

Job's Faith

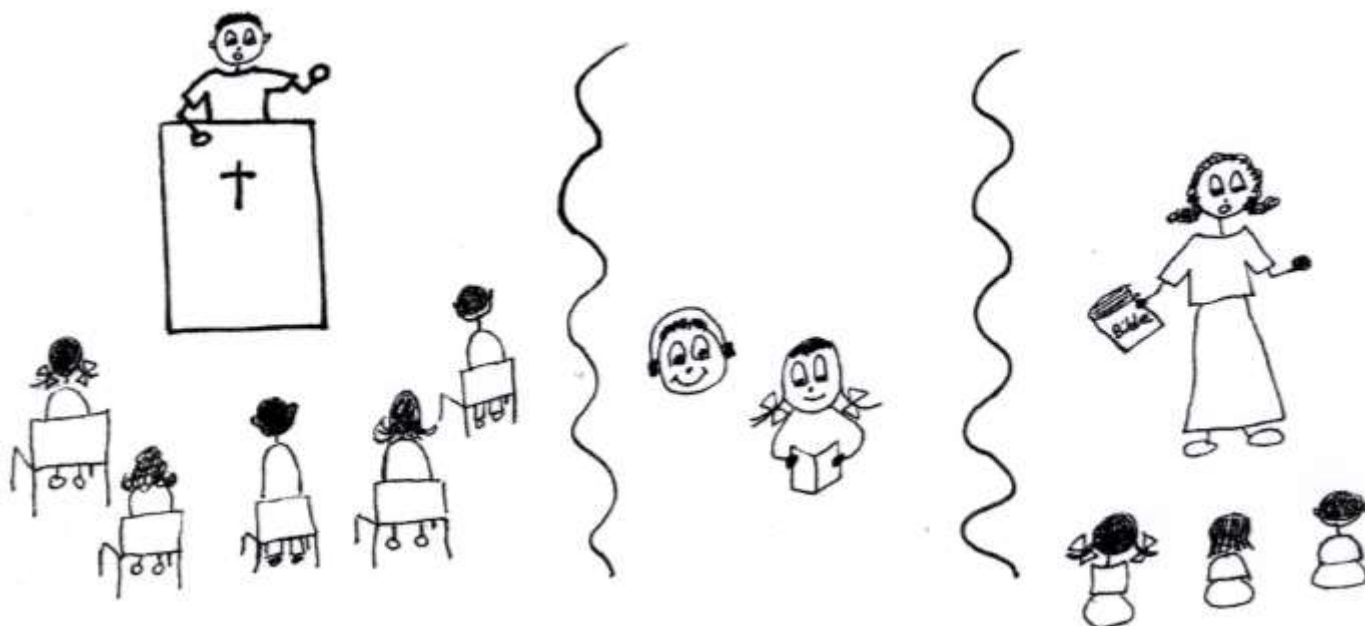
Part 8

God Delivers Job and His Friends

Revised 10-30-2013

In His grace and love, God gives us two types of deliverance from suffering: His word stored in the soul and the actual removal of the suffering. There are going to be times when the actual physical suffering doesn't go away. This is when the deliverance has to come through God's word in the soul. It has to come through a good attitude by using His thinking! God wants to deliver us through His grace and His thinking!* Many times we don't understand what is going on in our lives, but we must keep taking in the word of God and have faith! **God** will deliver us!

*Go to allaboardgodstrain.org and read *Grace Orientation* and *Doctrinal Orientation*.



Proverbs 19:8 He who gets wisdom [God's wisdom] loves his own soul; he who keeps understanding will find good [prosper in the soul].

Complete deliverance comes when God's purpose is met. It all depends on God's purpose or what He wants to happen. Remember, Job was a star witness in the Angelic Conflict. God's purpose was to show Satan how Job would continue to seek God; and after Job's suffering, falling and repenting, God would deliver Job. Job went from faith in God, to arrogance or self-centeredness, to repentance and faith again. Even though he sinned, he never cursed God like Satan said he would. God gave Job the strength to have faith and live in His plan. Job was delivered in God's timing! God received the glory!



