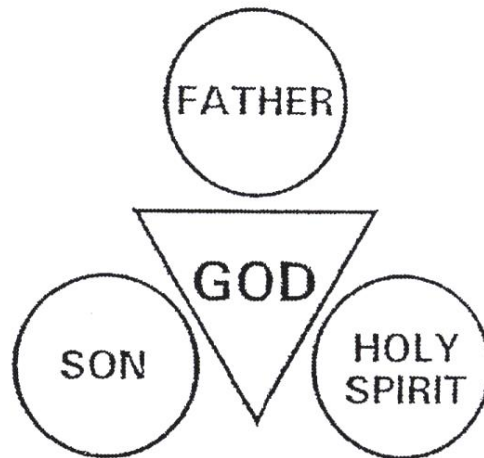


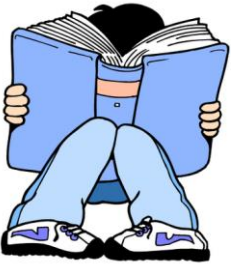
Give Thanks!

6-24-2014



GOD IS FOR US!





Thanksgiving is the Greek word "eucharisteo".

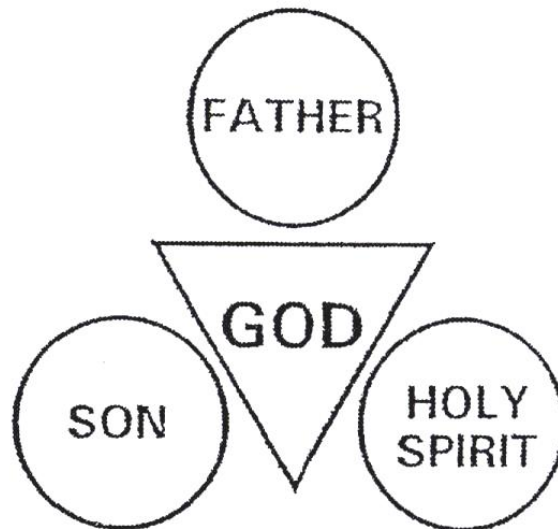
The root word of eucharisteo is "charis", meaning grace.
The word "chara" also comes from eucharisteo ; "chara" means joy.

Eucharisteo -

Thanksgiving

Charis - Grace

Chara - Joy



GIVE THANKS TO GOD!

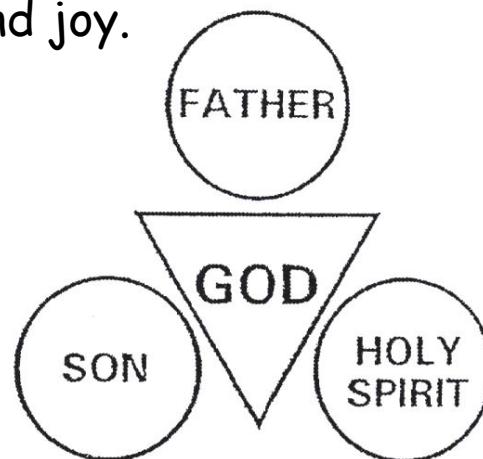


Colossians 3:17 Whatever you do in word or deed do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.



God planned ahead of time **all** that we would need to bask in His love, grace and joy! It is up to us to be grateful to God and use His amazing grace gifts. God has given us everything we need to know Him and live and grow in His grace.

Through the power of the Holy Spirit we are to learn about God, live the life He wants us to lead, and be **thankful** for His care! We have to be willing to stop, look and see God's blessings in the people and things around us. We can choose to give thanks at any moment and see the grace gifts God is giving us, be they in prosperity or suffering. It's in thanksgiving that we can find joy.



GOD IS FOR US!

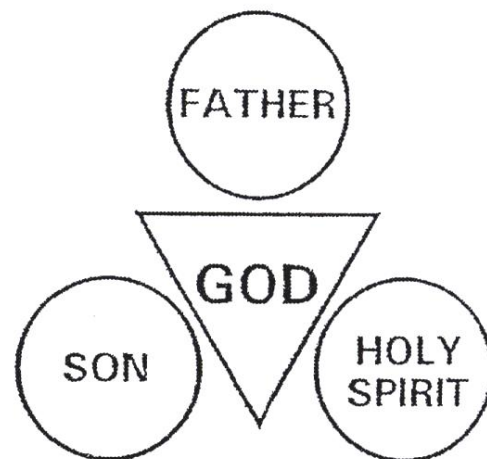
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.



