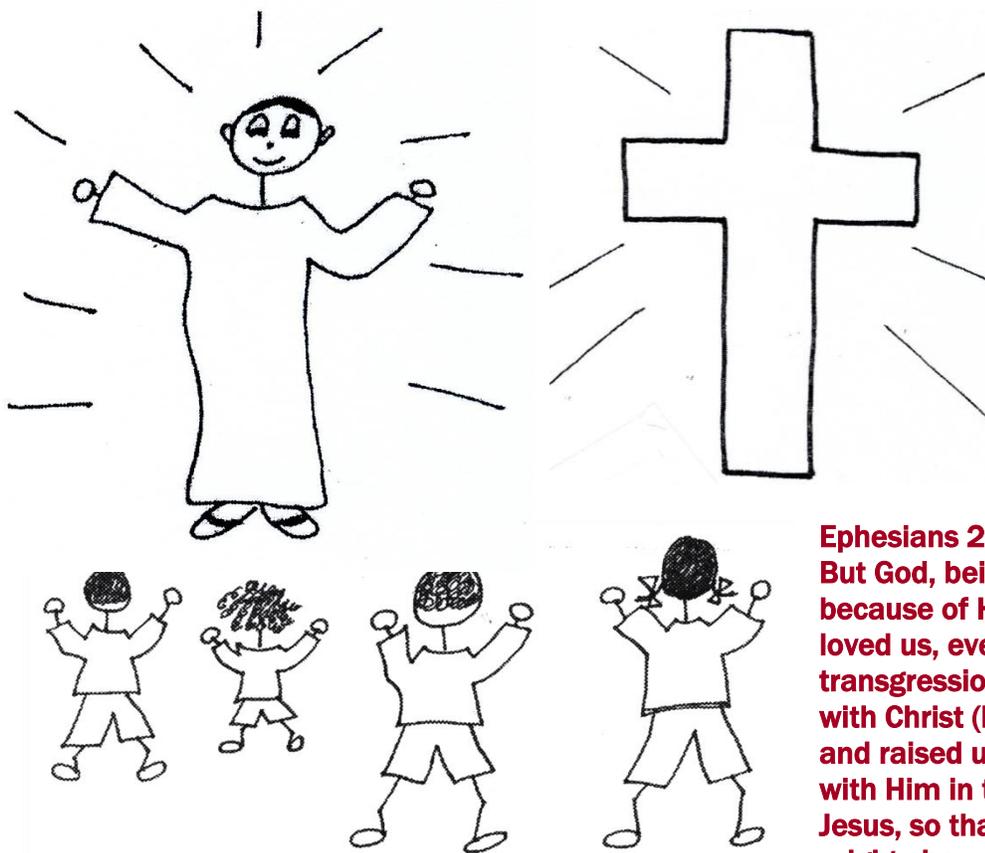


It's Not About You and Me.
**It's About God and His Matchless
Grace!**

Rewritten 2-7-2014

When we became believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, we were put in union with Him by God the Holy Spirit! We became a new person **IN CHRIST!*** What a great place to be! Because our position is in Christ, we are acceptable to God. There is nothing that we can do to earn that place or to lose it. That's **GRACE!** Grace is free, unmerited love and favor from God. 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.** God wants us to live in His grace!

*Go to allaboardgodstrain.org and read *Newness of Life in Christ*.

