filled with a lack of confidence.

Rather the opposite of an arrogant faith, is a child-like faith. A faith that trusts completely in God. A faith that waits for God. A faith that turns to God at the start of the day. A faith that turns to God at the start of whatever it is we are thinking about. A child-like faith is a faith which is dependent on God, rather than a faith where demands that God depends on us.

Such a faith causes us to look to God for leadership, to look to God for guidance, and above all else to look to God to lead us as individuals and as a church. All of that requires trust, a whole lot of trust - but Jesus makes it clear to us that we can trust God. We can trust God because God loves us and is willing to bear our heavy burdens of self-dependence.

So let us entrust God with our lives and with our Church. Let us be like children in the faith, eager to learn the things of God, desperate to follow where God leads, and excited by what God is planning for us.

## PRAYER

Father God,  
You have us in your embrace,  
You hold us in the palm of your hand,  
You seek to protect, to lead, to show your love to us.  
Forgive us when we have been arrogant enough to ignore you in our lives.  
Teach us to trust you Lord,

With that child-like faith.

In Jesus name we offer our prayers,  
Amen.

