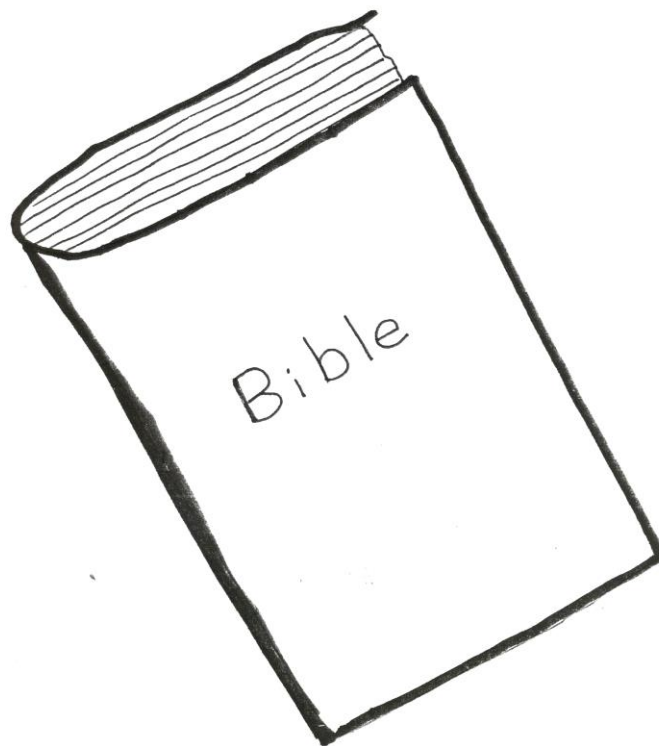


**Doctrinal Orientation  
or  
Being Directed by God's Thinking**

Revised 12-29-20

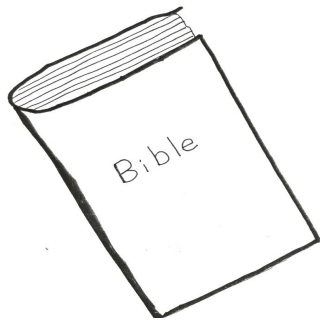
The Bible is the best book that we will ever have. It is the instruction book of how to live the spiritual life. God wrote the Bible using men to put down the words. The Bible is the word of God. It is the thinking of Jesus Christ! God has not left us to try to figure life out for ourselves. The Bible tells us what we must do now that we are Christians. It tells us what we need to know to make good decisions. It tells about the help that God has given to each believer, and His directions for using that help.



Psalm 18:32 God arms me with strength; He has made my way safe.

