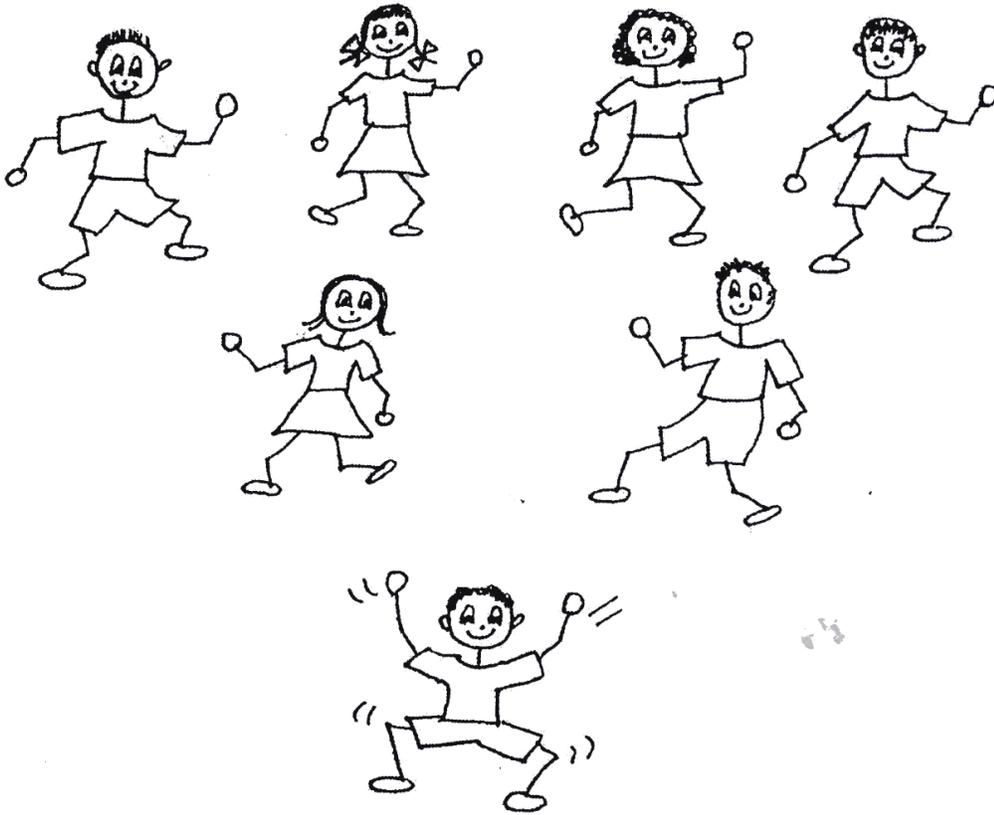


# Faith

This Life I Live by Faith in the Son of God.

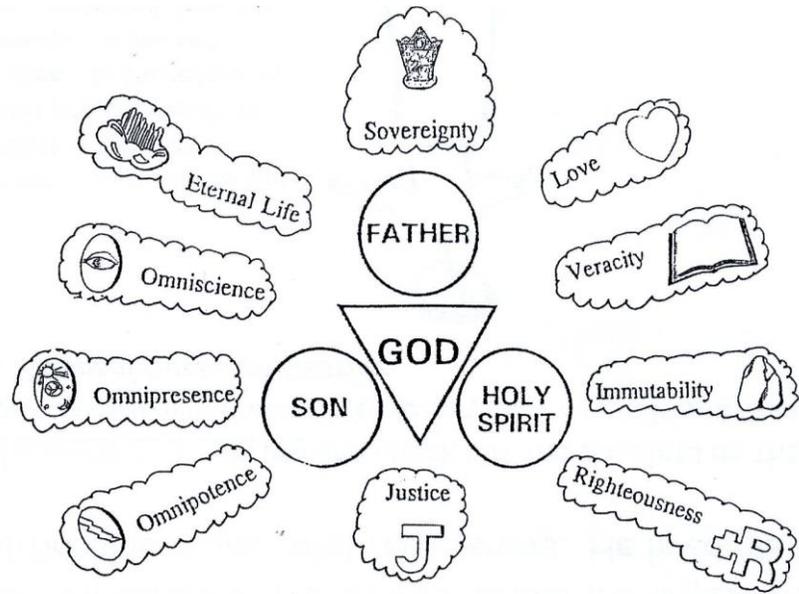
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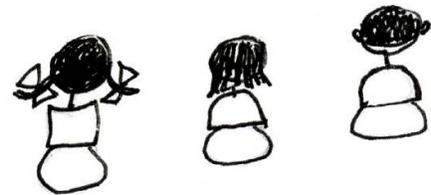
In eternity past, God decreed or declared His plan for history. He designed it before He created His creatures. It includes everything - the good and the bad! God saw in eternity past **all** that His creation **would choose** to think, do, and say. He ruled or decreed that it would **all** happen. He also worked it **all** out so it would **all** bring Him glory! We can have faith in God's plan for history and for our lives.

