

## Halloween Wants and Needs

Jan asked her mom if she would make her a new costume for the Halloween parade. Her mother said that she had made her a really neat bear costume last year. The costume still fit her so she could wear it again this year. Plus, she had won first prize for it last year. But Jan said that last year she was part of three girls that were wearing bear costumes and they were called the three bears. Those same girls would not be together again for Halloween this year.

Jan was very upset that her mother did not agree to make her a new costume. She told her mother that she was not going to be in the parade unless she could have a new costume. Her younger sister, Amy, said that she didn't want to be in the parade either unless she could have a new costume, too. Mother did not respond to the girls. She just said that if they decided to stay out of the parade for that reason, it was their choice.

She also told the girls that they needed to think about why they wanted a new costume and to decide if it was a want or a need. She told them that as Christian Scientists, they should take it to God in prayer to find the answer to the problem with the costumes. They needed to find out if they wanted the costumes or if they needed them. Mother explained that a want is something not really necessary. It can sometimes be a selfish wish. A need is something necessary, because of that fact one can expect it to be filled.

Nothing more was said about it that day. That night, before Jan went to sleep, she turned to God for help. She prayed that His will would be done in deciding about the costume. The next morning, Jan announced that she did not need a new costume. She was going to wear the one that she already had. Amy also said that she was going to wear last year's costume in the parade.

The day of the parade arrived and Jan's bear costume won a first prize ribbon for originality. Amy's Minnie Mouse costume won a second prize ribbon for being a cute cartoon character. Both Jan and Amy said that they had not expected to win a prize. Jan said that she just got rid of her want and found that her need was already supplied. The girls demonstrated a spiritual truth and learned a precious lesson.



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*Jesus said in Matthew 6: 31-33: "Take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? ... For your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."*