Proverbs 19:21 Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the LORD'S purpose that prevails.

As believers in the Church Age, we know that we are in the angelic conflict. This is an advantage we have that Job didn't have; we pretty much know when we are having deserved suffering or undeserved suffering. When we disobey authority, we know we have to suffer the consequences. We may be disciplined by God or one of our earthly authorities. We call that deserved suffering. The solution is to admit our sin to our self and to take responsibility for it. Through His power, the Holy Spirit will give us the ability to stop the sinning as a life style. We are to turn back to God and continue going forward in the fantastic lifestyle God has planned for us.



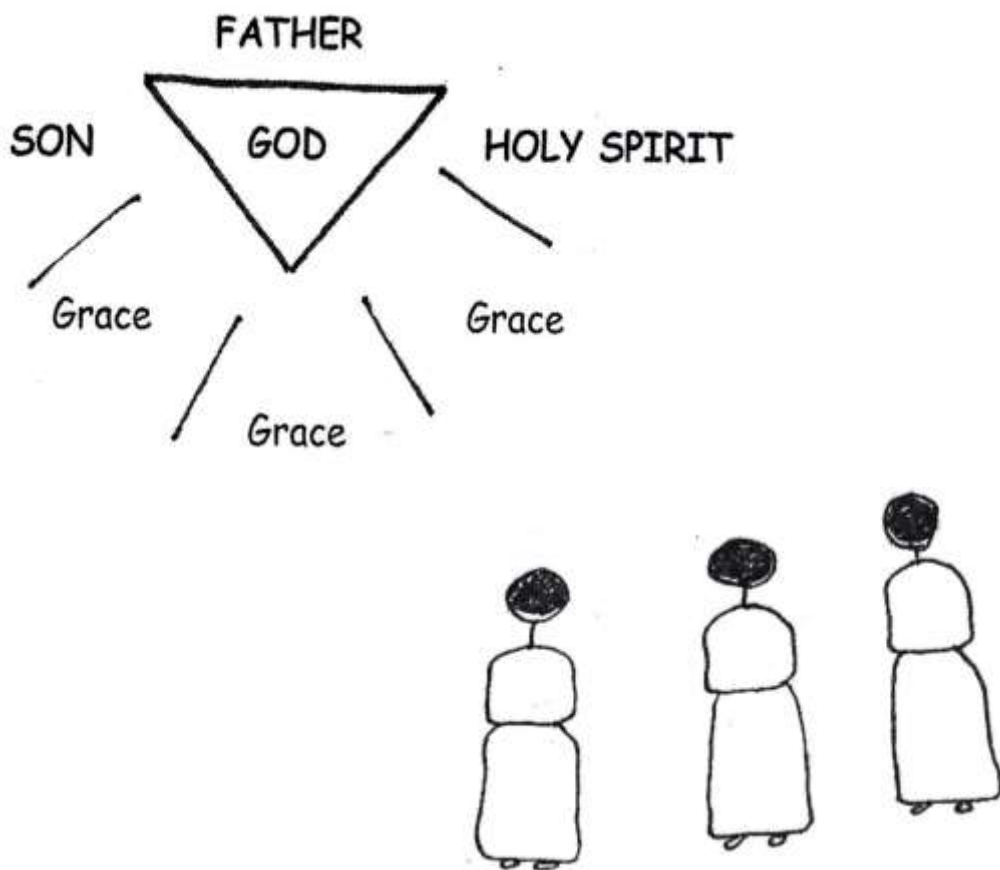
When someone is mean to us and we haven't done anything to cause that behavior, we call that undeserved suffering. We can handle the undeserved suffering with the power of the Holy Spirit and the Bible doctrine in our souls. If the undeserved suffering gets to be too difficult because we have a bad attitude, we just need to change our attitude through the power of the Holy Spirit and using God's divine viewpoint. God wants us to depend on Him alone to get us through any suffering!*

*Go to allaboardgodstrain.org and read *Face Your Challenges Head On*.

