



My dearest Jade,

You are eight months old as I pen this note. A few evenings ago, I witnessed a striking focus, eager zeal, and unstoppable pursuit erupt from your precious soul. Through this event I perceived a spiritual truth that inspired me to begin preserving these moments for you in writing.

Your father arrived home from work, retired to his comfortable cloths, and turned his attention to you (I often consider the blessing God bestows upon us through your father as he faithfully arrives in the evening with fresh energy, enabling you to play longer and me to find rest). Bobby was on one end of the living room floor and you were on the opposite. In between the two of you was a dazzling toy with lights and music. I happened to look upon your beautiful Asian eyes precisely at the moment that they smiled with an intense focus as if to say “I see something I want and I will get it regardless of the cost.” Within seconds you crawled with speed and charge in the direction of your father, cast aside the toy that separated you, and took hold of him with joyful force.

Bobby and I laughed at the intense pursuit of your father. And I could not help but to see an obvious spiritual truth through it. In Jeremiah 29:7 God says, “You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.” The Bible is consistent and clear in the message that God is a relational, seeking, and inviting Person. Yet, fallen humanity has exchanged a glorious relationship with Him for the lesser things in creation (Romans 1).

Today it is a dazzling toy that sits in between you and your father. But tomorrow it will be boys, cloths, money, popularity, and success. Do not be confused—God graciously gives us gifts in creation. But, when these gifts capture our heart more than God, we dishonor God who is far more glorious than the things He has made and we cheat ourselves of the fullness of life that comes from relating with God as our greatest treasure.

My dearest Jade, even at this early age your soul has perceived the deep satisfaction that comes from an intimate relationship with your father. You were willing to cast aside any hindrance to obtain this joy. In time, you will see that your earthly father is but a pale reflection of our heavenly Father. And I pray that you will receive God’s good gifts in creation, but always be ready to cast aside any charm that entices you to love it more than your heavenly Father. Why? I cannot articulate it better than St. Augustine: “O God, You created us for Yourself and our heart remains restless until it finds rest in You.” May your life be characterized by a striking focus, eager zeal, and unstoppable pursuit of God as you stand fast in His promise: “You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart” (Jeremiah 29:7).

Adoring you with joy,

Kori