

*cognition of the children.* Even the infants, whom his disciples regarded as unwarrantably intruded upon his attention by their mothers, were most tenderly welcomed by Him, and their interest in Him emphatically asserted. He took them up in his arms, placed his hands upon them, and blessed them, saying, “Suffer the little children; and forbid them not to come unto me, for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven.” What an affecting spectacle was that! How condescending, how gentle, how full of human as well as Divine Love, was this Prince of the Kings of the Earth! No wonder that He was a favourite with the little ones! Well did it become them to shout His welcome with all the fire of youthful enthusiasm!

There are many instances of the Lord's praises being perfected by *very youthful* hearts and voices. Many such are not placed on record. Were we more expectant of the blessing of the Lord upon our offspring; and more skilful in developing, and fostering infant piety, these instances would be greatly multiplied. It is a hard matter even for an adult to declare his religious convictions and desires, to any person whose whole conduct, and conversation, towards him, makes no provision for such a committal. Very few children know any friend, to whom they could naturally, and freely, breathe the sigh of penitent sorrow, or of spiritual desire. Their parents, pastors and teachers, are too often, the last persons to whom they would dare to reveal such heart secrets. Is there any cause for wonder that the children of the covenant do not “spring up as the grass,” when they are left to struggle for spiritual life in a desert, where none of the arts of husbandry are employed! Many young enquirers have been checked, and frowned upon, by sincere Christians, through slowness of heart to believe what the Lord has promised concerning the little ones. The vigorous shoots of infant piety were mistaken for noxious weeds of childish inconsiderateness, or presumption. The fact is, that very many children even of Godly parents, are virtually abandoned to the current of worldliness, during their childish years. Though the seal of the covenant may have been put upon them in infancy, it is evident that no spiritual baptism is looked for, until they shall have outgrown childish ways and feelings. They may indeed be diligently taught the histories and doctrines of the Bible; and trained to the practice of various moral and religious duties; but in most cases, this is the whole of their religious education! They are often, as it were, packed in a religion of icy doctrine and ceremony, without an attempt to warm and quicken their moral nature into a present life of holy love. They are not taught that the first thing they should do in a religious life, is to come at once to Jesus by faith; and devote themselves, with all their childhood, to active endeavours to please and honour Him. Even many ministers, and Sabbath school teachers, would be greatly perplexed to know how to treat very young enquirers as to the way of salvation. Indeed all *theorists* are quite at sea, when called to deal practically with little children that are being enlightened and taught of God. Perhaps no man living on this continent, has had fuller experience, in this department of pastoral oversight, than the Rev. Dr. Tyng of New York. Yet he tells us that he was completely driven from his deliberate plan in the following instance:

“A little girl, not twelve years old, in my Sunday School, came to me, to ask admission to the Church of God.”

“My dear child,” said I, after conversation, “I think you are very young.”

“Well, Dr. Tyng, I know I am very young; but you preach to us, that it is never too young to love Christ.”