Psalm 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

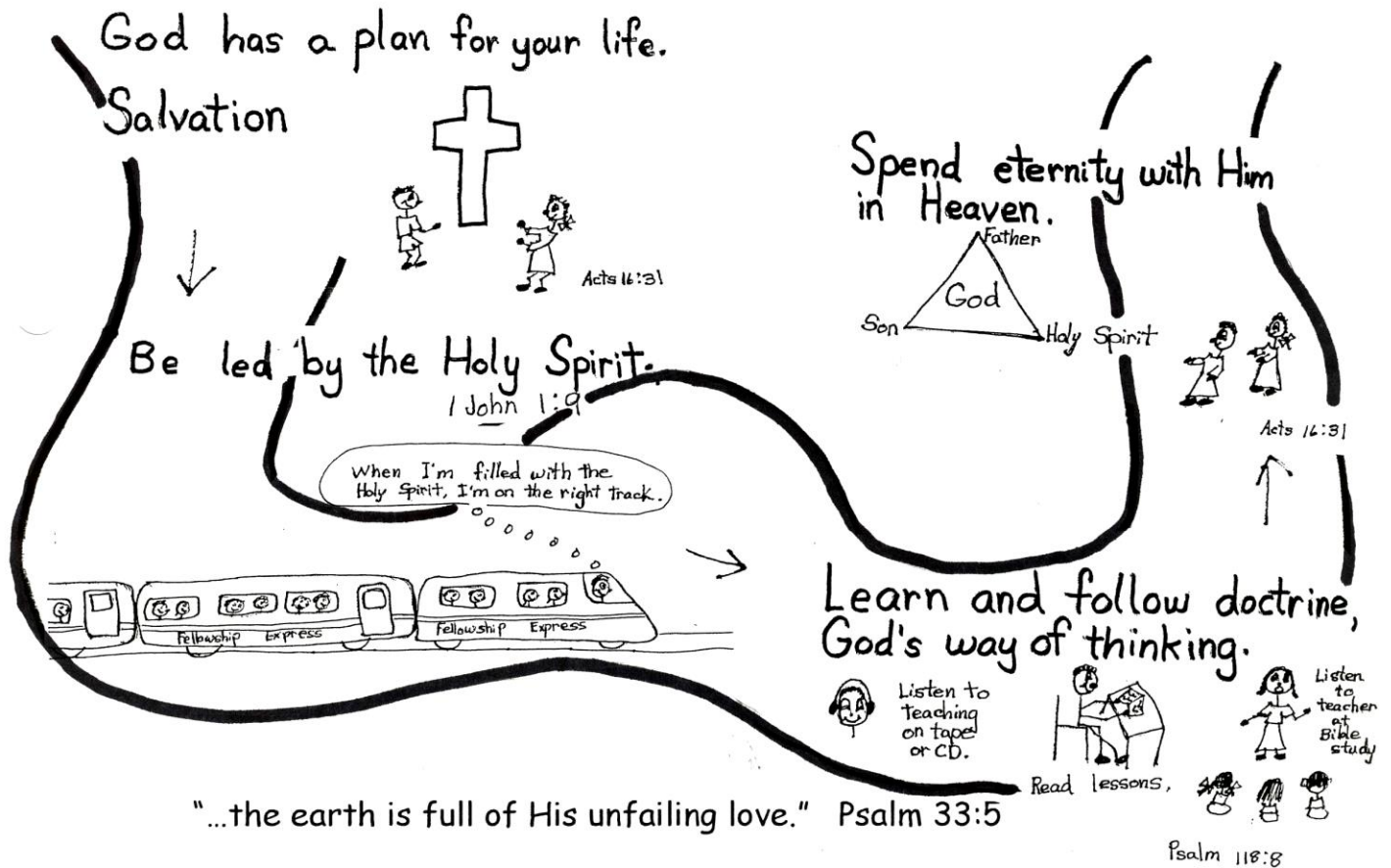
Since we live in the Church-age, we follow the directions in the Bible for that dispensation, or that age. It is the age of grace. God has done all of the work; we receive all of the benefits from God's work. In fact, we are not to do works to gain God's favor. In grace, He gives us everything we need spiritually and physically. We don't earn it nor deserve it. We just have to be available to learn, believe, and apply Bible doctrine. We have to have Jesus Christ's thinking in our soul!



2 Samuel 22:31 As for God, His way is perfect; the word of the LORD is flawless.

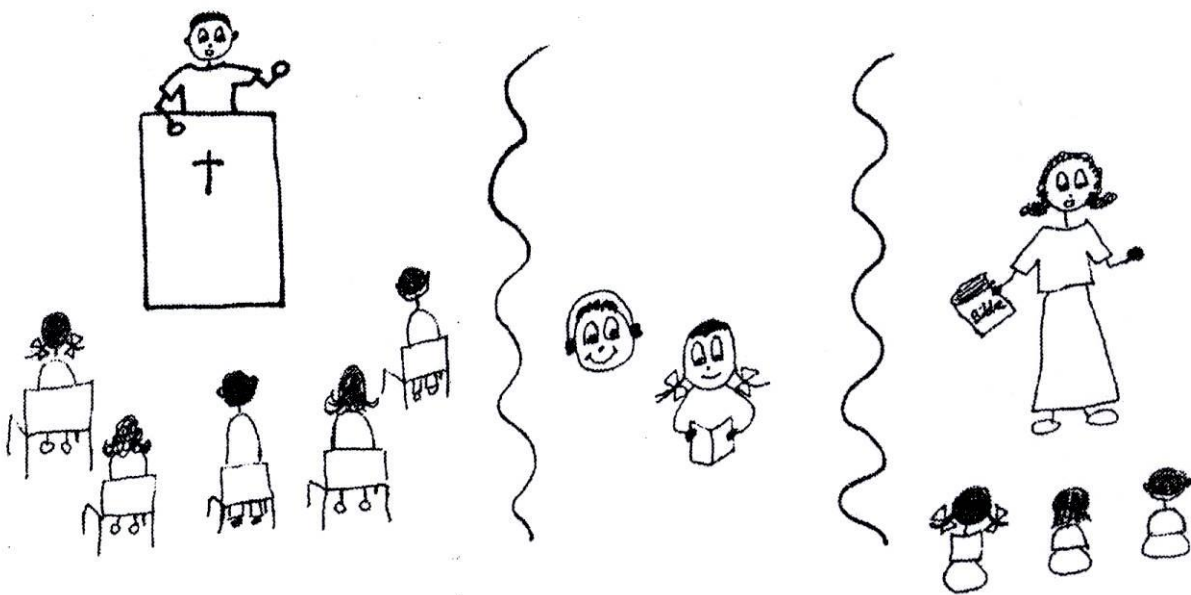
Deuteronomy 11:18 Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds;

