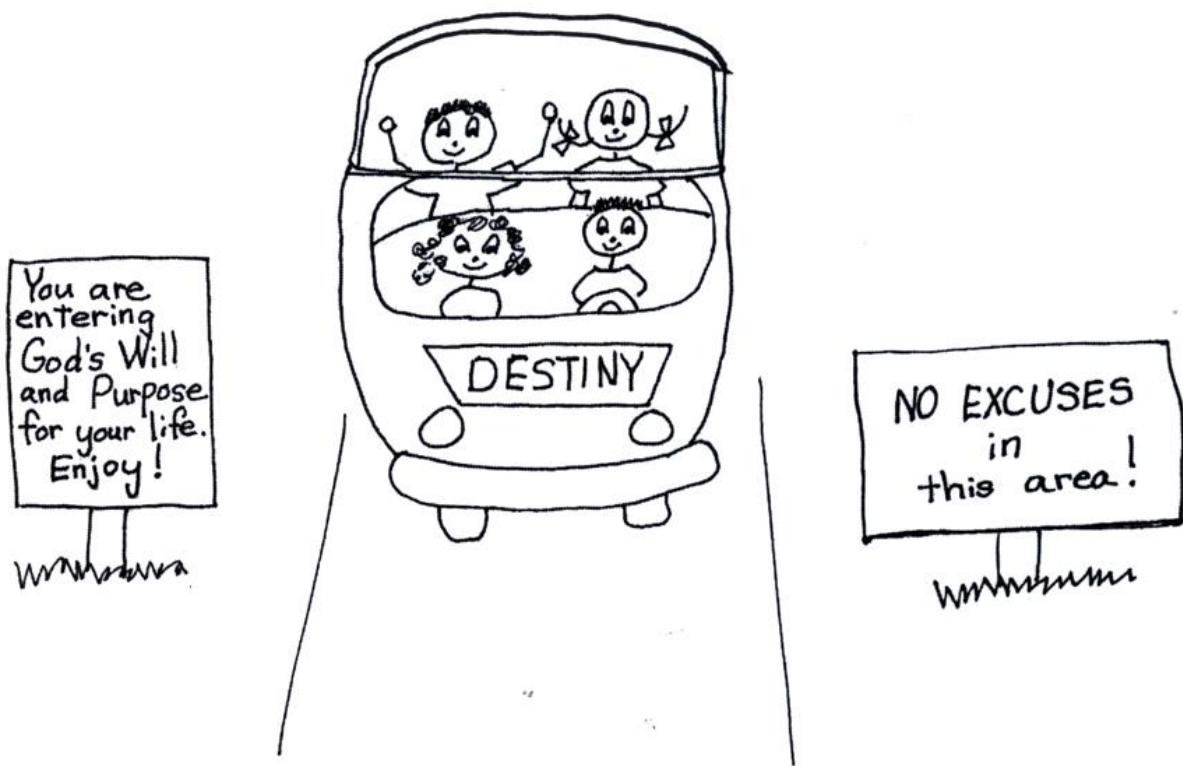


NO EXCUSES!