Proverbs 16:4 The LORD has made everything for its own purpose, even the wicked for the day of evil.

Isaiah 46:9-11 "Remember the former things long past, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, 'My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure'; Calling a bird of prey from the east, The man of My purpose from a far country. Truly I have spoken; truly I will bring it to pass. I have planned it, surely I will do it."

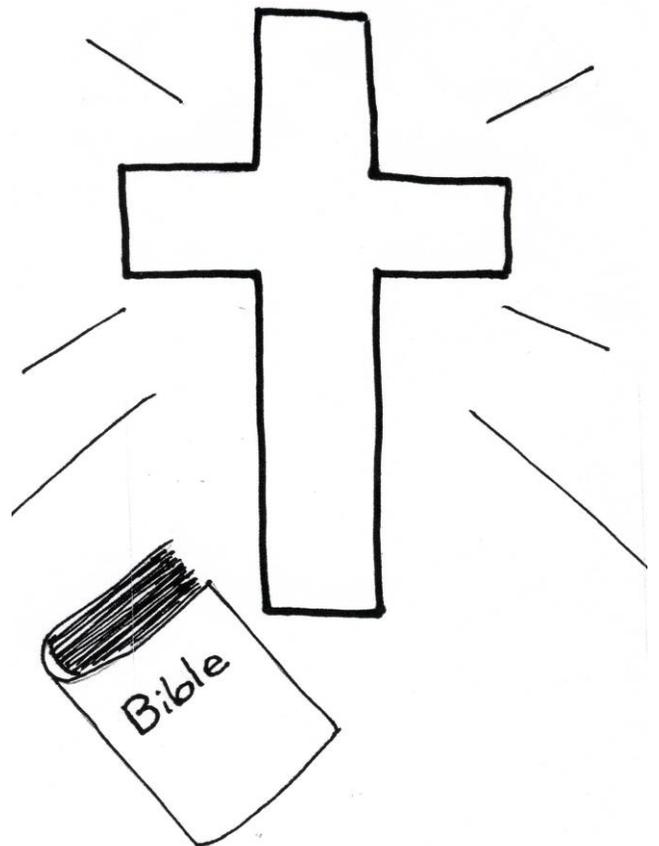


Our God is an awesome God!



In the dictionary **faith** is defined as: belief in the truth, value, or trustworthiness of someone or something. **God is truth**; He is **perfect righteousness**; and He is **completely trustworthy**. We can have complete **faith** in God and His plan for our lives. God **decreed** or **declared** before man was born a special plan for those who believe in Jesus Christ. It is called predestination. God knew before we were born who would choose to believe in Jesus Christ as their Savior. Therefore, He made plans for them "to become conformed to the image of His Son".

**Romans 8:29 For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren.**



We are to have **faith** in God's word, the Bible. Therefore, we have to learn it! God has given us everything we need to learn His word: physical and spiritual life, the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, the Bible, and His protection in the devil's world. Some people have a pastor-teacher and a local church. Some people listen to Bible lessons on the internet. When people want to learn about God, He gives them a way to learn about Him. God gives us grace gifts so we can learn His word and have **faith** in it! God is **faithful** to us!



