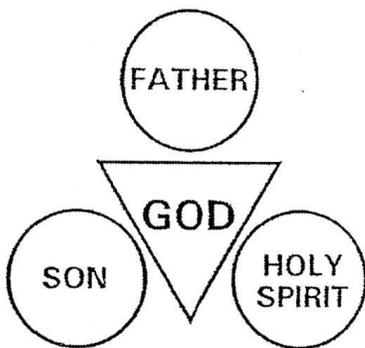


God Comforts Us through His Mercy and Grace

Revised 2-22-2014

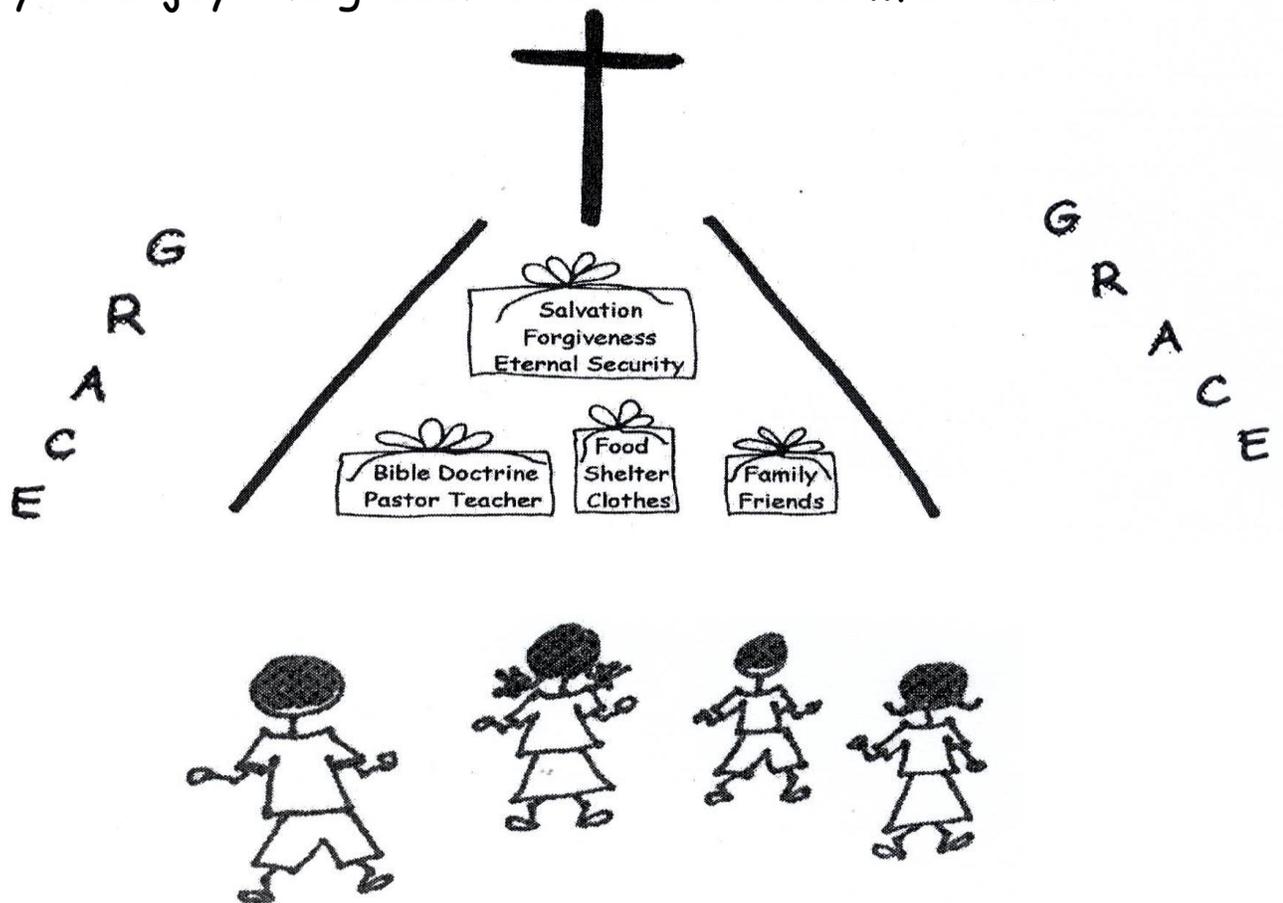
God is our best Comforter. God the Father loves **everyone** so much that He sent His beloved Son to the cross to pay the price for **everyone's** sins. God the Son loves everyone so much that He was willing to pay the price for every person's sins. God the Holy Spirit loves everyone so much that He supplied the power Jesus Christ needed to carry out the Father's plan. Because of the cross, God can give us mercy and grace.* First we have to become believers in Jesus Christ. After that, God the Holy Spirit will give us the power to learn, to believe, and to use Bible doctrine. With God's word and thinking in our souls, we will be comforted!

