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excellence  
may vary.

not here.

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## the Suprising Role of GUARDIAN ANGELS

John Piper

What did Jesus mean in Matthew 18:10 when he said, "See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven"? His answer: Let the true fullness of every unimagined Christian's existence of angels always see in our sad weak eyes at the simplest children of God. To see this, let's start, first, with "these little ones" are.

**WHO ARE "THESE LITTLE ONES"?**  
"See that you do not despise one of these little ones." They are true believers in Jesus, viewed from the standpoint of their childlike trust in God. They are the heaven-bound children of God. We know this because of the testimony and wider context of the Gospel of Matthew.

This section in Matthew 18 begins with the disciples asking, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" (Matthew 18:1). Jesus answers, "Truly I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like

also child to the greatest in the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 18:2-4). In other words, the text is not about children. It is about those who become like children, and thus raise the kingdom of heaven. It's about true disciples of Jesus.

This is confirmed in Matthew 18:6 where Jesus says, "Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be thrown into the depth of the sea." The "little ones" are those "who believe" in Jesus.

**The text is not about children... It's about true disciples of Jesus.**

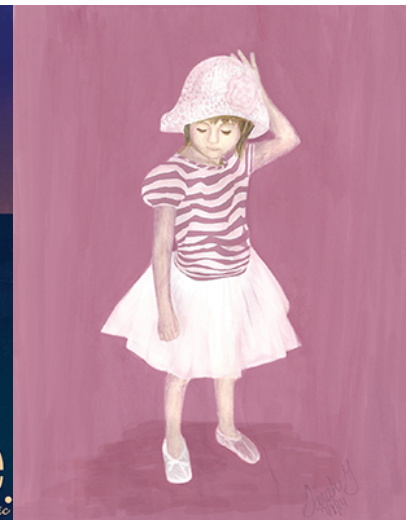
In the wider context, we see the same language with the same meaning. For example, in Matthew 18:42, Jesus says, "Whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly I say to you, he will by no means lose



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the best things in life  
are the ones that are  
created by

faithful listening,  
quiet devotion,  
and also sometimes  
**crazy risk-taking.**

this is the true **commitment**  
that solves the problem  
at hand.

to find the best solution  
**(and the most beautiful)**



# SARAH GERSTENBERG

a freshwater pearl  
is something that takes  
time to be made.

sometimes,  
you can't see progress  
for a long time.

but the result is a  
one-of-a-kind treasure.

**that's what we make here.**

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