**2 Timothy 3:16-17** All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

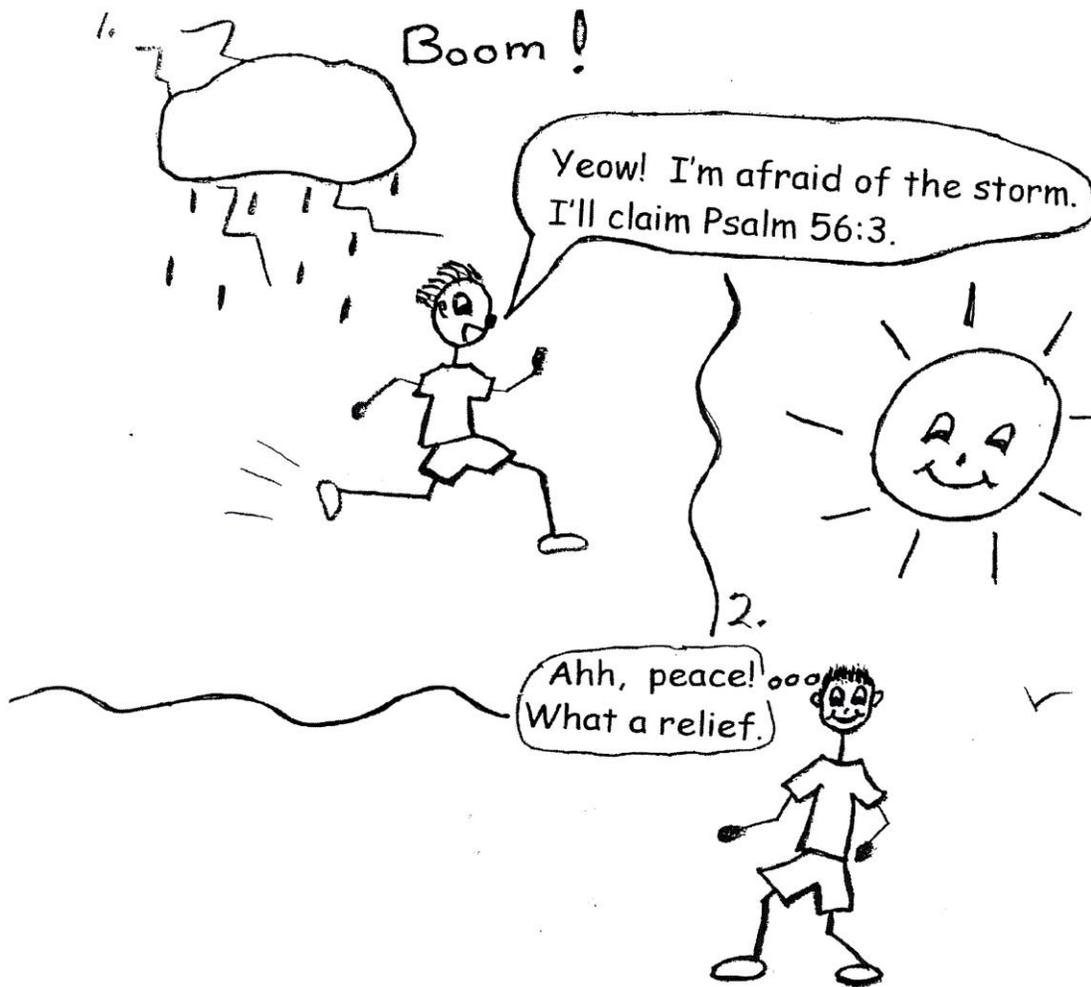
**Lamentations 3:22-23** The Lord's loving kindnesses indeed never cease, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.

At the beginning of our journey in the spiritual life, we won't have much of God's word stored up to use. God knows and understands that. He wants us to keep learning His word through the power of God the Holy Spirit so that it will be stored in our minds and be ready for the Holy Spirit to help us use it. The more Bible truths we learn, believe and use, the more we will see God's grace come through for us; the more **faith** we will have in God! He wants us to always look back to the cross and know that our debt for sin has been paid by Jesus Christ; we can absolutely have **faith** that our sins are forgiven! God's word tells us so! **Ephesians 1:7-8a** In Him we have redemption through His blood [His saving work on the cross], the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace which He lavished on us.

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.