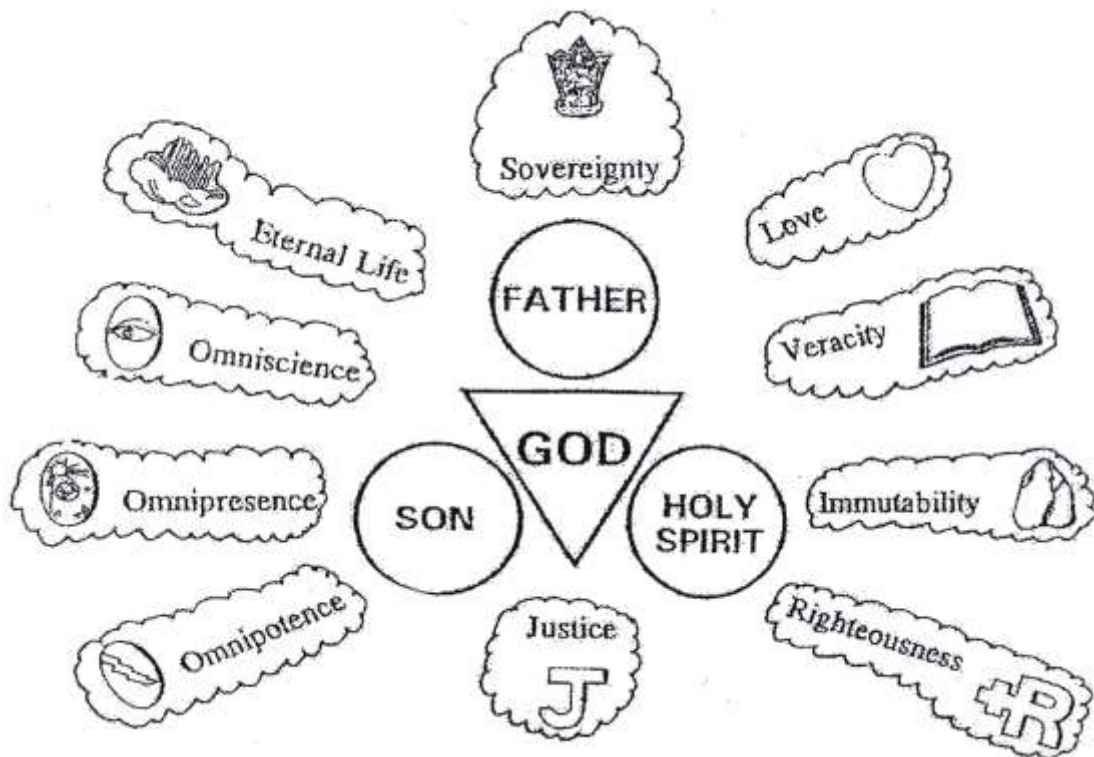


Romans 5:2b-5 And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, Whom He has given us.

Now back to Job and his friends. After God talked to Job and Job repented, God spoke directly to Eliphaz. **Job 42:7:** **"My wrath is kindled against you [Eliphaz] and against your two friends [Bildad and Zophar], because you have not spoken of Me what is right as My servant Job has."** What was the difference between Job and his friends? Job kept seeking God. He wanted God's explanation for his suffering; he did not close his mind to God. His friends, on the other hand, were satisfied with their own self-centered wisdom. They thought they had the answer!