It's easy to give thanks to God when everything is going smoothly. Right? It's not as easy when life is tough! However, it's amazing what saying "thanks" to God for the tough times does. It puts our faith in Him and therefore releases the pressure of the situation! What a relief! It's like we are telling God: we know He has taken care of the situation; and we know He is growing us spiritually through the tough times. He's given us everything we need to spiritually get through the situation - the indwelling and power of the Holy Spirit and Bible doctrine. Plus, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit pray for us!* Thank God for all of that!

Colossians 2:6-7 Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord [faith] so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.

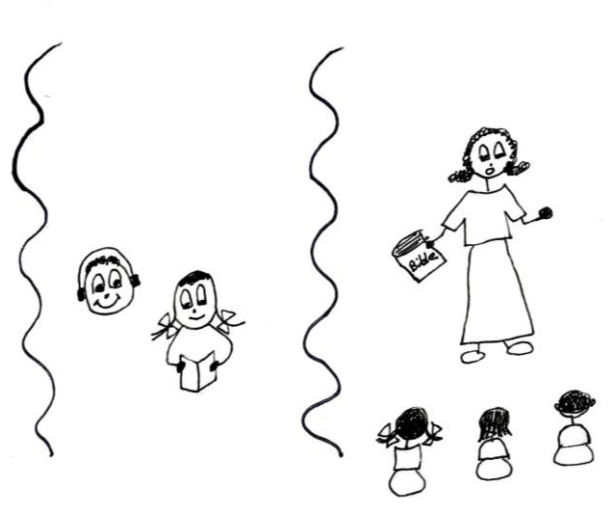
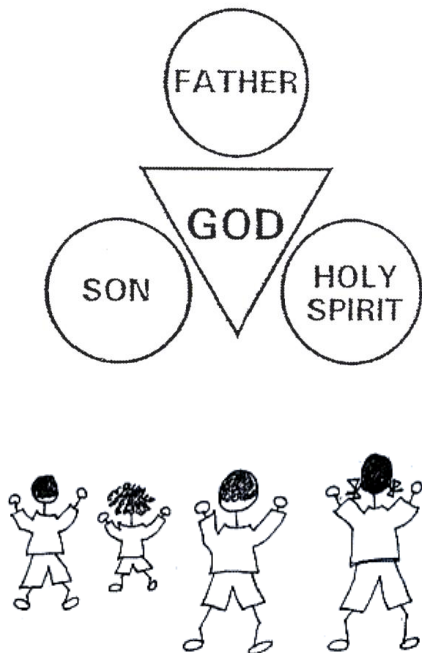
***Romans 8:26-27,34, John 17:13-19**



THANK YOU GOD!



Let's say we are in a situation where it is very difficult to be around one of our friends. With the power of the Holy Spirit, we can move our thinking from how difficult he or she is to thanking God that we have his/her friendship. We can say a little prayer for our friend. Try it! "In everything give thanks." When we do that, God will bring in something we have never seen before in that person or situation. He'll let us see something for which we can be thankful! He'll do something that will help us because we were obedient to His word. Hear doctrine, believe it and apply it. God will take care of the situation!



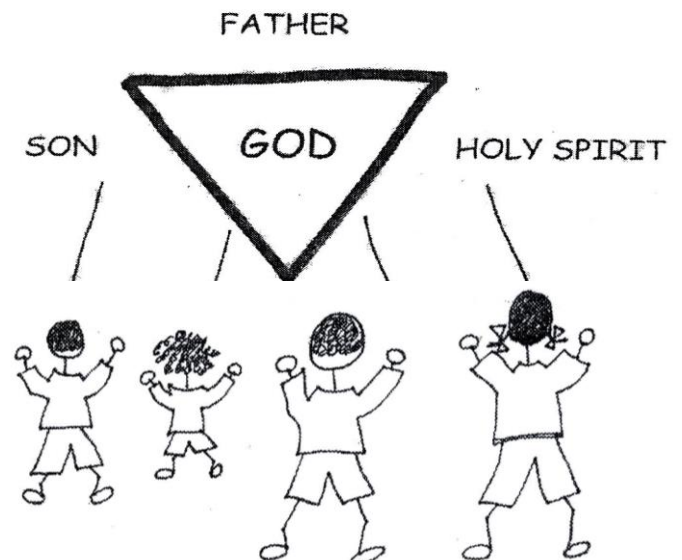
1 Thessalonians 5:18 In everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

God's solves these problems in our minds. He wants us to learn Bible doctrine through the power of God the Holy Spirit. Then we will have the thinking of Jesus Christ! That's amazing! We can use His viewpoint to solve our problems. Jesus **always** chose to give thanks to God the Father and to obey the Father's will. The following Scripture tells of the night before Jesus' death on the cross. He gave thanks in His time of **extreme** adversity.