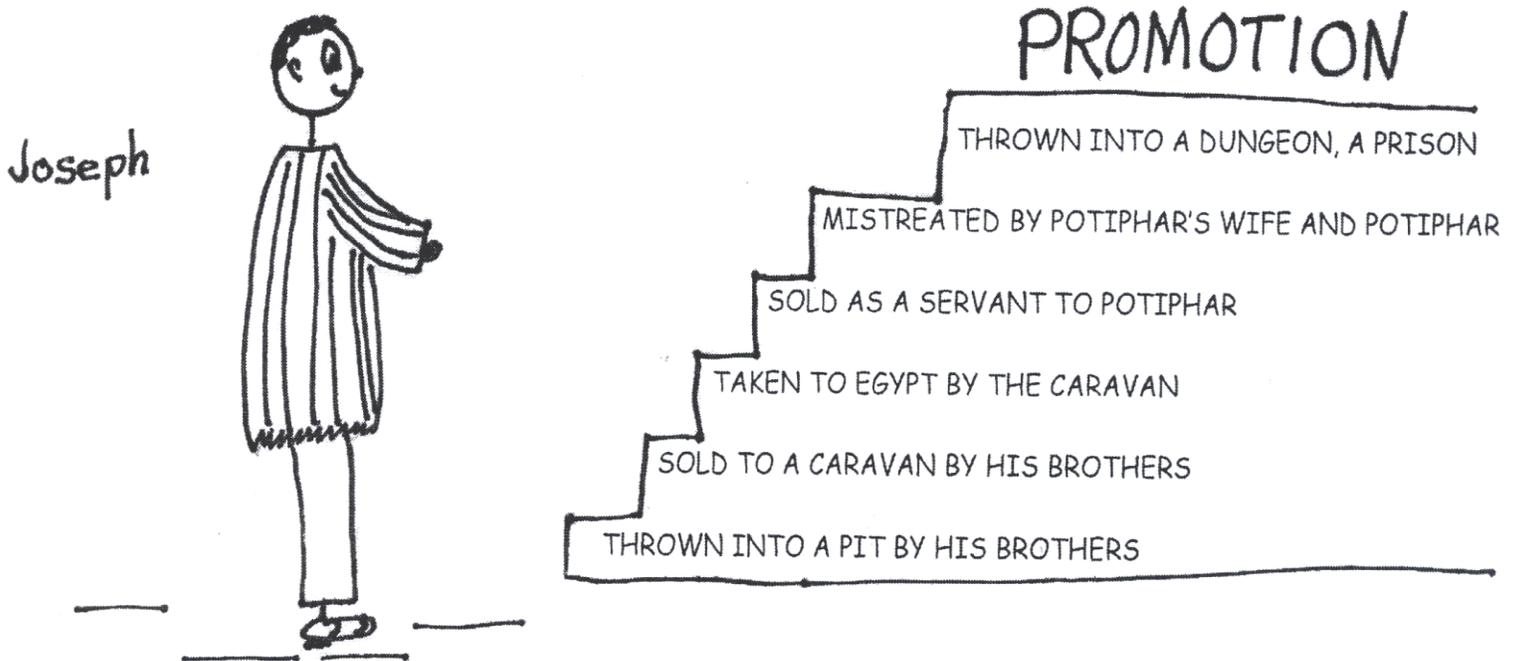


God will allow the testing of our **faith** in Him. There will be difficulties we have to experience. If we don't see how He helps us in time of trouble how would we know that He protects us? How would we see His grace, mercy and love? How could we have **faith** in Him? God gives us what we need to pass the tests! When we are ready, He will allow opportunities for us to use the word of God we have learned. During those times we can claim a promise like **Psalm 56:3**, "What time I am afraid I will trust in You."