Revised 9-20-2014

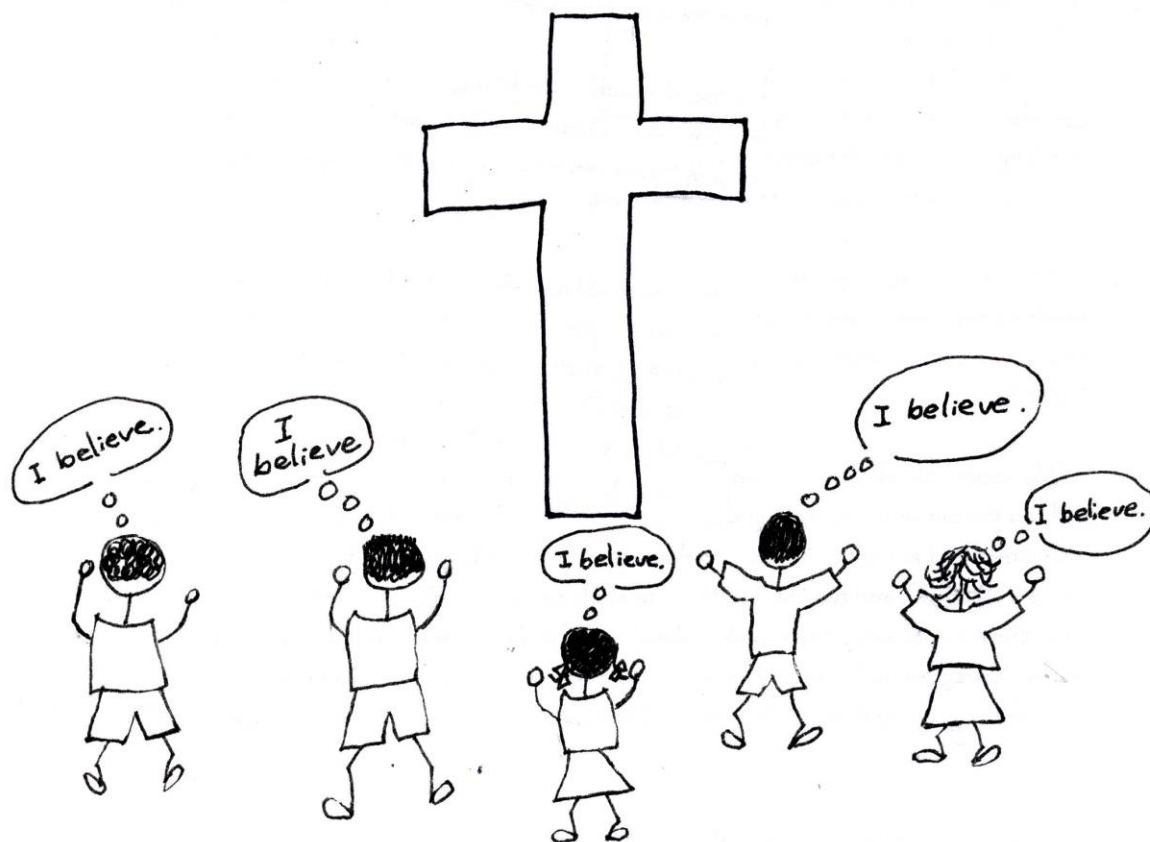
Revised 1-20-2018

How many times have we all said to ourselves, "I would have done that if I" We have many excuses for why we don't do certain things. Billions of years ago, God designed everything we would need to live the spiritual life. Therefore, there are NO EXCUSES for not living the spiritual life God has for us. Because of His love for us, He showers us with His grace! God wants us to have His highest and best!