*Mercy: compassion and forgiveness. Grace: all God is free to do for us because of the work of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross.



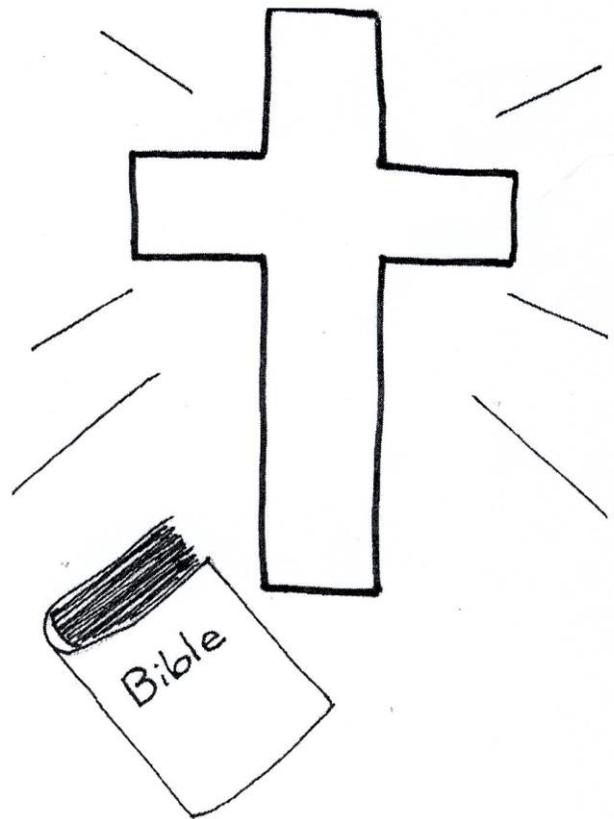
Psalm 119:76 O may Your lovingkindness [grace] comfort me, according to Your word to Your servant.

God has mercy for us; we can relax and be comforted knowing God provided everything sinful man needs for salvation and forgiveness. God gives us grace; we can relax and be comforted in the provisions God uses to show His mercy. Everything depends on the grace of God and God has provided limitless grace for us. That means it doesn't end! Hard to imagine! We just have to be available to God to learn, believe, and use Bible doctrine so He can give us the capacity to enjoy the grace! God wants to comfort us!

