

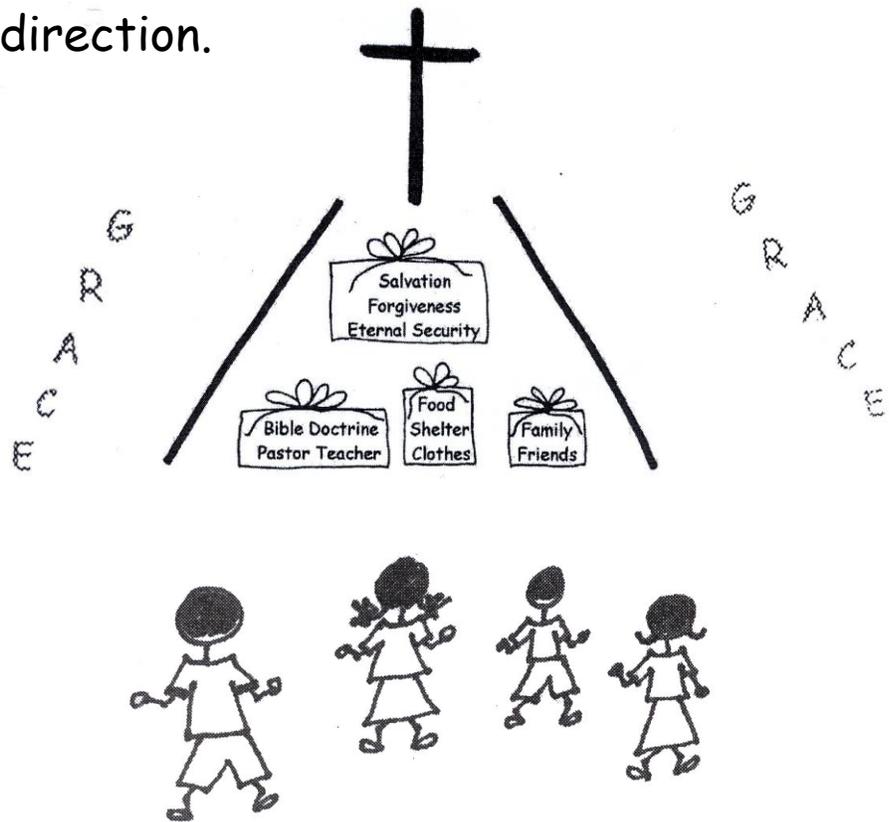
Grace Orientation

Revised 1-7-2014

John 1:16 From the fullness of His grace we have all received one blessing after another.

2 Corinthians 12:8-9 Concerning this (Paul's thorn in his flesh) I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me. And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness."

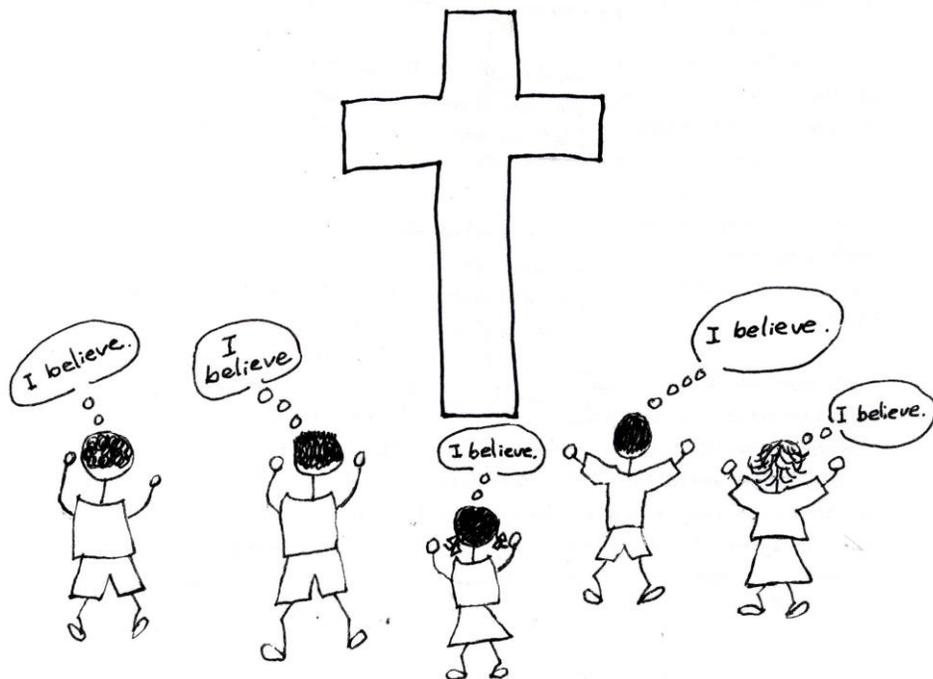
Orient: to adjust to a particular situation; to direct someone toward a goal. **Grace orientation** means that man, through the power of the Holy Spirit, understands and adjusts to God's grace policy. It means that God the Holy Spirit directs us toward God's goal for our lives. Another way of saying this is that we bring our thinking in line with the thinking of God. God's policy is that He freely gives us everything that we have. We earn and deserve nothing. We learn that without the grace of God, we would have nothing, not even our lives! We would be nothing! This is a humbling thought! So, we are to adjust our thinking to the grace of God and follow His direction.



