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**THE STAND**  
**FAITHFUL IN THINGS LITTLE**

The person, God says, faithful in little things will be faithful in big things. That message needs to be heard early on. It is, if we follow the biblical admonition to train up a child in the way that child should go. Training is critical, training from others, adults, parents, family, school, and the training of self. No child can grow up healthy and functional unless the child learns how to train self.

The child delights in little things. Like the first step. Walking for the first time is an exhilarating experience. The child stands, and balances, and the juvenile brain barks commands to left leg and right leg, to left foot and right foot, as though instinctively. And the legs with little steps learn how to walk. The sensation of the feet at work must be a marvelous thing for the child to experience. The knees, good for crawling only, now go from horizontal to vertical and the child is flooded with all new sensation, wonderful sensations. The ordinary for us as adults is nothing short of extraordinary for this world-exploring and growing child. Things we adults take for granted, until they are grown of course, are wondrous exhilarating experiences for the child. It is perhaps only when accident or illness force us to hobble, walk with a cane, or sit in a wheelchair that we adults remember how extraordinary it is to do such simple things, even as the child does. There is so much we adults take for granted which the child never does.

The grateful and faithful Christian is one who is aware of and thankful for the ordinary. The aware Christian thanks God for everything, including and especially the ordinary. And so we give thanks to God at all times, without ceasing for all divine blessings and the truly grateful person in prayer to God is perhaps thankful first for all the little and ordinary things as the child is.

We are told that we should be thankful in prayer without ceasing. That seems impossible for who can spend every waking moment in prayer without stopping. Verbally, outwardly, not possible. But prayer is contact and communication, a direct line to a Heavenly Father never interrupted. The prayerful communication starts with the spirit, non-verbal, always one with God. The line of communication picks up the groanings, the deepest sensations and feelings of the human being which God bellows with or without words. In that sense, constant communication, we who love are in prayer at all times, WITHOUT CEASING. A mere natural step forward, almost always done instinctively and subconsciously, can be taken prayerfully and gratefully if we so desire. The step, done alone and without awareness can be elevated to walking with God, one grateful step at a time. If we care to take our human awareness and our relationship with God to that ordinary level. But as grateful people, we should, shouldn't we?

For how drastically life would change if we could not take that one step, with or without God. If you could not walk, what would your life be like? How radically would it change? To comprehend life without walking is to be eternally and passionately grateful for life with walking. Faithful and grateful in little things.

So often, the passions and ambitions of adulthood are unfulfilling. No matter how valued, they may fail to satisfy. It seems at such times, whether conscious or not, we return to childhood values and priorities. When the complexities of adulthood fail to satisfy, the joys of childhood seem never to fail to do so. We become then as little children, joyful in little things, and faithful in those little things, conscious and appreciate of those little things and we give thanks to God without ceasing.

May there be the joy, passion and delight of the child in you more so than ever in the New Year. You will, if so, be a much better adult!