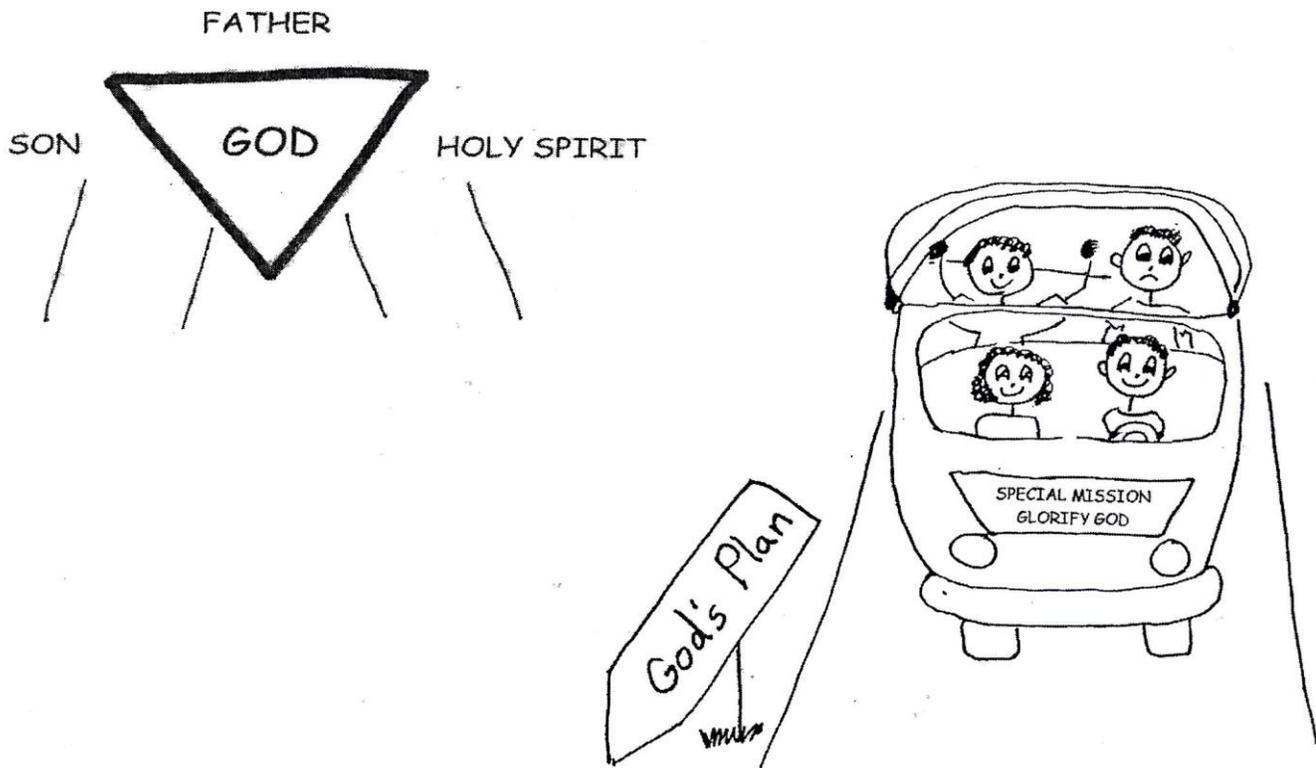


James 1:17 Every good thing bestowed and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with Whom there is no variation, or shifting shadow.

God knows everything each one of us is going through! He knows our failures and weaknesses. He wants to comfort us so He gave us the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and Bible doctrine to handle all situations in life. (In fact, the Trinity indwells us!) If stress comes in, it is because we let it. Adversity is outside pressure while stress is pressure inside the soul. The only way we get stressed out is if we use our volition to let adversity become stress. We make ourselves uncomfortable, and we do it by failing to use the power of the Holy Spirit and God's word! Daily we need to live by the word of God under the power of the Holy Spirit. Then we will be able to experience God's comfort in good and bad times. God is the best Comforter!



Sometimes we shy away from problems. We think they are too big for us to handle. We're right! They are too big to handle in our human power; but they are not too big for us to handle using God's divine power! When we face the big adversities or problems, we should trust in God, remember His promises and allow Him to comfort us. Then we will know how great His mercy, grace, and comfort are. (Read 2 Cor. 1:5-7) Once we've allowed God to comfort us He wants us to comfort others. We do this through talking to others and comforting them with the word of God.

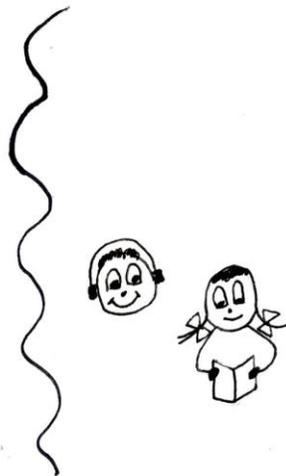
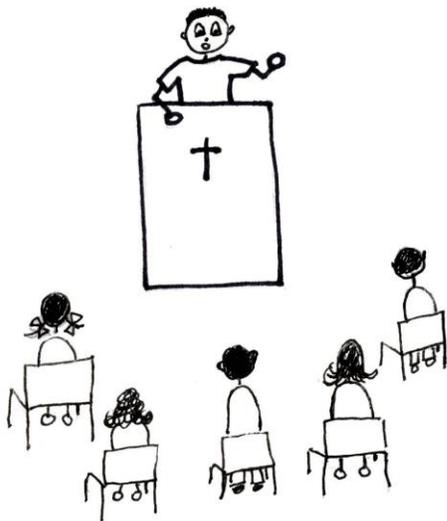
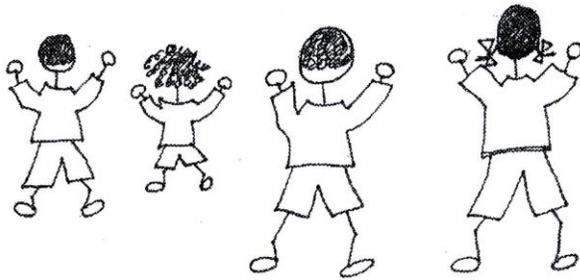


