

## Be Still My Child

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Jesus was once asked about greatness in His kingdom. He answered the question by bringing a child into view of the crowd. Then, Jesus said something unusual and unexpected: “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven” (Matt. 18:3-4).

As adults, we are perplexed by this teaching. The qualities of maturity are found in adults, not children. How are we expected to become like children to enter the kingdom of God?

A few weeks ago, we sang the song, “Be Still.” The lyrics are sung from the perspective of God, our Father. He calls us to be still and recognize His power and protection. Notice the lyrics.

Be still and know that I am God.

Be still my child, be still.

For I created all of life.

Be still, my child, be still.

Exalt My name above the earth.

Be still my child, be still.

For I am watching over you.

Be still, my child, be still.

### Being Still

**1). Getting our attention.** This song calls us to be still. That is an anthem for all parents! Parents constantly try to get their small children to be still. A parent can hold their child in front of them, but the child keeps moving. The parent will grab the cheeks of the child, but the child will keep moving their eyes left and right. For a parent, this is a maddening

exercise! But why do we expend so much energy to get our children to be still? To get their attention.

God our Father is trying to get our attention. He has blessed our lives and sent us a Savior. But we are often like energetic children. We are busy. We are easily distracted. We are moving in multiple directions. We are focused on other priorities. We do not have time to be still and give God our attention.

The most powerful way God has spoken to get our attention was through sending the world His Son. If we do not pay attention to His voice, we will miss our salvation. The Bible warns, "Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it" (Heb. 2:1). When Israel did not pay attention to the voice of God, they were punished. We must learn from their example (Heb. 3:7-15).

We need to calm our hearts and quiet our minds. The fast-paced whirl of the world can consume us. Jesus warned about the cares of this world choking God's word (Matt. 13:22). We need quiet time to read the Bible. We need to clear our minds in worship. We need a calm moment to pray. We need to be still and pay attention to our Father.

We must be still to set our hearts and minds on the things of God. Paul wrote, "If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth" (Col. 3:1-2).

**2). Receiving instruction.** God wants us to be still and give Him our attention for Him to give us instruction. There is a message He has for us. He wants us to learn from His teaching.

Like a Father, God teaches us how to be human. He teaches us how to reflect His glory. He teaches us about what is dangerous and harmful for us. He teaches us what will bless our lives and save our souls. This is what the apostle John meant when he wrote that God's commands are not burdensome (1 John 5:3). God wants what is best for His children.

Our Father's teaching comes from eternal love. He wants us to avoid pain and regret and experience healing and renewal. He wants us to flourish and realize the full potential with which He has endowed us. For our Father's hopes for us to become a reality, we must receive His instruction and implement His ways.

James captured this when he wrote, "...let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the

implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves” (Jas. 1:19-22).

**3). Love the Father.** If we give God our attention and receive His instruction, we will grow in our love for Him. The lyrics of “Be Still” ask us to exalt His name for His creative power and protection. He has promised to save His children. Paul wrote, that God would “sustain us to the end, guiltless, in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Cor. 1:8).

Parents love their children deeply. Their love initiates an affectionate relationship with their children. When children begin to understand the guidance of their parents stems from love, they will grow in their admiration for their parents. Describing this dynamic, John wrote that we love God because He first loved us (1 John 4:10).

### **Conclusion**

We live in a busy world. There is a lot of noise and chaos. There are distractions. There is constant competition for our attention. Stillness can help us filter out the madness and disorder of the world. Stillness is essential to becoming a child of God’s kingdom.

***Be still and know that I am God.***