**Doctrinal orientation** is being oriented to God's plan. This means that we bring our thinking into line with the thinking of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ's thinking, which is God's thinking, is in the Bible. God wants us to obey Him and depend on His wisdom or thinking. He doesn't want us to depend on our own human viewpoint - lack of wisdom. Dependence on God's wisdom is using His thinking! Great thoughts!



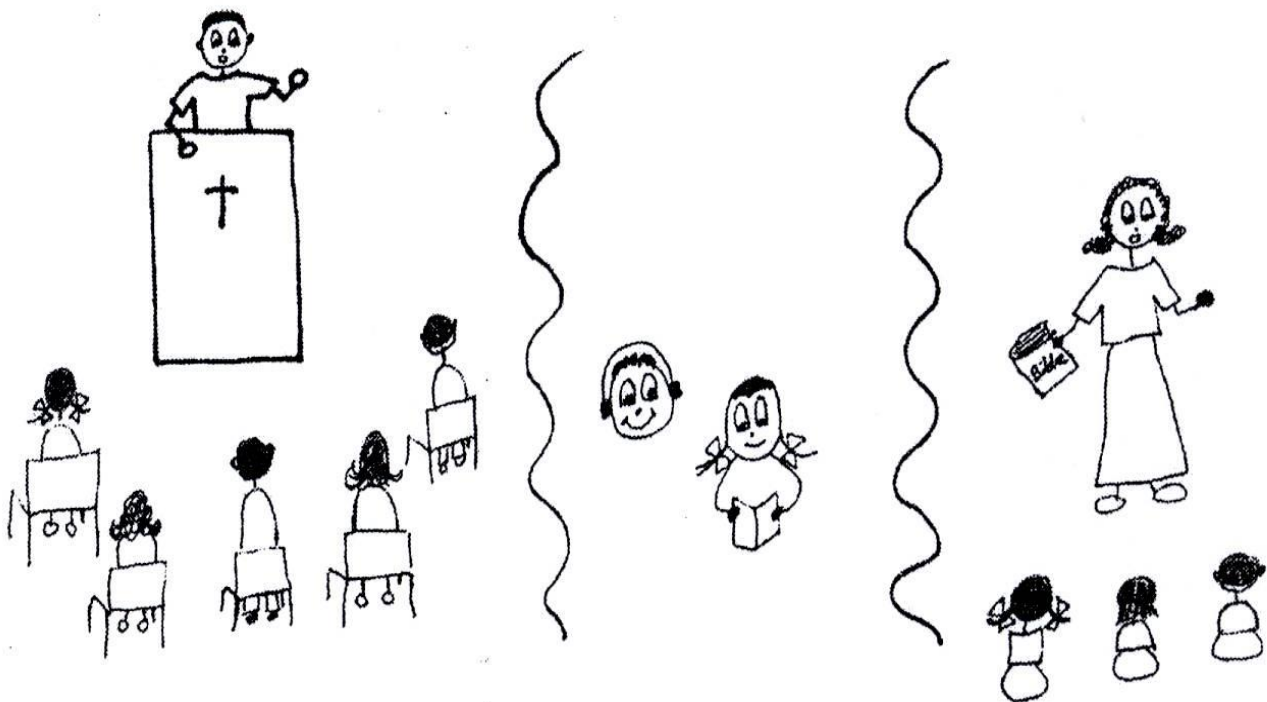
Lamentations 3:21-25 This I recall to mind; therefore, I have hope. The LORD'S gracious functions never cease; His compassions never fail. They are new every morning. Great is Thy faithfulness. The LORD is my portion, says my soul, therefore I have hope in Him. The LORD is good to those who trust in Him, to the soul who seeks Him.

