

**THE SOUL OF A CHILD,  
FIVE-MINUTE  
SERMONS TO CHILDREN**

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The soul of a child, five-minute sermons to children by Stuart Nye Hutchison

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**STUART NYE HUTCHISON**

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FIVE-MINUTE  
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# The Soul of a Child

*Five-Minute Sermons to Children*

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By  
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# I

## Giving

“The Lord loveth a cheerful giver.”—2 COR. ix. 7.

THE Indians of this country have a very pretty legend about the leaves and the birds. They say that long, long ago when the Great Spirit was busy making the earth beautiful, that everywhere he stepped there the trees and the plants and the flowers began to grow at once. The leaves of the trees were very happy and sang songs all the day. But one morning the wind came along and told the leaves that very soon they would fall from the trees to the ground and would wither and die and be forgotten.

This made the leaves very sad and they forgot for a little to sing. But by and by, when they thought how happy it made the old tree to hear them, they began to sing again and forgot all about what the wind had said.

But sure enough one day in the Fall it became very cold. The wind blew and the leaves began to loosen their hold on the tree, and to fall to the ground. The tree had to

give them up one by one till there was not a single leaf left on the sad old tree.

As they lay there the Great Spirit came walking along that way. He saw the beautiful, many-colored leaves on the ground, and thought to himself, "What a pity to let those lovely things go to waste!" So he determined to make them live again. He gave to each leaf a pair of wings and taught them to fly, and they became the birds. The red oak leaves became the robin-redbreasts, and the yellow willow leaves became the yellow birds, and the brown leaves became the sparrows and the swallows. What a flock of them there were! And they flew off up into the trees again. The trees had had to give them up, but they got them all back, and they were so much more beautiful than they were before.

Now let me tell you what this legend teaches. It means that no one ever gives up anything for God that He does not give him back something ever so much better and more beautiful.

Once while Jesus was here, there was a great host of very hungry people out in the wilderness who had had nothing to eat all day. There were no stores where they could buy, and they were too far away to go home.