

mercEmail

"He delights in mercy" (Micah 7:18)

She Smiled At Me!

by Steve Higginbotham

In our house, newborn babies are under the management of my wife. She's the expert in the phase of life. Oh, I suppose I could be too, but when they're that small and their head bobs around like that "head on a spring" that people used to mount to the dash board of their car, I feel too clumsy to take charge.

But now, Anne Marie is almost two months old. She's approaching the age that is my specialty. Up until now, she has shown no expression. Well, let me say she's shown no expression except for crying. However, the other night, I was holding her in my arms talking to her -- not your normal talk, mind you. I was talking and acting in such a way that if someone had heard or saw me, they might have questioned my sanity. Then it happened. A big smile broke out across her face. She responded to me! This response was especially satisfying because she smiled for me before she smiled for my wife, Kim, the one who has spent nearly every minute with her for the past two months. ;-) But the point is, she responded to me! And oh, how that was exciting!

As I think back to my feelings at the time Anne Marie responded to me with an affirming smile, I can't help but wonder if God feels the same sense of satisfaction and joy when His children respond positively to Him.

Our God is a God of emotion. He experiences joy and sorrow, grief and pleasure, pride and disappointment, and happiness and anger. This being the case, I wonder what it would take to make him happy? What would it take for him to experience joy, excitement, and pride?

I think I know the answer to those questions. A response! A positive response from his children must give Him the same kind of joy a positive response from my child gives me. When we are mature enough to humble ourselves and respond to God's terms of pardon, don't you know it causes rejoicing in heaven (Luke 15:10)?

The next time you find some pleasure in the actions of your children, regardless of how old they may be, remember the Father-child relationship you sustain with your Heavenly Father. Though you may be a full-grown adult, you are still a child of God. Have your responses to Him lately given Him reason to rejoice? Give it some thought.