

# Terrible Threes

You completed teaching the age group known as the terrible twos. They weren't any more terrible than the rest of us or sinners. Now you move up a to the three year old class with hopes of smooth sailing with children you thought would be easier to teach. Surprise, they still are little sinners who appear to be going the wrong direction. Little attitudes grow up to not so good attitudes and behavior. What happened to those wonderful two year olds? Now you ask, what in the world was I thinking when I thought to teach the three year olds? The thought of going back to the two year olds sounds so wonderful but God called you to move up to the three year olds. Now what should you do?

There is someone who hates you and what you are doing in the classroom. Quitting should never be an option. As followers of Christ we were called and commissioned to do His work. God said He will provide all we need (Luke 12:12; John 14:25-28; Philippians 4:19). Our God never makes mistakes and He places us where He wants us to serve (Proverbs 3:5-6). God places us where we can grow and make an impact in others. Three year olds need to experience the love of Christ and learn about the God who loves them. God has called us to be His ambassadors and to demonstrate His love to the children through word and actions. It is unfortunately so easy to be distracted by the children's actions and attitudes and be discouraged. That should be a reminder to us that we are daily fighting a spiritual battle (2 Corinthians 10:1-4; Ephesians 6:10-18). Prayer is vital for our daily life and ministry. In 1 Thessalonians 5:12-22, Paul exhorts us gives and some essentials we should daily be living out in our lives. "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." 1 Thessalonians 5:17. PRAY

Yes, over the years there has been a change in our society. Children and adults are addicted to technology (phones, iPads, etc.). It appears to be more of a challenge to teach children the Word of God. Our God never changes (Hebrews 13:8) and neither does His Word (2 Timothy 3:16; 1 Peter 1; 24-25). As teachers we are to pray and daily keep being filled with the Holy Spirit. We can only touch hearts and teach the children if we are praying without ceasing and relying upon God and the power of the Holy Spirit. We definitely must prepare by studying the lesson we are to teach. Above all our hearts, thoughts, and attitudes must be in alignment with the LORD.

Pray for the children and prayer for their parents. Pray that the LORD would make you that teacher filled with the Holy Spirit ready to share God's love and message. I find that too often I focus too much upon the children's actions and attitude and not enough upon my heart and attitude. It's time for a change, not a change in your classroom assignment but the way we do ministry. We need to do ministry Jesus's way and not our usual way. Remember it is His class not yours and the children are not our flock but God's. We are God's assistant shepherds.

PRAY, PRAY, PRAY, and may the LORD give your children a new teacher, with a renewed passion, a renewed vision, and a heart filled with the Holy Spirit, You. May our prayer be that as the LORD leads us we will choose to say yes to His will.