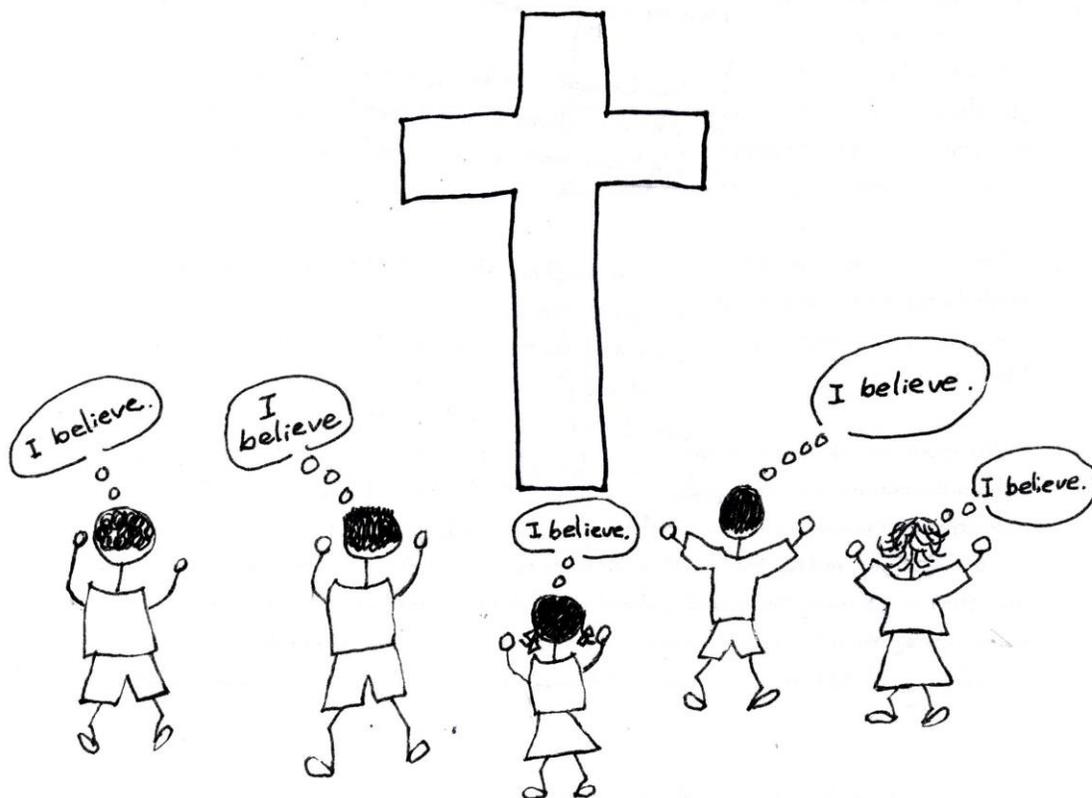
James 1:17 Every good thing bestowed and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with Whom there is no variation, or shifting shadow.