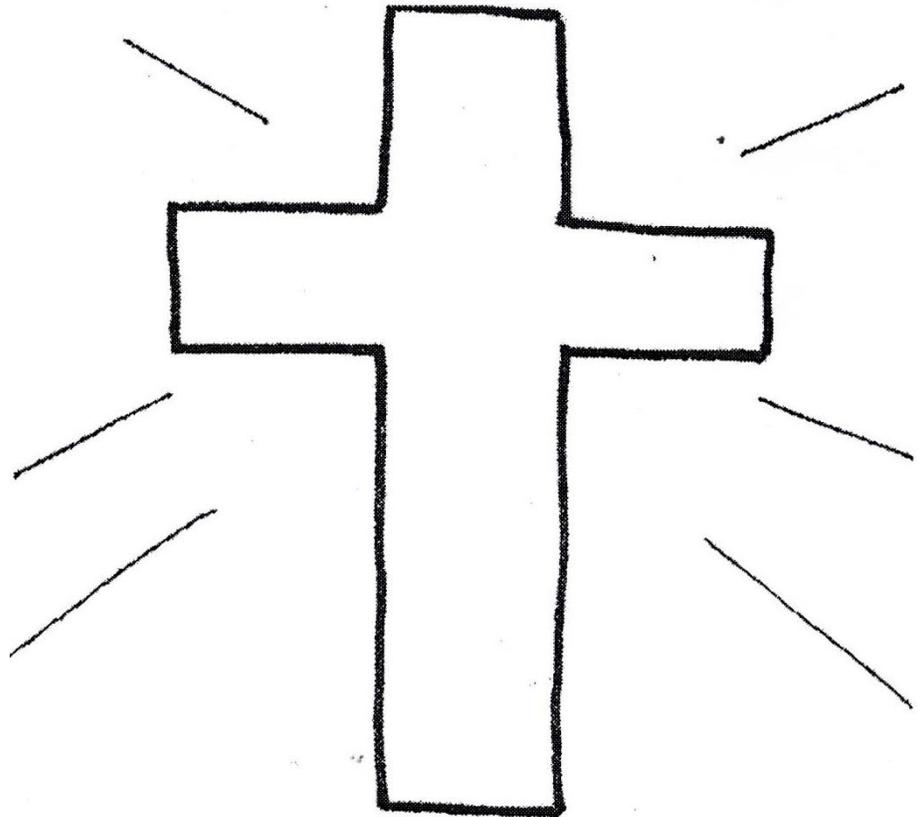


Ephesians 2:4-9
But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His

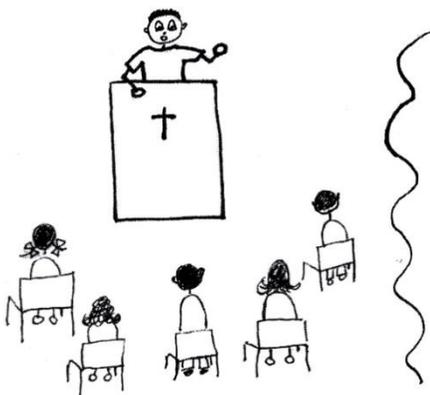
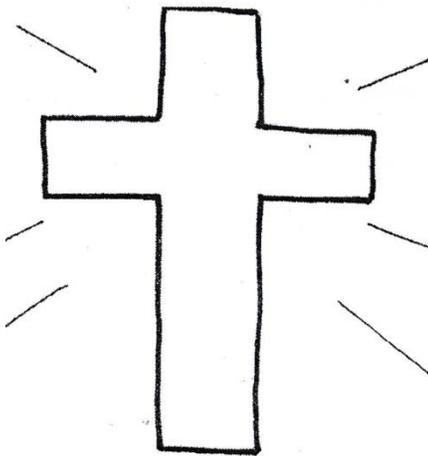
grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

GRACE means favor or concern, kindness, and mercy or forgiveness. God is able to show concern, kindness and forgiveness to us because of the Lord Jesus Christ's saving work on the cross. He gave of Himself so that we could have the grace gift of salvation. Since salvation is a gift, we don't have to pay for it. We just have to believe in our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. God doesn't say, "I'll give you the key to heaven, but you have to work for it!" God knows that we can't work for our salvation - Jesus Christ had to do the work on the cross! It's not about us! Isn't that a relief? It's about God and His matchless grace.

Ephesians 2:8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this [is] not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not of works, so that no one can boast [brag].



GRACE is the plan of God the Father, the work of God the Son, and the enabling power of the Holy Spirit. It required God the Father to bring about a plan. It took an amazing, unique (one of a kind) action called the cross of Jesus Christ to set it up. It takes ongoing, unlimited power coming from the Holy Spirit to mankind to keep it in action. God the Holy Spirit changes our way of thinking through the word of God. Then we have the thinking of the Lord Jesus Christ! The Holy Spirit gives us His power so we can do things God's way. That is God's grace working. God changes us! He does it His way! Isn't that awesome? It's all about God!



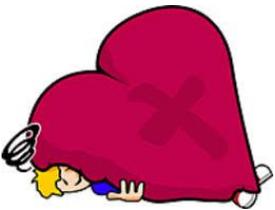
2 Peter 1:2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

GRACE is not held back or withdrawn because of our failures. God doesn't take back His gift; it stops being grace if God has to take it away when we fail or sin. What God does with grace in our lives may be different when we fail or sin because God wants to get us back on the right track. He wants us to realize we are sinning and put our focus back on Jesus Christ and go forward! God always works with us with His grace and love. That should make us sit back, relax and realize that it's not about us and **all about God!**



Hebrews 8:12 "For I will be merciful to their iniquities [wickedness], and I will remember their sins no more."