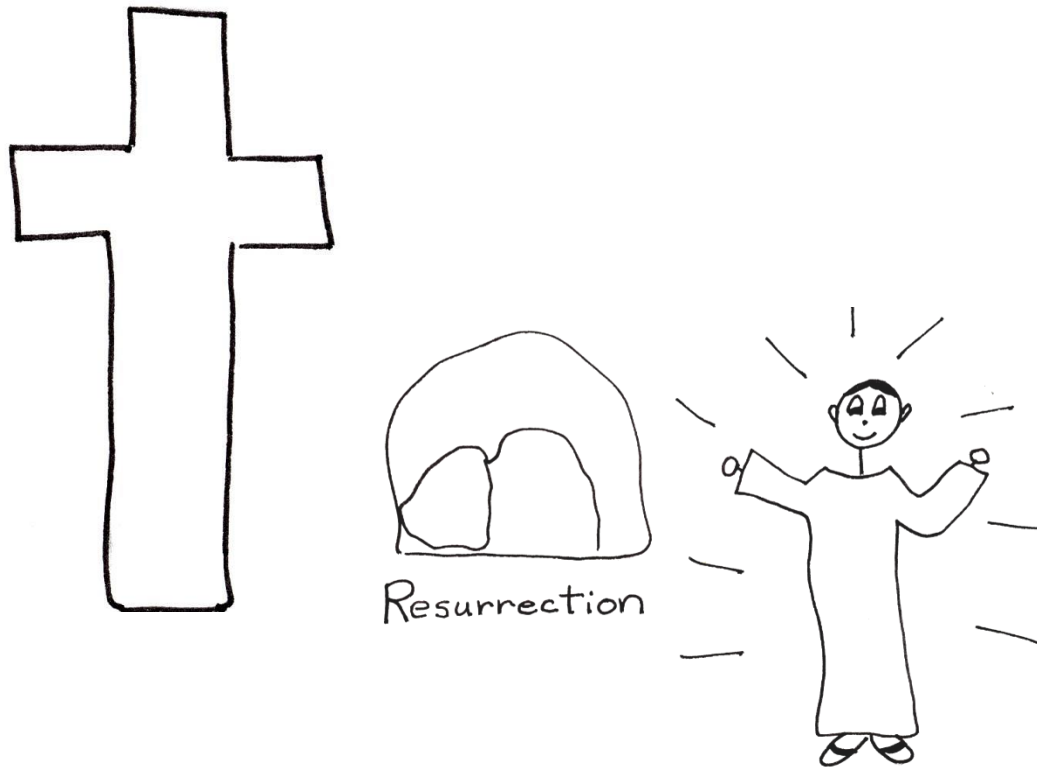
Isaiah 30:18 Therefore the LORD longs to be gracious to you, and therefore He waits on high to have compassion on you. For the LORD is a God of justice; how blessed are all those who long for Him.

Jesus Christ's work on the cross paid the penalty for the sins of **all** humanity. He then died and rose from the dead. After 40 days He ascended into heaven and sits victoriously at the right hand of the Father! All mankind has the privilege and opportunity to believe in Jesus Christ as their Savior; we have free volition to say "yes" or "no" to believe in Jesus Christ as our Savior.



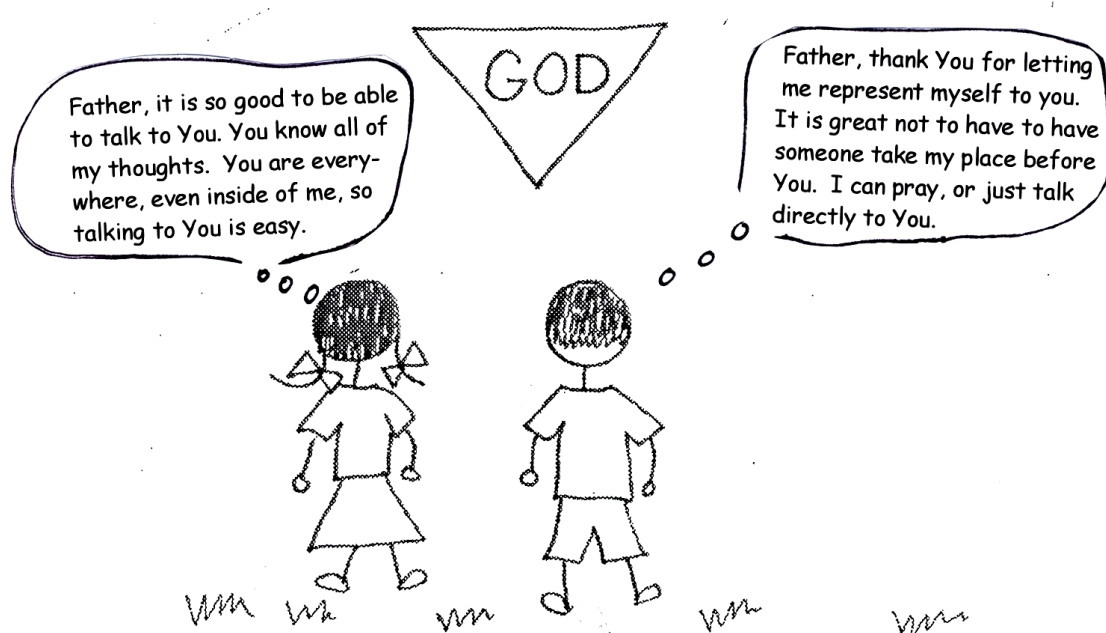
John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