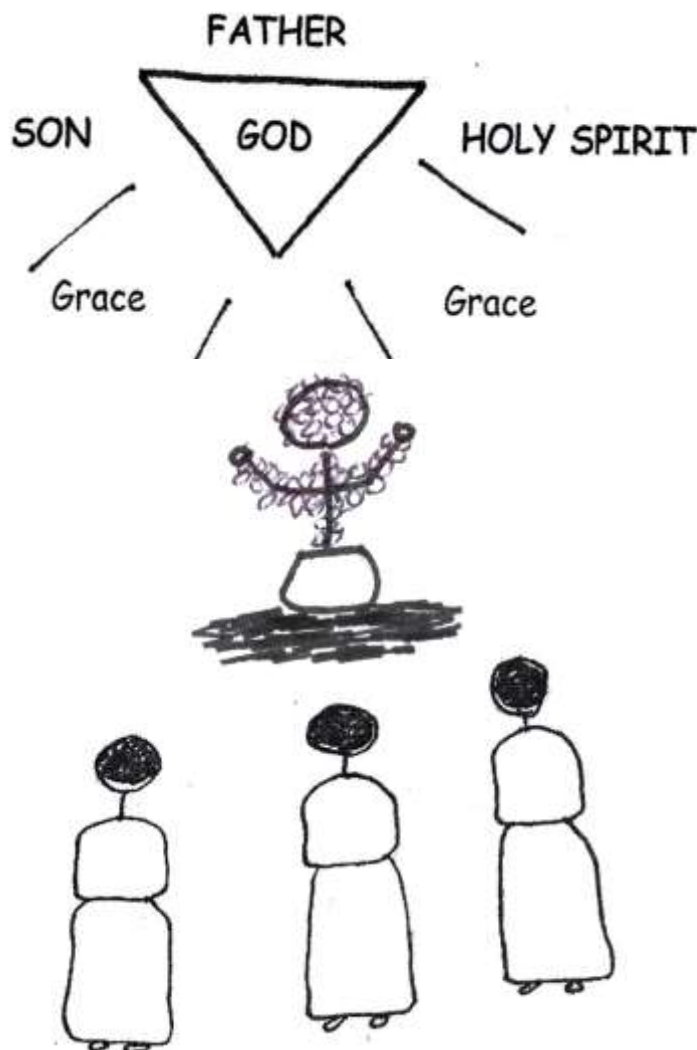


Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar thought the righteous person - the person who obeyed God - would prosper and the unrighteous person would suffer. They didn't think the opposite was true - that the righteous could suffer and the unrighteous could prosper. They blamed Job for his suffering. They misrepresented God's ability to deliver the suffering righteous person in His timing, and to punish the prospering wicked in His timing. They misrepresented God and His sovereignty.



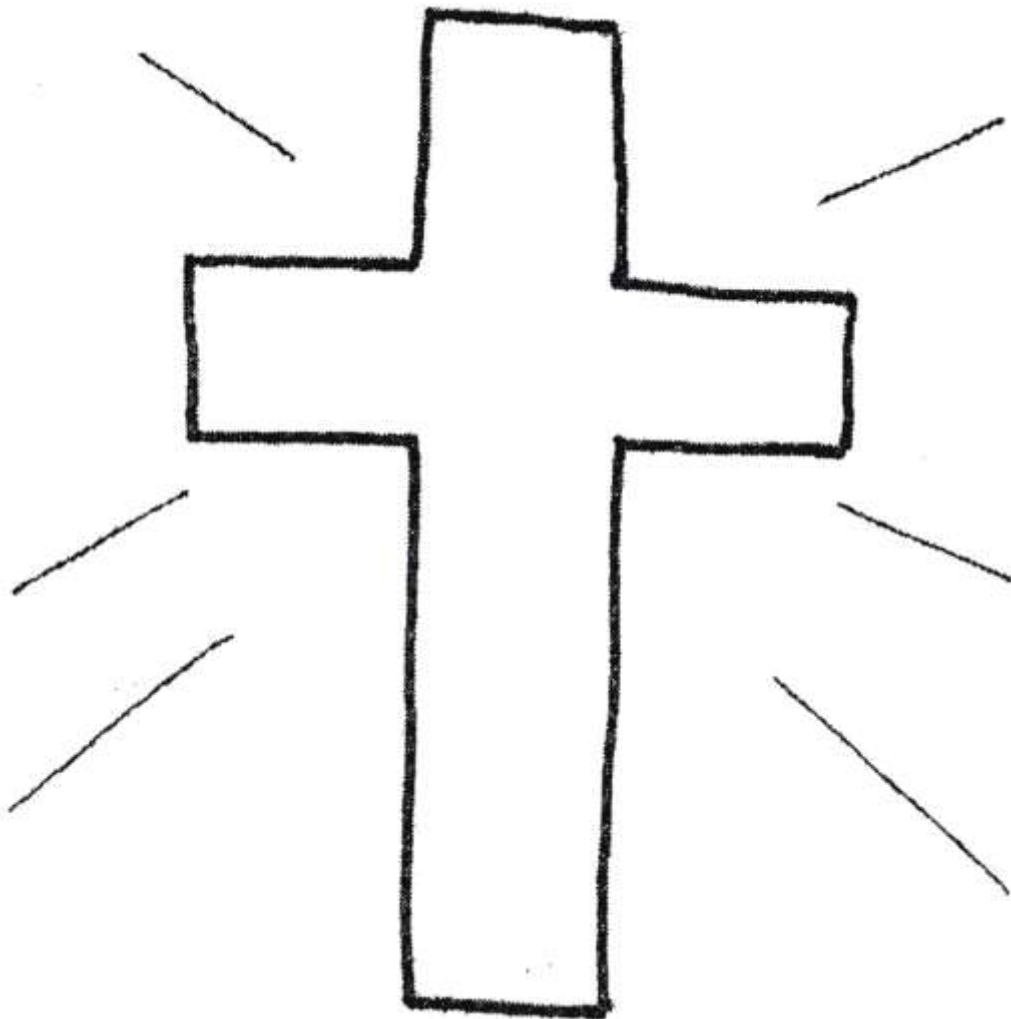
Job 42:8: "Now therefore, take for yourselves seven bulls and seven rams, and go to My servant Job, and offer up a burnt offering for yourselves, and My servant Job will pray for you. For I will accept him so that I may not do with you *according to your folly*, because you have not spoken of Me what is right, as My servant Job has."

