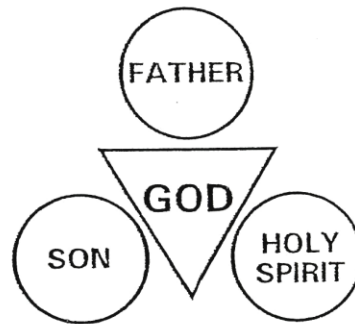


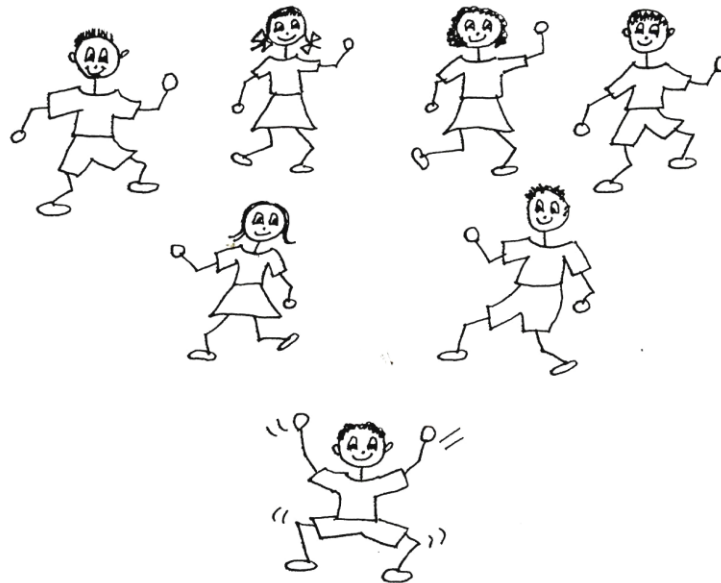
Believer, Don't Be Afraid.

It Is God Changing You!

Revised 3-20-2016



GOD IS FOR US!





Child: God wants to change us into the people He meant for us to be from the beginning of mankind. He meant for us to know that He is our God and to live in sinless perfection in a perfect environment. He wanted us to be obedient sons and daughters and to have a personal relationship with Him. Well, man goofed! Adam and Eve chose to go against what God wanted them to be. (We would have done the same thing.) However, God handled the problem; the old man was crucified with Jesus Christ on the cross! The old man is **who we were** in Adam; a race of mankind who were slaves to sin and under the law! At salvation, God makes us into a **new man in Christ**; the new man is a race of mankind who are under the reign of grace. We are the body of Christ with Christ as our head. Awesome! Only God could do this!

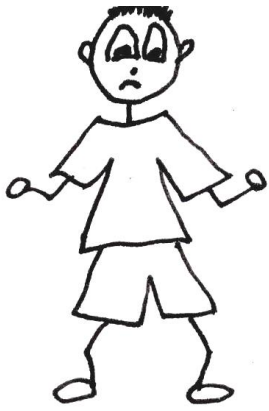
Romans 6:6 Knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin.



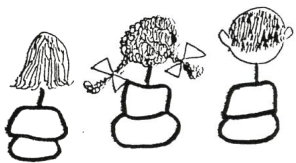
Child: God is changing us into the image of Jesus Christ. He takes us as baby believers and grows us into maturing believers, having the heart and thinking of Jesus. He takes us from relying too much on ourselves and the world to relying more and more on Him and His word. He knows it will take time - in fact a lifetime! At the Rapture of the Church, all Church Age believers will receive resurrection bodies - those who already died and those who are raptured. We'll be living in our resurrection body in perfect environment! We'll be God's obedient sons and daughters having a personal relationship with Him. We'll be who God wants us to be!

2 Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

Romans 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

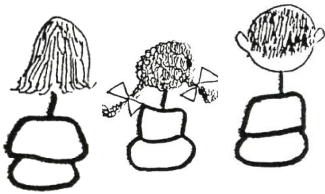


Child: God makes the changes because they are necessary. Sometimes the changes God wants to make in our thinking and our behavior are scary because we're so used to our old way of thinking and behaving! However, it will be more scary if we don't cooperate with God and let Him make the changes. We'll be left in situations that are like jail! We'll be in bondage! God wants to free us up with **His thinking**. Then our behavior will be according to **His will**. He wants us to have His best and to be who He wants us to be - His obedient and loving children.



Child: That's right! You've got it! We start out our spiritual life with the Holy Spirit taking our belief in Jesus Christ and giving us faith - faith in our salvation. As we learn the word of God and believe it, we can be confident that the Holy Spirit is changing our thinking and behavior with His power and the thinking of Christ. He is changing us by growing our faith. At times this will be through testing and suffering. No one said the changes would be easy, but God is with us all the way! He will only allow changes for which we are ready! Remember - God is patient with us!

Psalm 103:8 The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger [patient] and abounding in lovingkindness [grace].



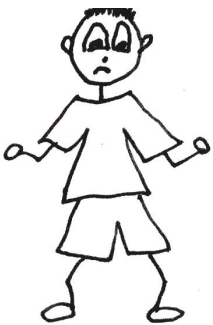
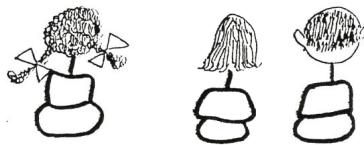
Child: We're the ones who become impatient and try to take situations into our own hands. I remember when we had to move out of our home and even our state! These were **some** of the fears that took over my thinking: What will the new school be like? What about leaving my friends? Will there be a good place to play outdoors? I

tried to talk my parents into not moving. Then my father explained to me: "I have been laid off at work. The good news is God has supplied another job for me. Yes, it means we have to move. Do you think God is going to move us to a place where He has not provided **everything we need?** Certainly not! I've already checked out the school you'll be going to and it's great. The classes are smaller than the large ones you are in now. Therefore, you'll get better help from the teacher. And, God never puts us in a place where we won't have friends who He thinks will be good for us. There are many playgrounds close by and we will be close to mountains for mountain sports and water for water sports. God is supplying **all** of our needs and some of our wants."