God makes His Son known to us through the power of the Holy Spirit; the Holy Spirit uses His power to make the gospel clear to us. Once we understand the gospel, He wants us to believe in Jesus Christ as our Redeemer. If we choose not to believe, when we come to the judgment seat of God we have NO EXCUSES. We can't say that we didn't know about the way for salvation! If we choose to believe, we become new creatures in Christ!



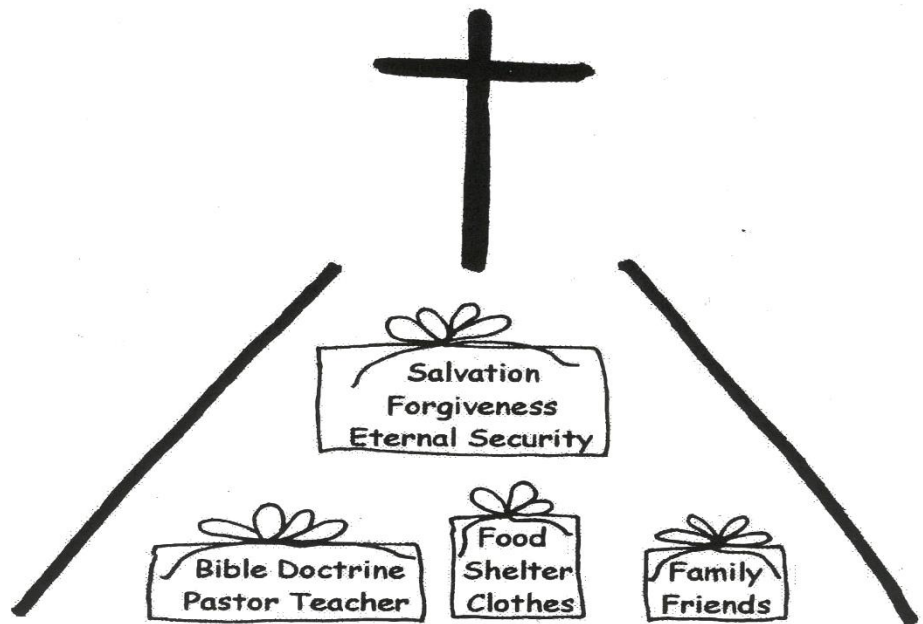
2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

Billions of years ago, God decided for Church-age believers to have their own priesthood! This means that we can represent (stand for) ourselves before God. We can do this because of what Jesus Christ did for us on the cross! He made it possible for us to represent ourselves before the Father. We do this through the power of God the Holy Spirit and in the name of Jesus Christ. Any time we want to we can pray to God the Father or carry on a conversation with Him. He is always there to listen. He never gets tired of listening to us. We don't have to have someone else be our priest, or represent us (take our place), before God! We have NO EXCUSES not to keep in touch with God!