God put Job in a place of honor; he was to use his priesthood to benefit Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar. He was to offer up a burnt offering and to pray for his friends. God offered the friends a path back to fellowship or friendship with Him. He was very patient with them and led them to repentance. According to their thinking, they should have been punished since they were unrighteous. However, God treated them with grace and mercy.

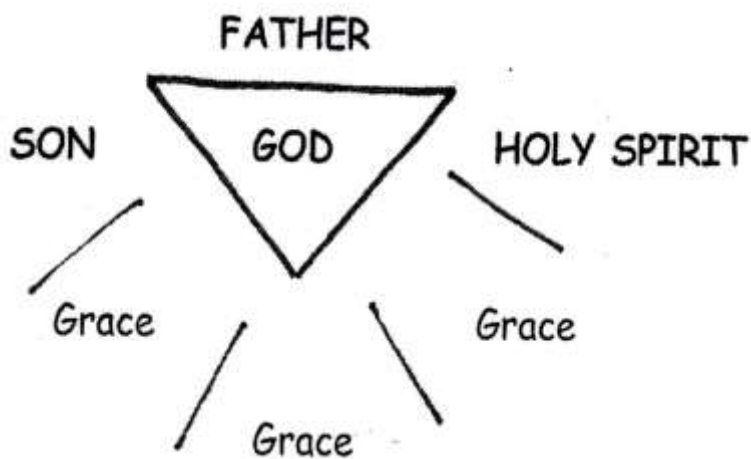


The burnt offering of the bulls and goats did not take away their sins. It was the outward sign of their inward faith in Jesus Christ. It was to point forward to the true sacrifice for all mankind's sins, the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ on the cross - God's grace plan! The Old Testament believers were to have faith in the integrity of God and the future work of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross.

Read Hebrews 10:1.

