

Salamander Faith

Salamander? Yep, that lizard-like moist skin little amphibian that we learn about in biology class. What about salamanders? It's a long story, but the short version is quite clear.

My son and I decided to go camping in the high country with his two grade school sons. Nearing the top of Kenosha pass, Josh, the oldest of the two boys, announced that he was going to find a salamander. Amused at his lack of understanding, I gently explained to him that salamanders live near rivers and streams and we were going to camp in a dry area on a mountain pass, so there wouldn't be any salamanders to find.

Josh casually yet confidently explained that it would be no problem, he would simply pray about it and God would let him find a salamander. My son and I smiled and hoped he wouldn't be too disappointed. We set up camp in the late afternoon, tent, camp chairs, etc. and proceeded to have our wilderness dinner.

After an exciting visit by a bear, we finally got a good night's sleep, a blessing since the boys were up bright and early. After a typical camp breakfast, Josh announced that he was off to find his salamander as he and his brother Micaiah expanded their search in the general area of our camp.

Shockingly, a few minutes later Josh came back with his salamander! He recognized my amazement and seemed surprised at my surprise! "Grandpa, don't you remember that I prayed about it?" I had to admit that I did, but I was immediately chagrined that his faith had been far superior to mine on that day!

Jesus reminds us in Matthew 21: 15, 16 that we should recognize God's plan for the faith of children:

But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the wonderful things that He had done, and the children who were shouting in the temple, "Hosanna to the Son of David," they became indignant ¹⁶ and said to Him, "Do You hear what these *children* are saying?" And Jesus *said to them, "Yes; have you never read, 'Out of the mouth of infants and nursing babies You have prepared praise for Yourself'?"

The faith of children can be one of the most precious and also most challenging parts of parenthood, as we see their faith in action. Salamander faith, indeed!

-Ray Wallace