Matthew 26: 26-30 While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is My body." Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and offered it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. This is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew with you in My Father's kingdom." When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

At times we will fail at giving thanks and obeying God's will. No problem, just use the power of God the Holy Spirit to turn away from sinning and to turn back to God!

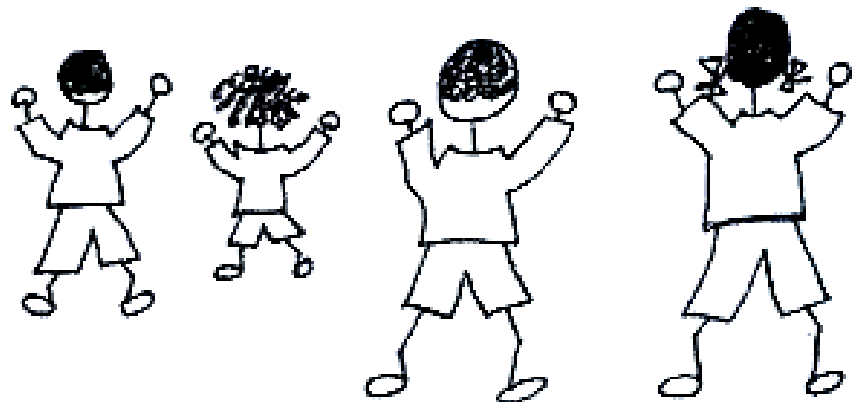
Psalm 95:2-3 Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving, let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms. For the LORD is a great God and a great King above all gods.



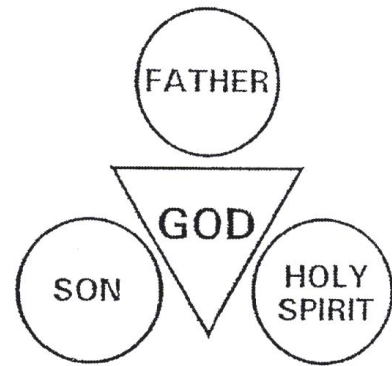
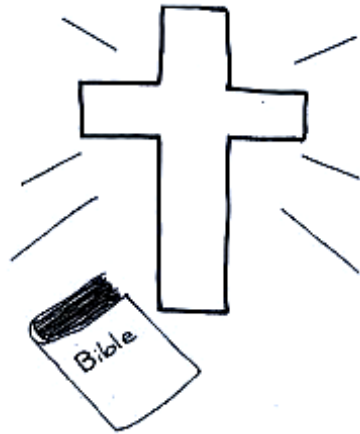
Now, learning to give thanks to God in time of suffering takes LOTS of time and practice! So we are not to be discouraged if we aren't there yet! The more Bible doctrine we have in our minds, the more of Jesus' thinking we will have. And, the more the Holy Spirit will have to use to help us to practice Jesus' thinking when the tough times come. We're to keep on focusing on Jesus Christ, learning His thinking in the Bible and the Holy Spirit will teach us to be thankful in time of suffering. With time and practice, the Holy Spirit can get us to give thanks for the tough times! Amazing grace!



2 Corinthians 2:15 Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift [the Lord Jesus Christ] !



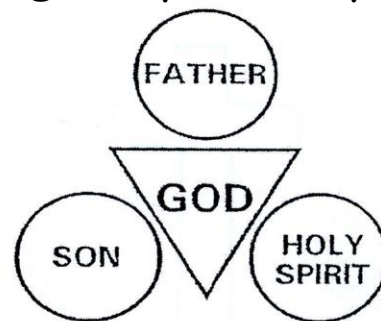
How does a person become great at anything? Know the principles and do them *over*, and *over*, and over and over. You know how much you have to practice to become good at a sport, playing a musical instrument, school studies, etc. The same is true for our spiritual lessons. Through the power of the Holy Spirit we are to learn Bible doctrine. The Holy Spirit uses the doctrine in our souls to train us. God will give us times to practice the Bible doctrine. The more we do well at practice, the more we will experience God's grace and the more we will rely on Him. That's what God wants - for us to grow in His grace and knowledge and to rely on Him! Each and every time He provides what is needed we should give thanks!!! (Which is always!)