1 Peter 2:9 But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

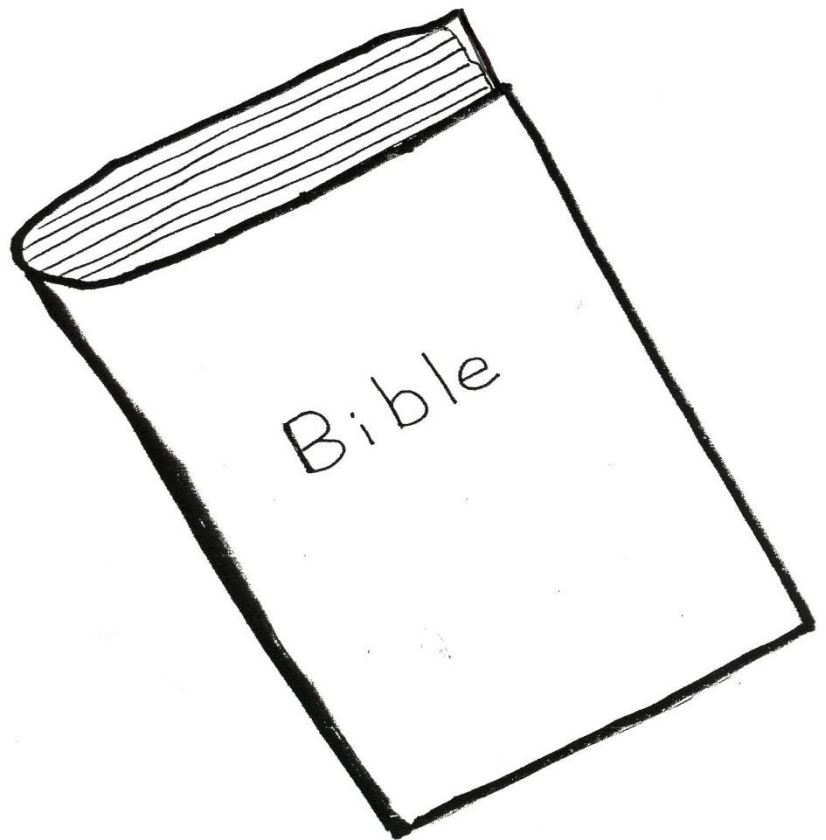
Also, billions of years ago, God decided that we would have His grace support. This means that He gives us everything we **need** in the natural life and in the spiritual life. In the natural life, God knew that we would need food, shelter, and clothing. He might give us just the bare necessities; or, He might give us more than that. He'll do what's best for us. In the spiritual life, He knew that we would need His word, the Bible, and a way to learn it. Since we can't learn spiritual truths through our power, God the Holy Spirit indwells us and gives us His power to learn! In eternity past - long, long ago - God willed for all believers to have these things.



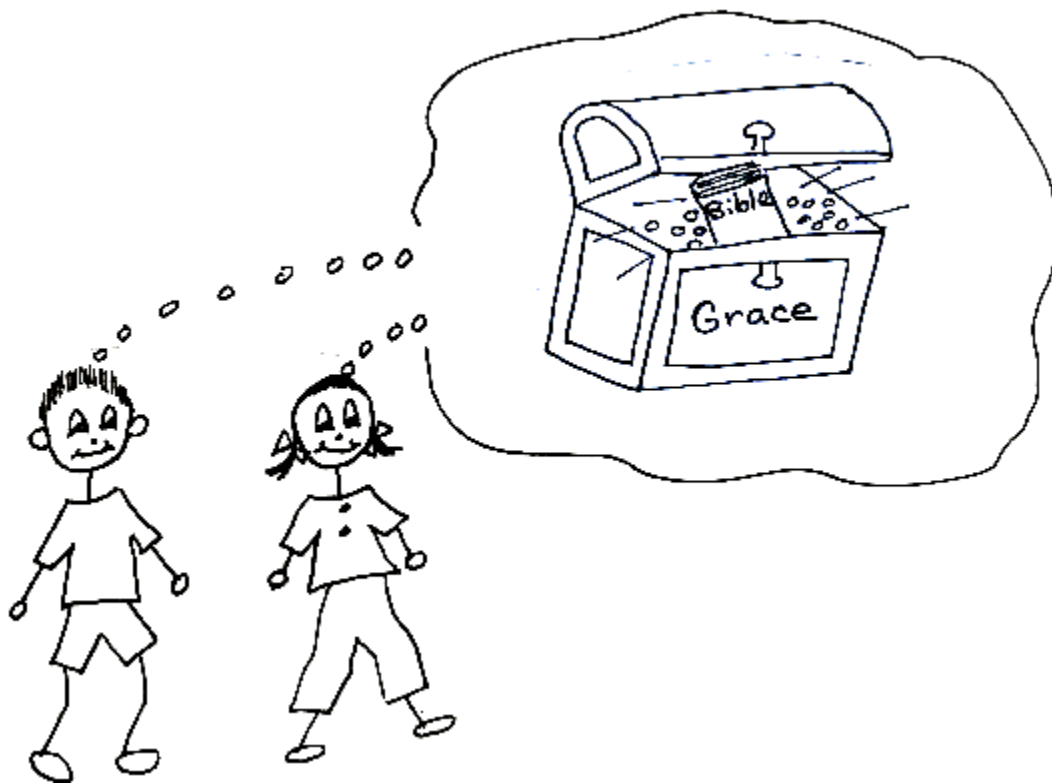
2 Peter 1:2-3 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him Who called us by His own glory and excellence.