Satan hates the grace system because God does all of the work and gets all of the credit. Satan wants us to work in the cosmic system and to give him and ourselves the credit. What do you want - all powerful, all loving, all knowing God working for you, or you with **extremely limited** human power, love and knowledge working for yourself? In a way, that's like asking, do you want to walk from wherever you live all the way around the world and back to you home? (Which would be impossible! How would you get across the oceans on foot?) Or, would you like to have a **free** airplane ride to go from your home, around the world and back home again? God offers us "a free airplane ride"! We can't match God's love and grace. God's love and grace are LIMITLESS!



John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

God loves you with an all powerful and limitless love!

Ephesians 3:20-21 Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.

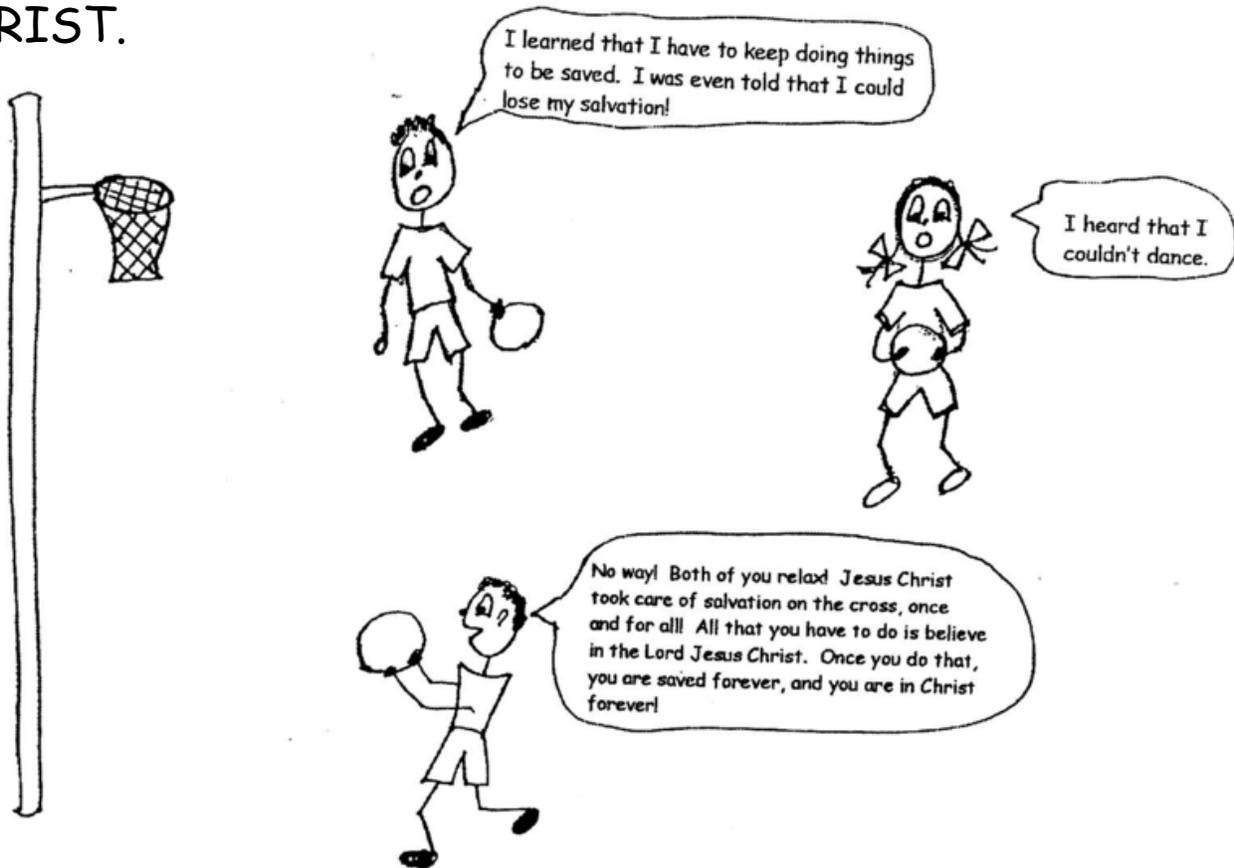
Satan uses *GUILT* to keep us from growing near to God, to His *GRACE* and to His love. *GUILT* is bondage! It is a weight that stops our growth in the spiritual life. Satan wants us to focus on what we do rather than on what God did for us at the cross. Satan wants us to be in his bondage rather than in God's freedom! He tries to get us away from *GRACE* and truth since it uncovers his deception. Satan is a liar! God's word uncovers Satan's tricks. God comes to our rescue!