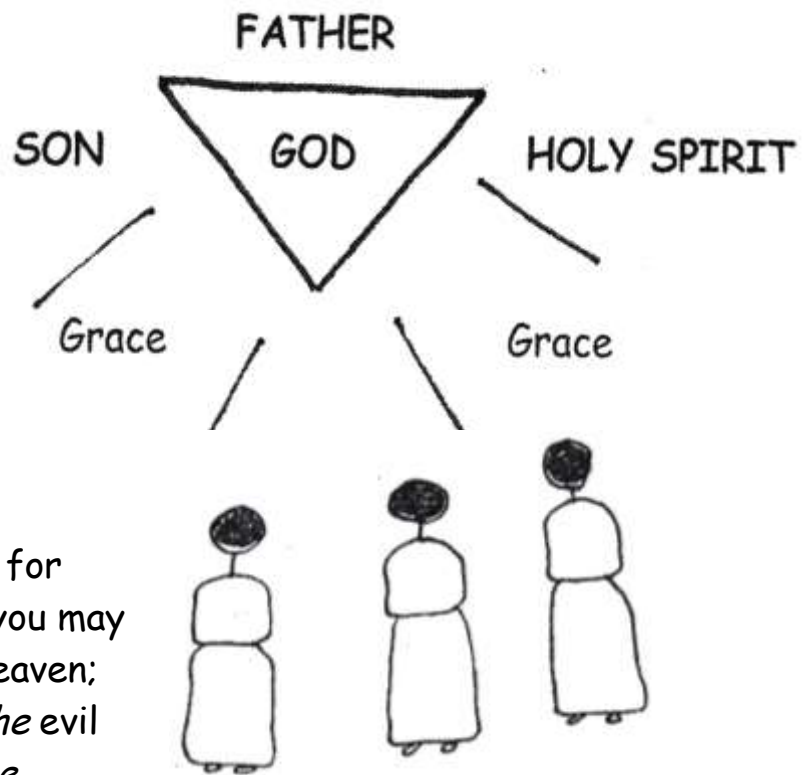


Both Job and his friends were faced with testing. If they had their eyes on the creature instead of the Creator, they wouldn't pass the testing, or they wouldn't adjust to the grace plan of God. Job must have mercy and forgiveness for his friends. He was to offer a prayer for his friends who had been extremely irritating to him. He had to forgive them so his attitude would be right while offering up the prayer. Job kept his eyes on the Creator, and from the word of God in His soul, he received a humble attitude. He did the will of God! He forgave his friends!



Job 42:9 So Eliphaz the Temanite and Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite went and did as the LORD told them; and the LORD accepted Job [as the intercessor].

Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar needed true humility to admit they were the unrighteous ones and had to repent. In other words, they needed to obey God's word, His authority. They needed true humility to present the sacrifices to Job whom they had accused of being unrighteous! Once again, they needed to obey God's word and they did! They all passed the test! Yay for God's grace, love, mercy and patience!