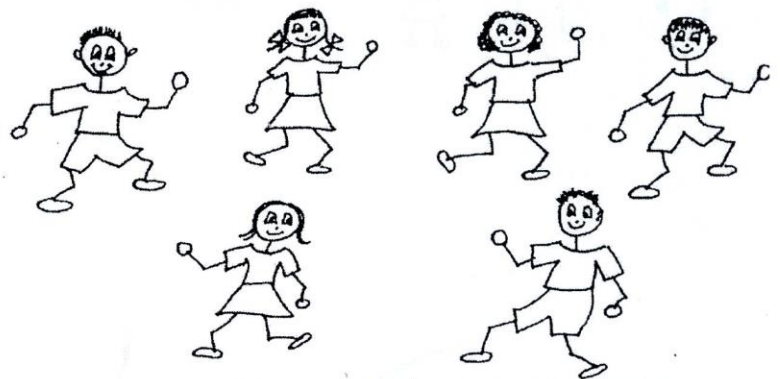
2 Corinthians 2:14 But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place.



Thankfulness for everything leads us to contentment and happiness. Accepting and being thankful for the life God has given us, and for all that He allows to happen in our life, is part of growing up spiritually. Accepting and REJOICING, experiencing God's happiness in situations, is part of spiritual maturity! We're talking about developing an attitude of thanksgiving. Pause every single day and be thankful! Open your eyes and look all around you. **God gives** you everything you have and need!



GOD IS FOR US!



Page 8



1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.



I AM A CHILD OF GOD

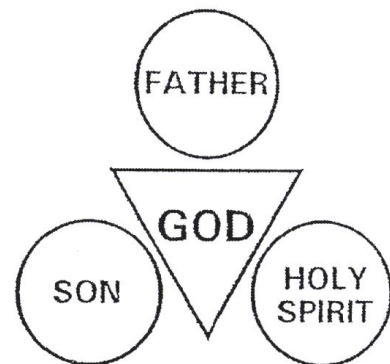
John 1:12-13 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

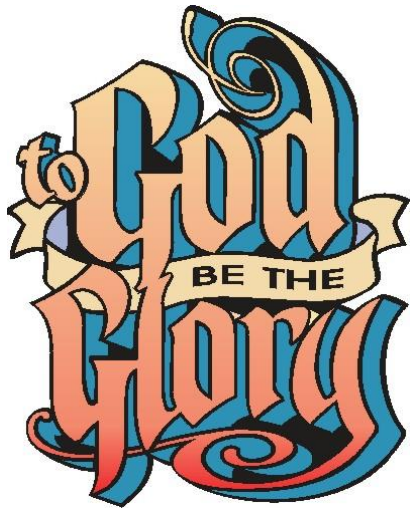
We are God's children! He surrounds us at all times with an abundance of grace - His free, unmerited love and favor for us. If we don't see it, it is because our eyes are closed. It's because we are too self-centered. We miss some of God's

blessings because we don't see them, not because they aren't there! When we wake up in the morning we can be thankful for another day. We have air to breathe, birds to see and hear singing, trees to see waving in the breeze and food to eat. We have some type of a shelter in which we live. God surrounds us with His grace! GIVE THANKS TO GOD FOR ALL THINGS!!!! God will never give us a problem that He has not already solved. God will help us overcome the circumstances of life so we can be thankful to Him for everything!

Col 3:17 Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

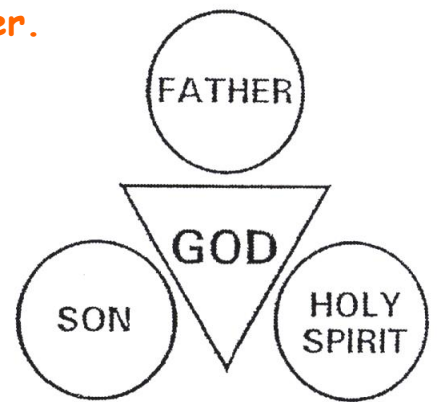
Hebrews 13:15 Through Him then (Christ), let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name.





Thanksgiving is the pathway to fully live life and to give God glory. Thanksgiving is an exercise in faith and humility. We are to have faith that **WHATEVER** God gives us or allows in our life is for our good and His glory! We are to have humility to accept **WHATEVER** God gives or allows. When we are willing to stop, enjoy and give thanks we will see a simple, pure joy in our life, like never before! Thanksgiving strengthens our relationship with the Giver, God; it becomes more intimate and personal every time we truly give thanks. The path to joy is living a constant, continual life of thanksgiving and prayer.

