

Minister's Website Article May 2020

When was the last time you giggled, and didn't care what anybody thought? When was the last time you enjoyed being silly; the last time you danced and shouted and sang and didn't wonder if people would think you've gone crazy? When was the last time you laid on the grass and watched the clouds or stars?

I saw a recent advert saying that now, in lockdown, it's the perfect time to let go and be yourself - dance across the room, be free.

That's why I want to talk about prayer. And I want to apologise on behalf of every church person who has given you the wrong idea about praying to God. Praying to God is not about being sombre and serious. When you've decided to follow Jesus, you are in relationship with God, like a child to a loving father. You're safe. So, there is a childlike joy in knowing you're accepted. Not just accepted - acceptable. Not just acceptable - you're cherished, no matter what. To know THAT is what it means to be childlike. No matter how boring some prayers were you heard in the past, real prayer reflects that kind of joy. That is biblical.

Childlikeness is very honest. Were you ever embarrassed by your child's honesty? Perhaps you brought a friend home and, horrors! your son said, 'You're fat!' Maybe you visited relatives, and your daughter said, 'I didn't want to come, but mum made me.' Or, at your friend's home, your child says, 'This food tastes funny.'

Children say what they think, act how they feel. Have you ever wondered if it's okay to be angry with God? Duh! Do you think he doesn't know if you're angry? So you might as well be yourself. When you tell him you love him, and are pleased with what he's done in your life, and you aren't really, do you think he doesn't know?

One of the most important things about prayer is that I can say whatever I need to, and God will accept me and love me. Some things I say to God I wouldn't say anywhere else. Nobody else would understand. I'm a minister, and people expect me to behave a certain way, whether I feel like it or not. They expect me to be pure and good, sweet and nice all the time. I do my best. But I don't have to do that with God. So if you pass our house and hear me yell, don't worry. It might not be directed at my wife, but at God.

If the frustration gets too much - pray, like you should.

Every blessing

Duncan