Motivated by His magnificent love, God has a plan for everyone's salvation; He offers saving grace to the unbeliever. This can be done because of the salvation work of Jesus Christ on the cross. Jesus Christ paid the debt for our sins! He gave the greatest gift of love and grace. Awesome! God is now free to give more grace blessings to mankind. He already gives to mankind: life, air to breathe, a world to live in, and ways to get shelter, clothing and food. All the unbeliever has to do is to believe in Jesus Christ as his Savior and he/she will receive more grace blessings from God. Our first adjustment to grace comes when we believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior. When we do that, we adjust our thinking to the grace of God. We accept the grace gift of salvation from God. We will spend eternity with God in heaven! What a gift! **SAVING GRACE!**

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

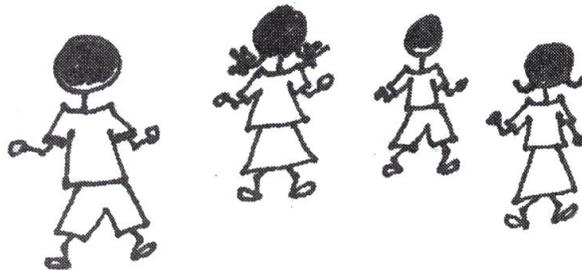
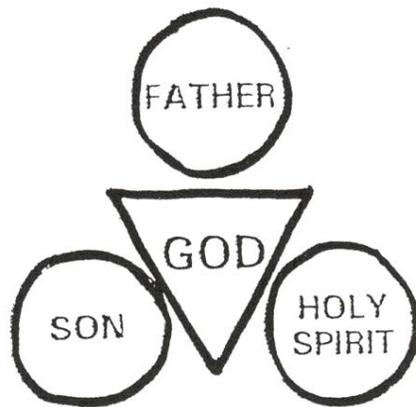


God's love motivated Him to find a way, in His justice, to be able to bless us after salvation. We don't have any goodness of our own that is pleasing to God. So, at salvation the Holy Spirit puts us in union with Jesus Christ. We then have a new spiritual nature in Christ. God credits our new nature with His righteousness, God's goodness, +R. He declares us righteous in our new nature because He was satisfied with the saving work of Jesus Christ on the cross. Now God's justice can give all believers - the best and the worst - more grace blessings. We don't earn or deserve these blessings.



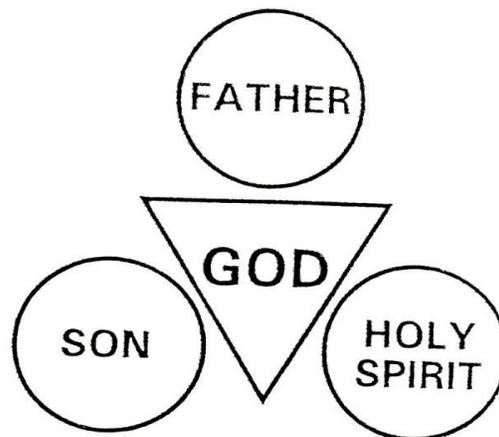
John 1:16 From the fullness of His grace we have all received one blessing after another.

Saving grace is called the total work of God, because each member of the **Trinity** contributed to salvation. **God the Father** is the author of the salvation plan. He is also the Judge, for He judged our sins after He imputed or gave them to Jesus Christ on the cross. **God the Son** is the Savior, the object of faith for salvation. He took our place in being judged for our sins. **God the Holy Spirit** makes known the work of salvation. This is called the convicting work of the Spirit. This means that He shows us that we need a Savior. We cannot save ourselves. We need God's saving grace!



