

Matthew 3:17

And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

If you are familiar with this part of the gospels that tells about Jesus and when this happened, then you know that God said this after Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist. Now this teaching is not about baptism, but let me say that if you are a believer and you have not been baptized, you need to do it. This is not an option, but it's what Jesus said that we as believers are to do. And if Jesus said to do it, and He did it, then you should want to as well.

But like I said, this is not about baptism. No, it's about what God said and when He said it. This is the first time that Jesus has shown up on the scene in the bible, as far as Him and His ministry goes. And when He does, He is obedient to be baptized, even though He had not sinned. Let's take a look at it in the verse right before today's devotional verse.

† **Matthew 3:13-15** *Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. And John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?" But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him.*

So, since this is Jesus' first showing up in the gospels, notice that there is no record of Him healing anyone, feeding a multitude, casting out demons, opening blind eyes, touching a leper, or anything else yet. Also it wasn't until after this that Jesus went to the wilderness for 40 days and was tempted. So, there is no record of Jesus having done a thing (ministry wise) yet, and even though He hadn't, God the Father says this about Him: *"This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."*

Yet how many times do we try to earn or try to get God's acceptance of us?
We tithe and ask, are you pleased with what I gave?
We read the bible and ask, are you proud of me for reading your word?
We go to church and even serve and look up and wonder if God will say, "Well done good and faithful servant."

But if God was pleased with Jesus before He even started His ministry, isn't He pleased with us as well before we do a thing, simply because we are His children!

† **Proverbs 8:32** *Now therefore, listen to me, my children, for blessed are those who keep my ways.*

† **Isaiah 56:6-7** *"Also the sons of the foreigner Who join themselves to the LORD, to serve Him, And to love the name of the LORD, to be His servants-- Everyone who keeps from defiling the Sabbath, And holds fast My covenant-- Even them I will bring to My holy mountain, And make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices Will be accepted on My altar; For My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations."*