There is only one book that has the right motivation, or reasons, to act and think the right way - THE BIBLE. It is the thinking of the Lord Jesus Christ as well as God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. What great thinking!!! It teaches us the love of God and how He wants us to live in that love. It will get us through good times and bad times! We learn about God and His thinking and believe Bible doctrine through the power of the Holy Spirit. We will be learning about God and His spiritual provisions for the rest of our lives. The Bible will give us good reasons to think and act the way God wants. What great motivation!!!

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.



We can have the wrong motivation in life and it will take us in the wrong direction! If we are not motivated by the word of God and His love, we have wrong motivation! So, it is easy to tell when we are on the wrong track. When we are on the wrong track, we will get into mental attitude sinning. What a downer!!! It always comes back to what we are thinking!



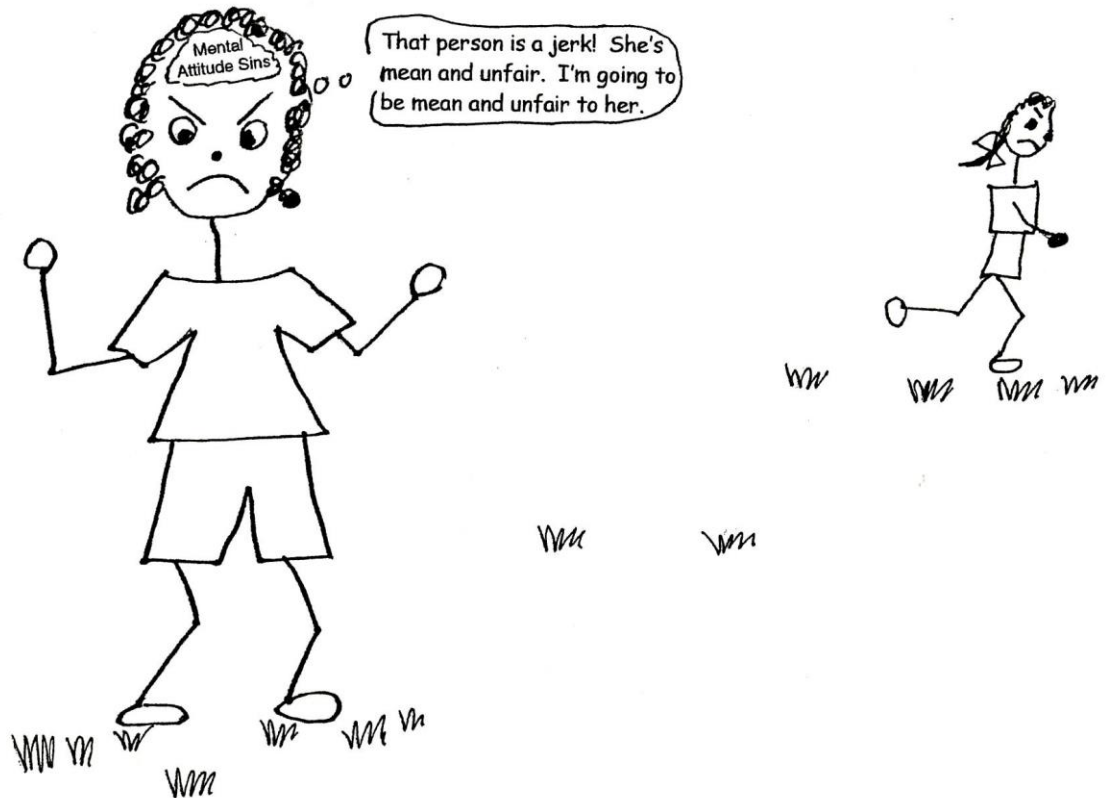
Mathew 7:18 A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit.