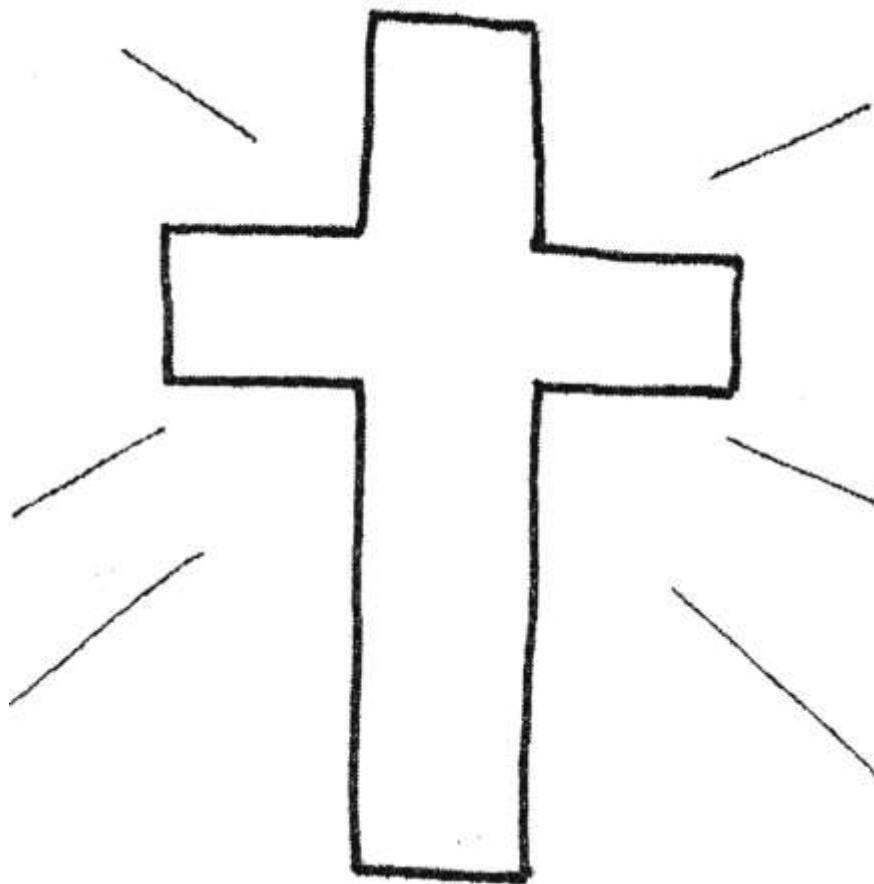


Matthew 5:44-45 But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on *the* evil and *the* good, and sends rain on *the* righteous and *the* unrighteous.

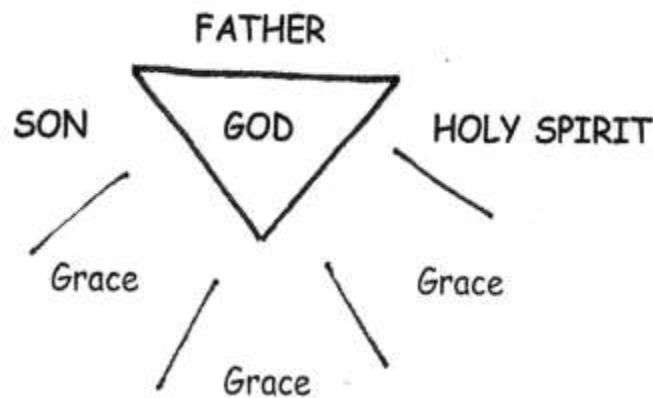
Forgiveness often plants the seed of repentance in others. Jesus Christ prayed for forgiveness for His enemies, Luke 23:34 "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." Stephen prayed for those stoning him to death, Acts 7:59-60 "They went on stoning Stephen as he called on *the Lord* and said, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them!' Having said this, he fell asleep." We are to forgive our enemies. Holding a grudge will only hurt us. God has forgiven us much. God the Father sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to be the Savior of the entire world so all could have forgiveness!

Acts 10:43 All the prophets testify about Him that everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name.

Ephesians 4:32 Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.



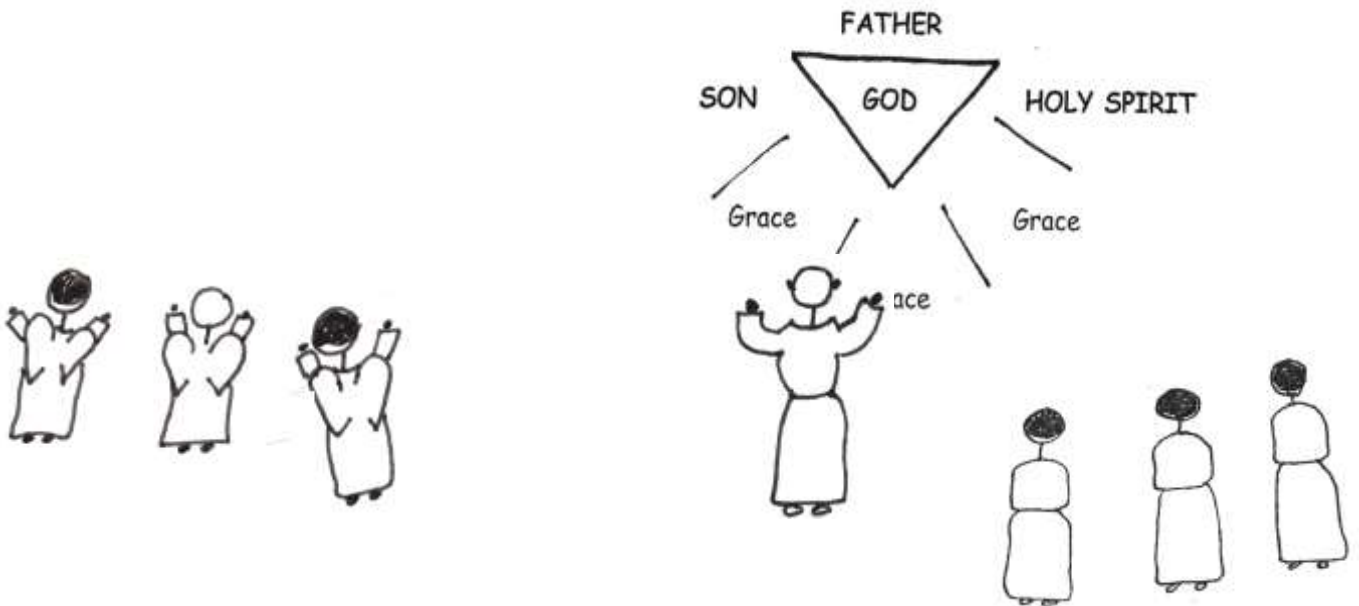
God gives and gives of His grace - His favor, kindness and mercy - and of His patience. The fact that God allows His children to flounder, or struggle in a confused way, is a matter of grace. He wants to bring us to the point where we realize we need Him! He gives us wiggle room in our own ignorance to wear ourselves out! He wants us to become humble and repent. God's patience with us allows time for His grace to be seen. Grace is meant to lead us to repentance. God's grace led Job, Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar to repentance. What an awesome God we have!