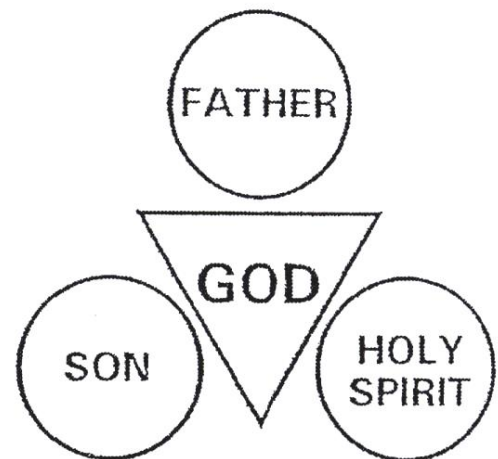
Colossians 3:15-17 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms *and* hymns *and* spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. Whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.



Points To Remember

1. God planned ahead of time **all** that we would need to bask in His love, grace and joy!! It is up to us to be grateful to God and use His amazing grace gifts.
2. It's easy to give thanks to God when everything is going smoothly. It's not as easy when life is tough!
3. Let's say we are in a situation where it is very difficult to be around one of our friends. With the power of the Holy Spirit, we can move our thinking from how difficult he or she is to thanking God that we have his/her friendship.
4. God solves these problems in our minds.
5. Now, learning to give thanks to God in time of suffering takes LOTS of time and practice!
6. How does a person become great at anything? Know the principles and do them over, and over, and over and over.
7. Thankfulness for everything leads us to contentment and happiness.
8. We are God's children! He surrounds us at all times with abundant grace - His free, unmerited love and favor for us.
9. Thanksgiving is the pathway to fully live life and to give God glory.

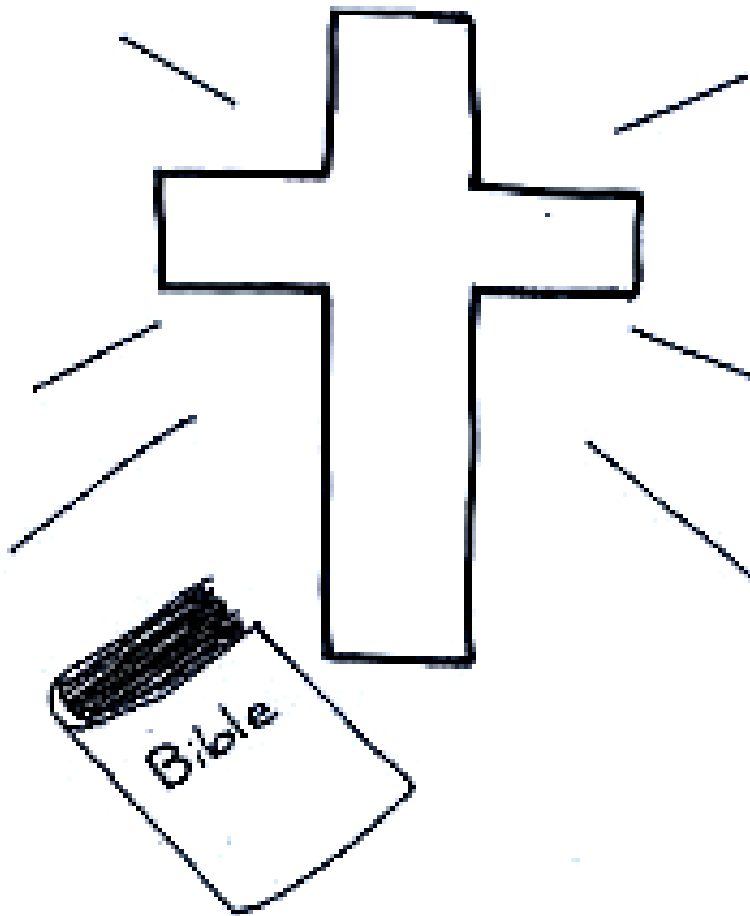
1 Chronicles 16:34 (NIV) Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; His love endures forever.



GOD IS FOR US!

Questions For Discussion

1. What does "giving thanks for everything" mean?
2. How are we able to get to the point where we can give thanks for everything?
3. What are some things for which we can be thankful?



1 Chronicles 16:8-10 (NIV) Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done, sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts. Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.