Believing the word of God always results in confidence. We can have complete trust that God will do what He tells us in the Bible. We become confident in expecting to receive from God what He says we will receive. In grace, God doesn't always give us what we want. In grace, God gives us what He wants us to have, something far better than anything we could think of or imagine. We can count on it!!!!



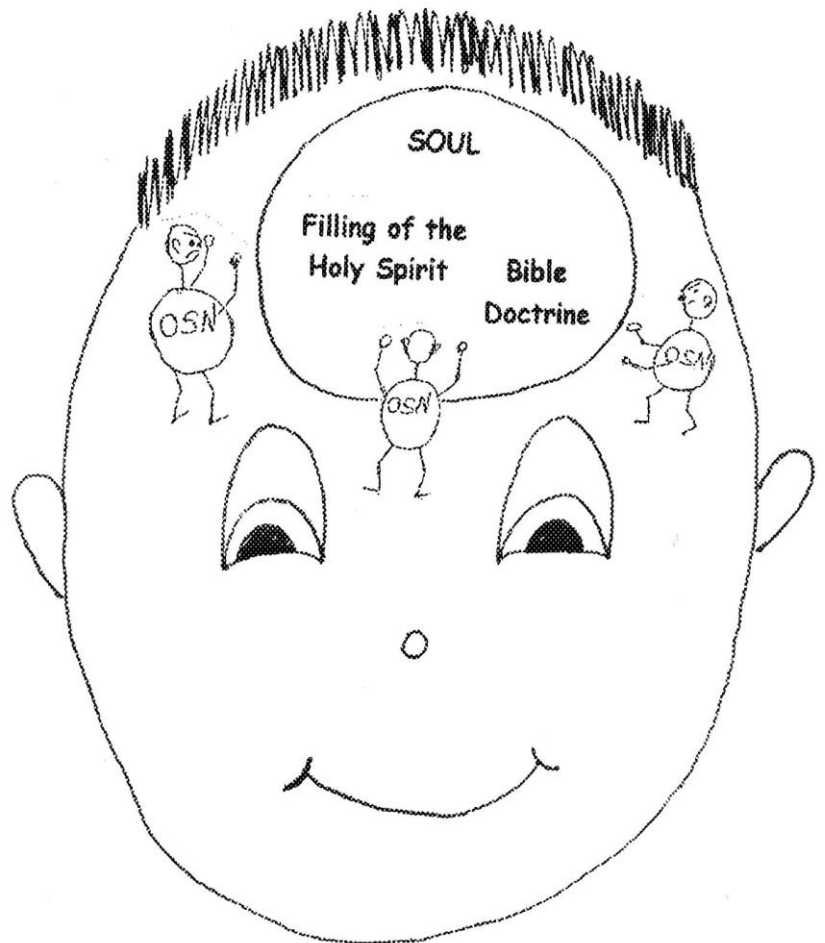
Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

Our part is to learn, believe, and use God's word in the Bible. We have to have a pastor-teacher. If we are too young to listen to the pastor-teacher, we need our parents and Bible study teachers to teach us. And remember, our thinking needs to line up with God's thinking. So, before we study, we take the time to get our thinking on track with God's thinking - tell God the Father our sins, if necessary. Or, just calm down our minds to be at rest with the Lord. Then we'll be set to take in the thinking of the Lord Jesus Christ. Ah, what a mental boost!