2 Corinthians 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, Who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. Page 4



Jesus Christ protects us through His thinking. So, He wants us to know His mind, Bible doctrine, and focus on Him. He wants us to enter into the rest that He has. There are many distractions that will pull us away from focusing on Jesus Christ. We need to learn, believe, and use the word of God daily. Through Bible doctrine, God will teach us everything we need to

face the situations we'll have in life. God comforts us with His word!

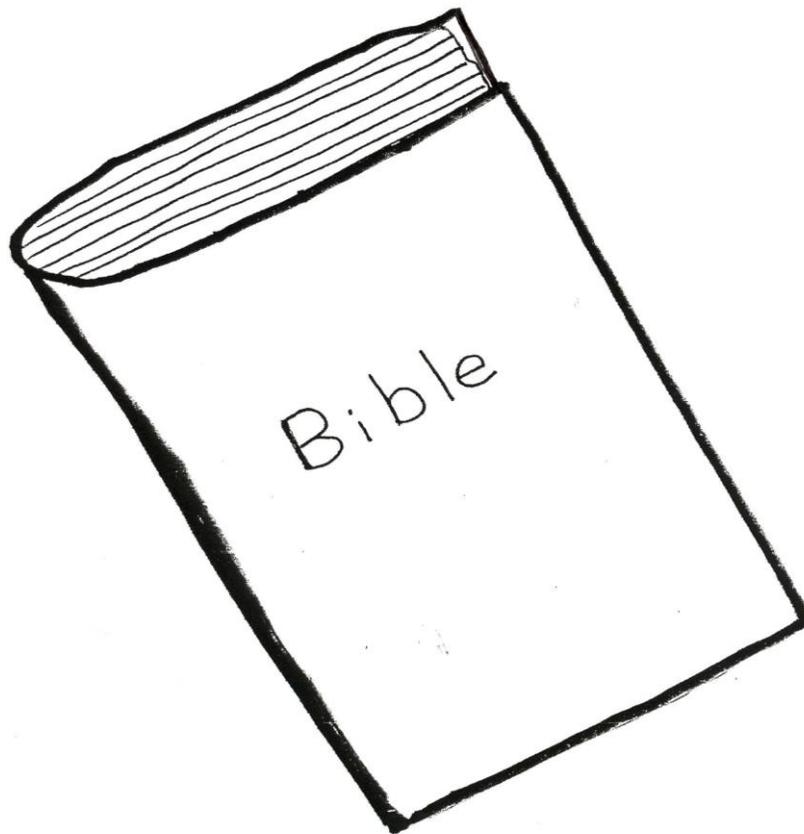


Satan will try to get us away from God's comfort. He wants to get us away from learning about our awesome God. Satan had all of God's comfort, but he wanted more! He wanted to be like God. He tossed away His comforting relationship with God. He wants us to do the same. He doesn't want us to trust God. In the angelic warfare, Satan will see to it that the believer who is positive to doctrine will be attacked. Satan doesn't want the believer to be made into the image of Jesus Christ. Satan doesn't want us to get our comfort from God.



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.

If we get away from the truth of the word of God, we will lose His comfort. We'll start to worry, fear, and be anxious! Oh, how terribly uncomfortable!! We'll get away from the mercy and grace God wants to give us. We'll get off course. We'll get away from realizing that God indwells our body. Then we'll forget that since God is in us, He will take perfect care of us. Doing all of this forgetting will make Satan happy and it will make us uncomfortable!



Romans 8:15 For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!"

