

Childlike Faith, Renewed Minds

A Letter to the One Who Loves God but Has Forgotten to Study Him

By Justin Reed | Brushwood Press

From a Quiet Room with an Open Bible

You know, I've been thinking lately about something I believe we've gotten terribly wrong in the church.

Somewhere along the way, it became virtuous to distrust the mind. To raise a suspicious eyebrow at anyone who studied too deeply, read too much, or asked too many questions. As if to open your Bible with a pen in hand was a prideful thing to do. As if theology were the playground of the arrogant, while the truly faithful simply believe.

But I wonder—have we misunderstood what it means to trust God?

God Doesn't Ask Us to Turn Off Our Brains—He Redeems Them

When Solomon says in Proverbs, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding”—he isn't saying, “turn off your brain.” He's saying: “Don't trust a brain that isn't kneeling.” There is a world of difference.

He is not rebuking the mind. He is rebuking the unsubmitted mind.

In fact, Solomon—of all people—pleads with us to get wisdom! To chase understanding! “Though it cost all you have,” he says in Proverbs 4:7, “get insight.” That doesn't sound like a man asking us to skim the surface.

True Transformation Doesn't Bypass the Mind

Paul, writing to young Timothy, didn't say, “Just listen to your heart.” He said:

“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.” (2 Tim. 2:15)

A worker. Not a drifter. A student, chisel in hand, cutting straight lines through stone-hard truth.

There is a kind of study that puffs up—and we should run from it. But there is also a kind of study that bows low.

Childlike Faith Isn't Childish Faith

Yes—Jesus tells us to become like children. And what a beautiful truth that is.

“Unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”
(Matt. 18:3)

But let us be careful. He says to become dependent, not ignorant.

Childlike faith is not the absence of thought. It is the joyful surrender of thought to a Father who loves truth.

The Bereans Were Noble—Because They Checked the Word

“They received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.” (Acts 17:11)

They listened to Paul—Paul!—but they didn’t just nod along. They opened the scrolls. They searched. They questioned.

And the Word calls them noble for it.

We should not fear questions. We should fear apathy.

Grow in Grace—and Knowledge

“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” (2 Peter 3:18)

Not just grace. Not just knowledge. Both.

A heart ablaze with worship. A mind anchored in truth.

A Quiet Moment for Repentance

But now, if I may speak even more plainly—may I ask you something only you can answer?

Have you believed the lie?

Have you sat with God’s Word open in front of you, not to seek Him, but to skim?

Have you accepted the warm milk of clichés when the Spirit was calling you to chew on meat?

And have you called that humility?

Let us not flatter ourselves with the illusion that drifting is holy. Let us not baptize our passivity and call it peace.

God has spoken. And we have Bibles gathering dust.

Return. With a Bible. With a Pen. With Tears.

Beloved, if you feel conviction—don't ignore it.

This is not a guilt trip. This is a grace awakening.

Fall on your knees. Not just with hands lifted, but with a Bible open.

Repent of neglect. Of pride cloaked in false humility.

And rise again with new hunger. With a child's heart. With a scholar's diligence. With a soul that says, "Father, I want to know You—truly, rightly, deeply."

Because the One who calls you to study, Is the One who died to make you His.

With you in repentance, pursuit, and wonder,

—Justin Reed

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