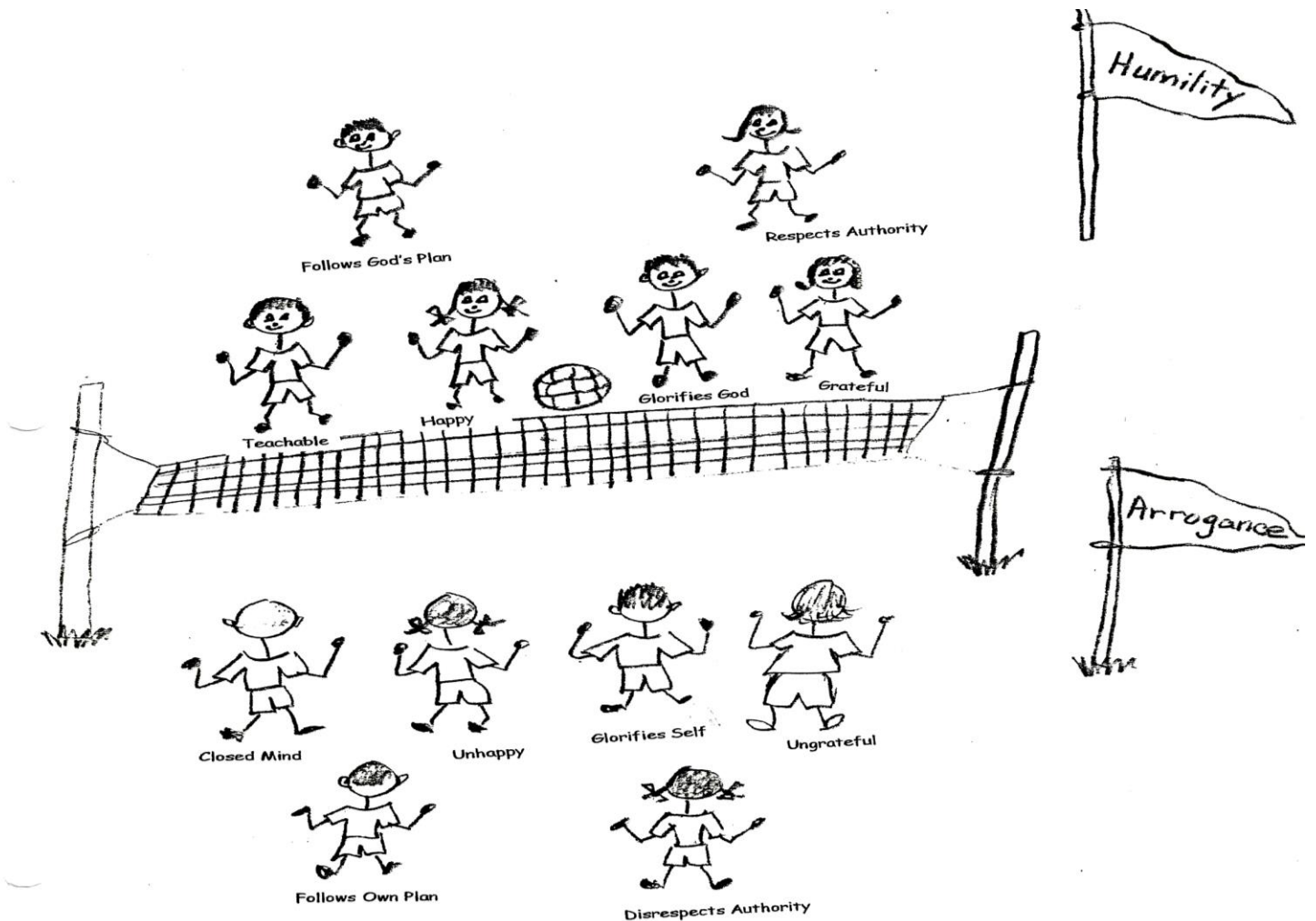
Romans 15:4 For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope [confidence].

When we are under pressure, we can think about something we learned in the Bible that will help us. With this knowledge, we can make good decisions. The more from the Bible we know and believe, the more we will be able to apply or use, and the more relaxed and confident we will be. We will be using **doctrinal orientation**. We'll be going in the direction of God's thinking.