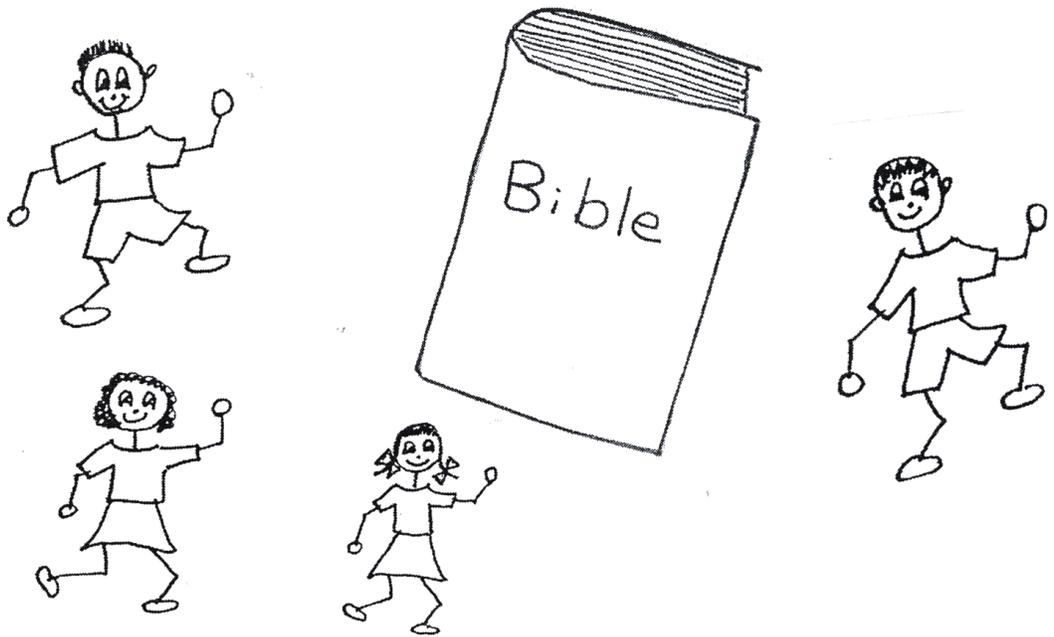
Satan wants to cause division between family members, friends, and church members. He doesn't want us to forgive others. He doesn't want us to forgive ourselves. He wants us to feel guilty. We will fail at times. When that happens we just need to realize it and turn back to God. God is the source of mercy. God will take our failures and turn them into blessings. He gives us mercy and grace and teaches us how to give mercy and grace to others. When we do that there won't be division between family members, friends, and church members.



Romans 8:1 Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Mercy and grace* are mentioned many times along with affliction. An affliction is something we are going through that is difficult for our body or our mind. A body affliction could be a broken leg. Ouch! A mental affliction could be a sorrow such as a loved one moving away. Ouch!! We need comfort when we have afflictions. Therefore, we need to learn, believe, and use Bible doctrine. God's word builds us up and gives us comfort when we are having difficulties. It teaches us about God's mercy and grace. When we really see God's mercy and grace, we can give it to others. We can comfort others in their afflictions!

*Mercy: compassion and forgiveness. Grace: all that God is free to do for us because of the work of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross.



Psalm 103:8 The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness [grace].

Points to Remember

1. God is our best Comforter.
2. With God's word and thinking in our souls, we will be comforted.
3. Mercy: compassion and forgiveness
4. Grace: all God is free to do for us because of the work of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross.
5. God wants to comfort us so He gave us the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and Bible doctrine to handle all situations in life. (In fact, the Trinity indwells us!)
6. Our problems are too big for us to handle in our human power; but they are not too big for us to handle using God's divine power.
7. Jesus Christ wants us to know His mind, Bible doctrine, and focus on Him.
8. Satan will try to get us away from God's comfort.
9. If we get away from the truth of the word of God, we will lose His comfort.
10. Satan wants to cause division between family members, friends, and church members.
11. God's word builds us up and gives us comfort when we are having difficulties.



Questions for Discussion

1. Who is our best Comforter? How does He give us comfort?
2. What is mercy? What is grace?
3. How can we have the strength to handle all of our problems and difficulties?
4. Who tries to get us away from God's comfort?
5. What is very important for us to do every day?