Philippians 4:19 And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.



God certainly did supply all of our needs and other blessings. The friends He has for me in our new town are great. So is my new school and the opportunities for outdoor recreation. In fact, God is showing me more and more that I can rely on Him! Since I am pretty stubborn, I'm sure He will have to show me many times. I'm glad He is giving me a **lifetime** to learn more about Him so He can grow my faith in Him; with my flesh and the world influencing me, that is what it's going to take!



Child: When God is trying to change me, it is great until I take my eyes off of Him and His thinking found in Scripture. It's like Peter when he saw Jesus in the water and started walking to Him; as soon as he took his eyes off Jesus he sank!

Matthew 14:28-30 Peter said to Him, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." And He said, "Come!" And Peter got out of the boat, and walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But seeing the wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!"





Child: *Matthew 14:31 Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and took hold of him, and said to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?"*

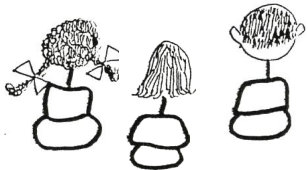


And you see that **immediately** Jesus rescued Peter! When we are doubting that God is handling the changes we are going through, He will **immediately** hold out "His hand" to us; we can read His promises in the Bible. He wants us to get our eyes back on Him! He wants to grow our faith in Him.



Isaiah 41:10 Do not fear, for I am with you; do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.

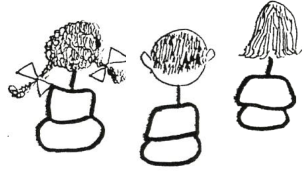
Child: We won't be completely changed into who God wants us to be until we reach heaven. So, RELAX! Through His abundant love and grace He is growing us in the new man, the body of Christ, who will live in heaven forever with Jesus Christ as its Head! The growing and changing of our thinking takes time and God is VERY patient with us!



2 Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.



Child: God will never ask us to think, say, or do something for which He hasn't **already** provided grace. If God desires for us to live by grace alone,



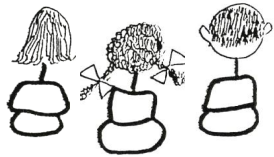
then He considers it **HIS** job to give us the way necessary to do so. If God wants us to live by His grace, He's going to take care of us. No doubt

about it! He is all powerful and all knowing; He is able to do what He knows needs to be done for us.

John 1:16 From the fullness of His grace we have all received one blessing after another.



Child: There is no limit to God's grace! It is infinite! He has given us grace or free, unmerited love and blessings so we can have faith in His care and

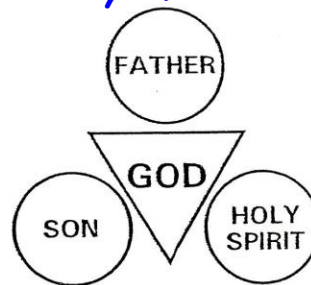


protection of us! He doesn't give it to us because of our human works or because we are attractive to Him. God gives us grace because of **Jesus Christ's work on the cross**. In grace, God works and mankind benefits! If we stick with God, we can't lose and we will bring glory to God!

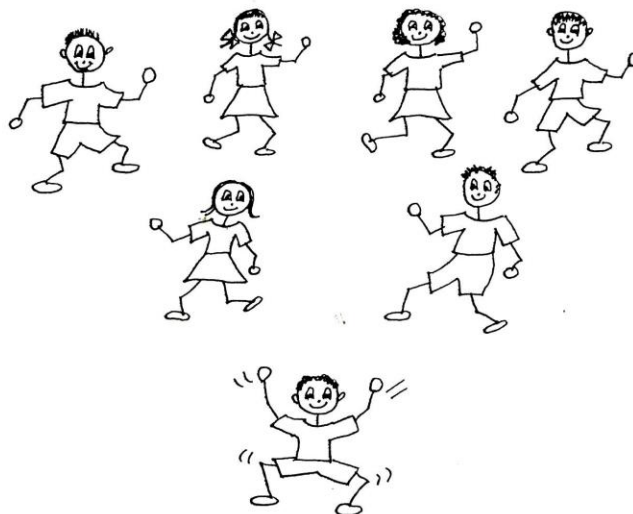
2 Corinthians 12:8-9 Concerning this (Paul's thorn in his flesh) I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me. And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness."

God knew in eternity past that you and I would never be the complete person He wants us to be until we get to heaven. With our cooperation He will gently be changing us into that person during our entire life! God is here to come through for us. He will never let us down! All God is after is our heart! We are to believe the word of God as truth; God will develop our hearts of faith!!!! Faith is the grace gift of living in God's reality. God will grow our faith so we can experience His reality more and more! Then one day we will be enjoying heaven with Him! We'll be who He wants us to be. We'll be learning about God, praising Him and rejoicing forever!

Philippians 1:6 For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus. (Paul was writing to the Philippian believers.)



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You may also want to look at this song:

<http://youtu.be/eNjZIHARnEk>

He who began a good

work in you - [Steve Green](#) (With Lyrics)

2 Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.



2 Corinthians 9:8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed.

