

Little Seeker

Little boy
 (now barely four)
What is that
 you're looking for?

(That we might know
 God's love for *us*
He gave us *you*
 that we might love...

For you were in His heart
 a precious gift
Before it was time
 for you to be in ours)

So I wonder
 what is in your little heart
What is there
 in your little hands?

What lies before you
 that will call you
That will lead you
 that will shape you?

What there will
 touch you
Reach you
 win you?

What longing is there
 in your little heart
In your little hands
 (my dear little one)?

Please, yield that reaching
 for what you seek...
For what you want
 for what you need...

Return it again
 dear boy, return it
Return it to Him
 whose truly it is

For in that surrender

is the safest treasure
Is the truest owning
is the secret of living

For in giving
you will own
And in releasing
you will gain

For there is no gain
like gaining God
And no gain for God
like gaining you

For know 'tis so that in years
merely fourscore more
Your little heart
your little hands

Will be filled
will be opened
Will be measured
will be accounted for

Of that which you loved
of that which you received
Of that which you gave
of that which you became

Of what it was
you were reaching for
With your little heart
with your little hands

What it was you sought
little boy
My dear little boy
(now barely four)

by Richard A. Nelson
written so long ago for
both of my dear boys

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