

AH, A CHILD SINCERITY

By Marc W. Gibson

Little Jimmy, aged five, and was very proud of the fact that he could say his prayers by himself without any coaching. This didn't keep his parents from checking on him; to be sure he didn't forget anything during his personal nightly prayers.

One night, while listening at the bedroom door, the parents heard Jimmy add one or two of his own thoughts. He had just finished his "God bless Mom; God bless Dad; and God bless Grandma." Normally, he would have hopped right into bed.

This particular night, however, he stayed on his knees a moment longer. Finally, he looked up and said earnestly: "And please take care of yourself, God, 'cause if anything happens to You, we're all sunk!!"

"At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, 'Who then is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?' And He called a child to Himself and stood him in their midst, and said, 'Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.'" (Matthew 18:1-4)

Out of the mouths of babes! Who can deny the sincerity and honesty of a child's heart? Yet, in time, that heart will become the heart of an adult. What kind of heart will it be? Much depends on what he's taught, along with what he sees and hears. A child's heart does not feel hatred, envy, jealousy, prejudice, disrespect for authority, or lack of love for God. An innocent child, because of what he sees and hears from others, develops these characteristics.

Parents, what are you placing in your children's hearts? What are we, who are older, more mature Christians, teaching the children who observe us? Let us strive to diligently help them develop good and honest hearts. We don't want them to be lost because of us! ***
(MWG—some added by KMG)***