Jesus Christ
Rescues Sinners



John 8:44 He [Satan] was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

Satan, on the other hand, wants us to feel **GUILTY** and live in bondage. He wants us to think we are not **IN CHRIST**, but that we have to make it on our own, human, good works. He tries to deceive us by making us think we have to prove ourselves to God by being good people. Then, when we fall, Satan wants us to feel **GUILTY** because we aren't good people. He wants us to focus on our mistakes, not on our new lives **IN CHRIST**.



Colossians 3:1-2 Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.

Romans 11:6 But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace.



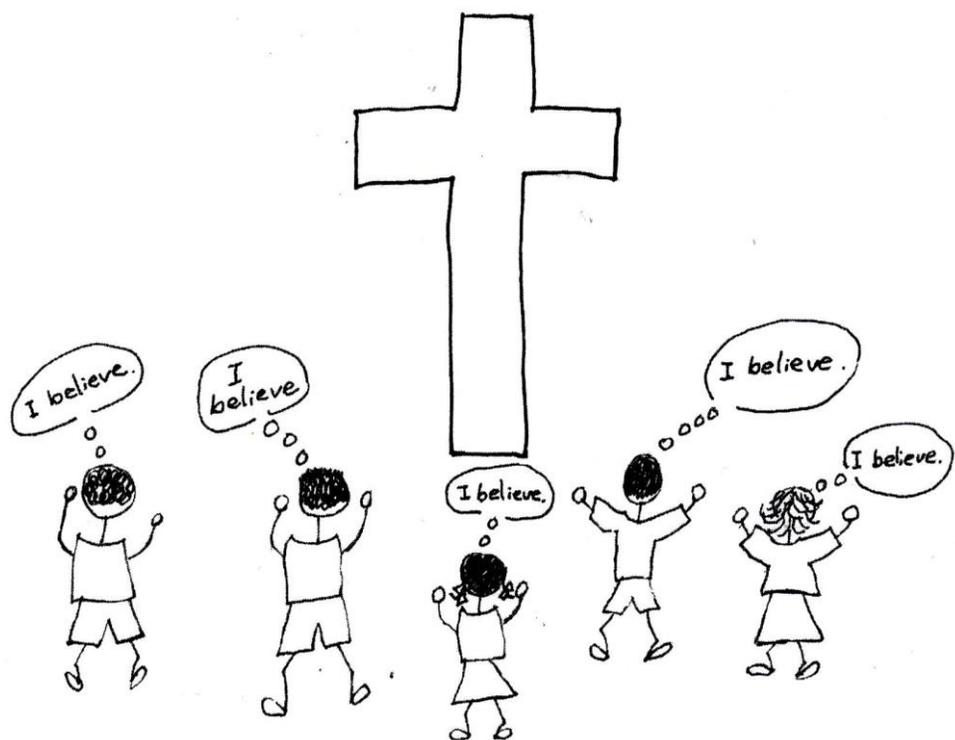
When we sin, we get ourselves in some bad conditions. However, we **will always** have God's love and we **will always** have His eternal life! God doesn't want us to have a GUILT trip. That's not a fun trip! God's plan always offers a way to get us out of our bad conditions and onto the right course. His plan offers GRACE and acceptance. He wants us to acknowledge our sins, (He already knows them) and take our focus off ourselves and turn it back on the Lord Jesus Christ! Get the picture??? God wants us to operate with His love and GRACE. That will set us free! Then we can have an enjoyable GRACE trip with the Lord in calm and stormy times!



Isaiah 30:18 Therefore the LORD longs to be gracious to you, and therefore He waits on high to have compassion on you, for the LORD is a God of justice; how blessed are all those who long for Him.

GRACE is FREEDOM! Because of His love for us, God wants us to live in His GRACE and spiritual freedom! We have God the Holy Spirit inside of us with His enabling or helping power. He will teach us about GRACE; He will show us all that God has done, is doing and will do for us because of His GRACE - His free, unmerited love and favor for us. He will teach us more and more about Jesus Christ's work on the cross which is God's biggest and best grace gift; it frees us from the bondage of sin! Ahh - peace! Once we believe in the Lord Jesus Christ we have salvation forever. We never lose it! It doesn't wear out! What a gift! It's not about you and me.

It's About God and His Matchless Grace!



Galatians 5:1 It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.

Psalm 84:11 For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD gives grace and glory; no good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly [walk in His plan].