2 Peter 3:18 ...but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

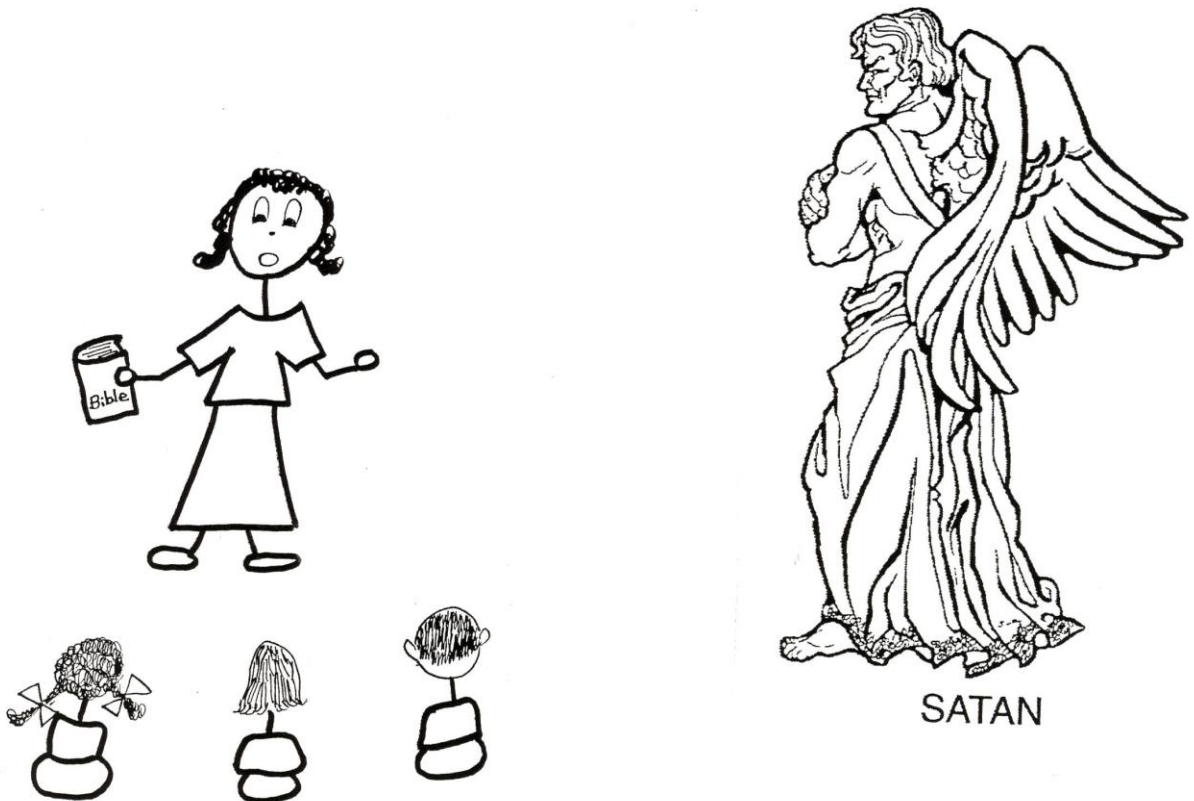
To learn Bible doctrine, we need to be humble or teachable. Our sin natures want us to be arrogant or to think too much about ourselves. That's when we want to do things our ways. Jesus is the Living Word. If we learn Jesus' ways, God the Holy Spirit will do the work to change our ways. We need to fill our minds with the word of God daily! The Holy Spirit will store the doctrine in our minds by categories or lists. When we need it, He will go to our "store room" and bring it to our thinking. Then we will have the truth to set us free!!



John 8:32 Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.



Satan doesn't care if we sin or not, but he doesn't want us to depend on the word of God. He doesn't want us to learn God's thinking. Satan wants us to rely on ourselves rather than on the ministry or teaching of the Holy Spirit. When the Lord Jesus Christ was on earth, in His humanity He used the written Scripture and the power of the Holy Spirit; He depended on God to take care of **all** of His needs. We know what terrific trials and needs He had! He showed us that having and using God's thinking works! We can depend on the word of God!



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

To grow up spiritually, we must be led by the Holy Spirit. To be led by the Holy Spirit, we must know the word of God, Bible doctrine. Then we can do the will of God. We need doctrinal orientation! We need to bring our thinking into line with the thinking of the Lord Jesus Christ which is found in the Bible. Then we will be heading in the right direction!

Hebrews 4:12-13 For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of Him to Whom we must give account.