Romans 2:4 Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?

Job 42:10 The LORD restored the fortunes of Job when he prayed for his friends, and the LORD increased all that Job had two-fold.

God showed Job's "expert witness" attitude to his friends and the angels. He had Job stand in the gap and pray for his friends. All those present had seen what was going on with Job and his friends. When he prayed, they also saw his attitude of humility which he received from God's word in his soul. They saw that Job was respecting and obeying God's will and authority. He was God centered not self-centered. **When** Job prayed with a humble attitude, his fortunes were restored. In fact, they were doubled! Once again, God showed His grace. He was the One worthy of glory! What an awesome God we have!



1 Peter 5:6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time....

Points To Remember

1. In His grace and love, God gives us two types of deliverance from suffering: Bible doctrine in the soul and the actual removal of the suffering.
2. Complete deliverance comes when God's purpose is met.
3. As believers in the Church Age, we know that we are in the angelic conflict.
4. When someone is mean to us and we haven't done anything to cause that behavior, we call that undeserved suffering.
5. After God talked to Job and Job repented, God spoke directly to Eliphaz.
6. Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar thought the righteous person - the person who obeyed God - would prosper and the unrighteous person would suffer. They didn't think the opposite was true.
7. God put Job in a place of honor; he was to use his priesthood to benefit Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar.
8. The burnt offering of the bulls and goats did not take away their sins. It was the outward sign of their inward faith in Jesus Christ.
9. Job and his friends were faced with testing.
10. Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar needed true humility to admit they were wrong, to repent, and to present the sacrifices to Job.
11. Forgiveness often plants the seed of repentance in others.
12. God gives and gives and gives of His grace - His favor, kindness and mercy - and of His patience.
13. God showed Job's "expert witness" attitude to his friends and the angels and to anyone else that was there.

Questions For Discussion

1. What are the types of deliverance from suffering God gives us?
2. When does God give us complete deliverance?
3. How is it an advantage to know we are in the angelic conflict?
4. How would you explain deserved suffering and undeserved suffering?
5. What was the difference between Job and his friends?
6. Why was the thinking of Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar wrong?
7. What did God tell Eliphaz and his two friends to do?
8. To what did the burnt offerings point?
9. What were the tests that Job and his friends had? Explain what they needed in order to pass the tests.
10. Why does God allow His children to flounder or struggle in a confused way?
11. What was Job's attitude when he prayed?

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ZOPHAR

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References: Eusebeia Bible Church

www.eusebeia.org

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Pastor John Farley

johnfarley.org

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