



Pastor's Page

"Faith In Children"



It was very difficult to get to sleep, not just because I was in a strange bed but also because I had a dreadful cough that I couldn't seem to shake off. As I lay in my bed coughing uncontrollably, feeling miserable and anxious as this bronchial infection took a grip, I suddenly became aware of another's presence. Though I couldn't quite see or fully comprehend I knew I wasn't alone. I sensed the loving care of a father's hands comforting, reassuring and protecting me. The coughing continued but in the security of that secret place where the father's heart reached out to mine I eventually drifted into a deep and peaceful sleep.

That was summer 1958 and I was 2½ years old! I remember nothing of the incident yet I know the story well as my father has told it many times. I have to confess even 48 years after the event I still feel moved when I hear my Dad retelling the tale. For it reveals something very special about him, namely that he cared deeply for his young son and he demonstrated this by doing two priceless things that summer night in Cricieth; Firstly he stayed with me, and secondly he prayed for me. As he says, he knelt by my bed pleading with the Lord to stop my coughing. And as he prayed, soon his mind went on to think about all the great things that the Lord had done for him. It wasn't long (he tells me) before he was lost in wonder, love and praise. Then suddenly he was brought back down to earth by a very human sound – the sound of a small boy snoring! The coughing had stopped, the prayer had been answered and my Father, relived and overjoyed, gave thanks to his heavenly Father.

My dad is far from perfect (as my mother will testify!) but the great thing that he and my mother have done for me throughout my life is to pray for me. And one of their prayers was that I would come to know Jesus as my own saviour. I have! That's another prayer that God has answered. This is the great hope of all Christian parents for their children and this is the greatest prayer that any parent can pray for their child.

Today we are dedicating a child to God, thanking Him for the gift and the potential of this new life and for all that He gives to us through children. Parents will be making promises to bring this baby up in the Christian community and to share their faith in Christ with her. And as we consider all this perhaps it is a good time to think again about our own faith in Jesus. God loves us and like a caring Father who comes to the aid of his young distressed son, God comes to our rescue in the person of Jesus. The Bible says "If God is for us who can be against us? He who did not spare his own son but gave him up for us all – how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?" (Romans 8: 31-32) God gave the most precious thing he had in order that you and I might know his unsurpassable love. And how do we discover this incredible love? By putting our trust in Jesus. To know this love is to enter the Kingdom of God and Jesus said ***"Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these."*** (Mark 10:14)

Yes we must pray for our children and never hinder them from coming to Jesus and if we are serious about following Him we must be humble enough to learn from them too.

26th November 2006