With the wrong thinking, we'll get into self-justification. We'll try to give excuses for our wrong way of living. We'll be in self-deception - lying to ourselves! And we will be self-absorbed. We'll be thinking so much about ourselves that we won't have time for others. And what's most important, we won't have time for God. We'll be in self-caused misery - the ME, ME, ME attitude. Bad attitude! Our arrogance will cause us to be blind to God's way. How blind can we be? VERY!



Jeremiah 49:16 As for the terror of you, the arrogance of your heart has deceived you.

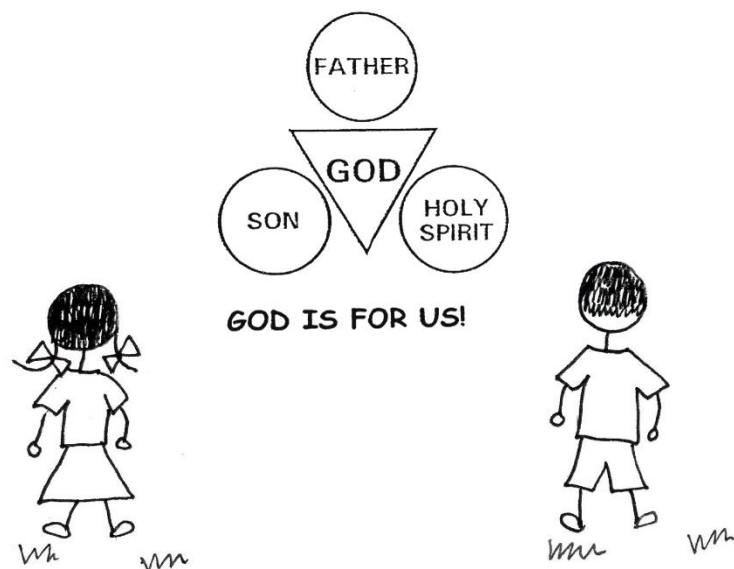
This arrogance, which deceives us, leads to all kinds of mental attitude sins. When we are so absorbed with ourselves, we blame everyone else for our unhappiness. We become bitter and jealous. We want to get even with those who do bad things to us. We want to be their judge. We start having thoughts of fear, guilt, worry, anger, and hatred. What a messed up mind! This all happens because of the wrong motivation in life; we are not motivated by the love of God and His thinking.



Proverbs 27:19 *As water reflects a face, so a man's heart reflects the man.*

God has designed the spiritual life so that we don't have excuses. All of mankind's sins have been paid for by Jesus Christ on the cross. They have been judged by God the Father! Jesus Christ is seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven - victorious! We just have to believe in Jesus Christ as our Redeemer and at that moment ALL of our sins are forgiven! Then God accepts us for who we are in Christ.

Using wrong motivation in life will take us away from what God wants for us. If we go down that self-centered road, we won't bring glory to God. We won't receive all of the wonderful blessings He has waiting for us. So, let's keep our eyes on God and His will for us. Let's not use any silly excuses to keep us from receiving God's best. We don't need excuses.



Romans 8:1-2 *Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.*

God sees us as who we are in Christ. We are all in the body of Christ with Christ as the Head. As was said before, God doesn't judge the sins we commit; they've already been judged on the cross! At salvation, they were all forgiven. How freeing is that? We don't have to compete with others nor feel badly about our lives. God couldn't love us more than He already does. He couldn't love us less, either. Now what is our excuse?



Galatians 3:28- 29 There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.