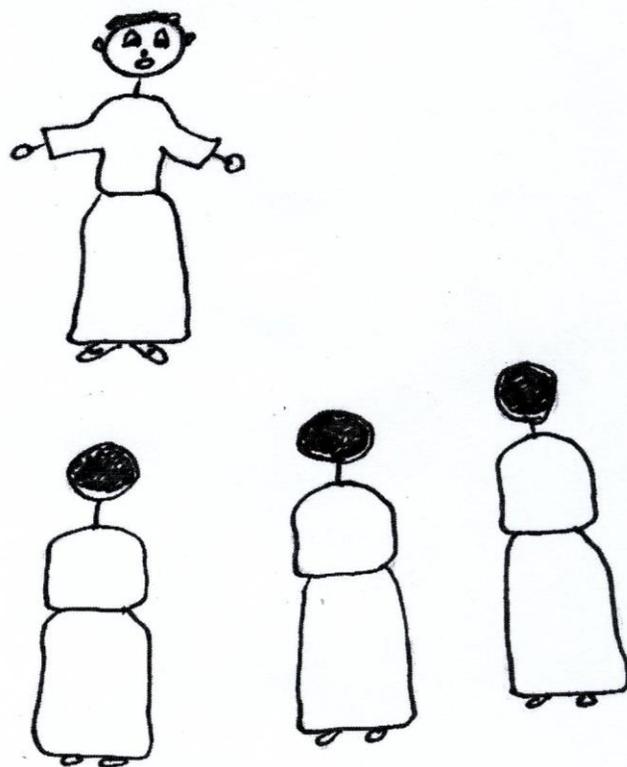


There are many people in the Bible who had great **faith** in God. We are going to look at Joseph, one of the sons of Jacob. Joseph was a victim of great injustice. However, it was all a part of God's perfect plan for his life! Joseph was:

- thrown into a pit by his brothers,
- sold to a caravan by his brothers,
- taken to Egypt by the caravan,
- a servant to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh,
- mistreated by Potiphar's wife and Potiphar,
- thrown into a dungeon, a prison.

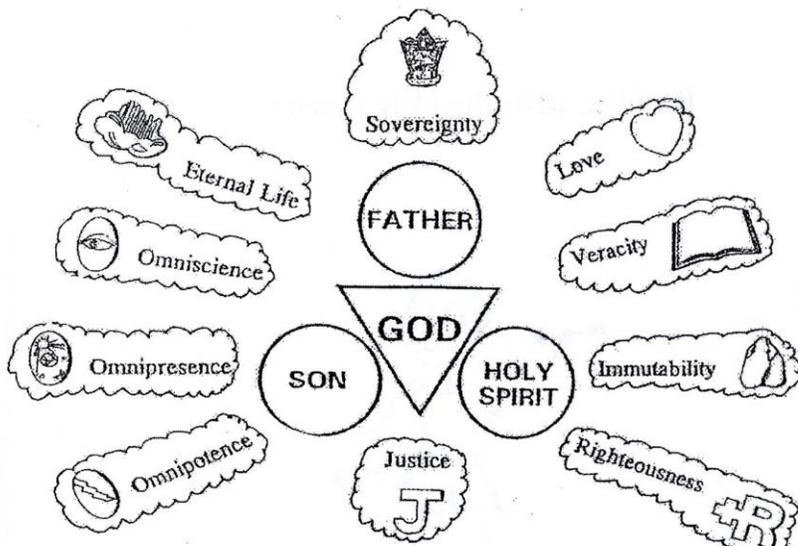


Joseph did not feel handicapped because he had a "difficult childhood". Under God's perfect timing, he knew he was being prepared one step at a time for God's purpose. He would eventually be promoted. Joseph had great **faith** in God. He also had great forgiveness for his brothers. When God knew he was ready, Joseph was promoted; he was made a ruler of Egypt.

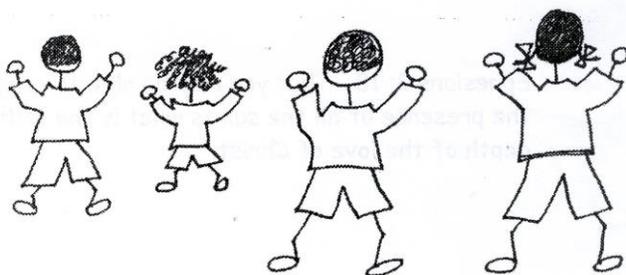


**Genesis 41:39-41** So Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has informed you of all this, there is no one so discerning and wise as you are. You shall be over my house, and according to your command all my people shall do homage; only in the throne I will be greater than you." Pharaoh said to Joseph, "See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt."

Joseph's **faith** was tested many times before he was promoted by God. He was very alone in his tests except for God. He had the God of the universe on his side! Joseph knew this. He is an example in the Bible to teach us to have **faith** in God no matter how alone we may feel. We have the God of the universe on our sides. The kingdom of darkness and our flesh will try to make us weary or tired and to give up on God. Because of Who God is, we can have complete **faith** in Him!



**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.



# My Word Search

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F W Z P R J K S E K A T S I M K G L D Q  
C B Y B C G N O I T O M O R P I U K S Y  
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