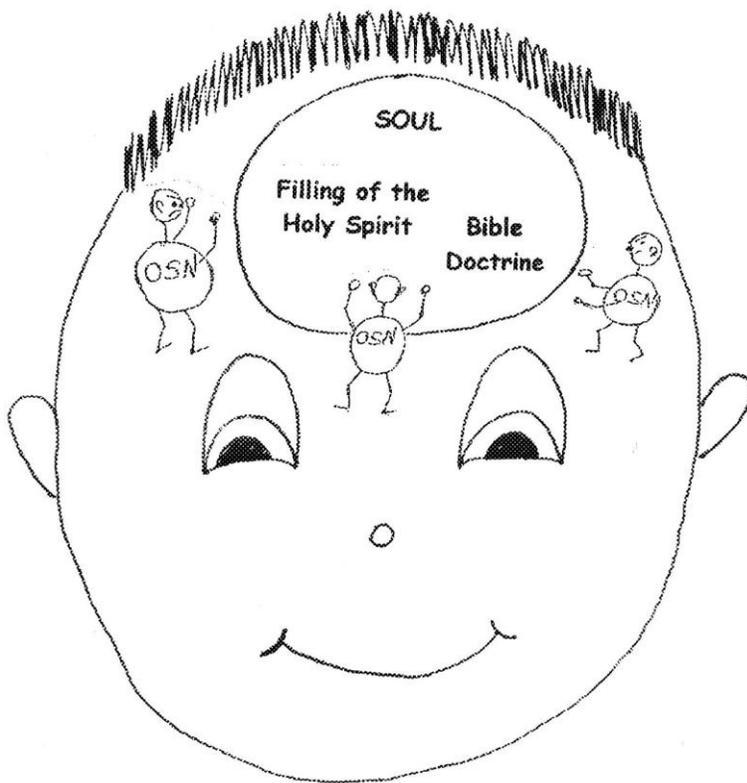
Philippians 4:19 And my God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

In God's timeline of history, we live in the Church Age. It is an age of grace. Everything we have is because of the grace of God. Our lives, our salvation, our minds, our talents, our treasures, and our time are all some of the gifts from God. God has done all of the work, so He gets all of the glory. Billions of years ago, God knew what would be best for each one of us. He knew the best brain, the best parents, the best place to live, the best personality, and the best pastor-teacher. Then along comes each one of us, and we receive all of these gifts! That's the grace of God. Glory be to God!



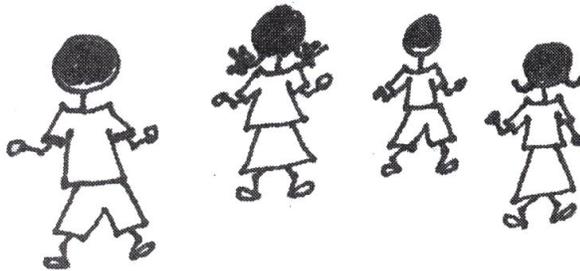
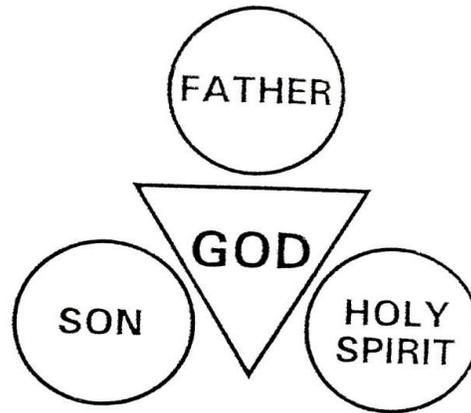
James 1:17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, Who does not change like shifting shadows.

Using grace orientation takes a lot of humility. We have to realize that we are nothing without God. We have to get the old sin nature out of the way and live in our new nature, the nature we receive when we believe in Jesus Christ. Our old sin nature tells us that we have to do works to please God. Our new nature tells us the God has done all the work! All we have to do is to believe in Jesus Christ as our Savior, and learn Bible doctrine. God the Holy Spirit will clear the garbage out of our souls, and make us grow spiritually. We can relax and cooperate with Him! We need to be humble!



Ephesians 3:20 Now to Him Who is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power [of the Holy Spirit] that works within us.

When we act with humility, we free up our minds from arrogance. We become teachable! We are more content with whom God made us to be. We respect authority and have an attitude of gratitude or thankfulness. We are willing to follow God's plan, His plan of grace for our lives. This brings glory to God! This is **grace orientation!** It is all about Who and What God is!! Thinking of and relying on God's grace will solve problems for us! It will put us in a relaxed state of mind. We can relax in God's love and grace!



Our God is awesome! Glory be to God!

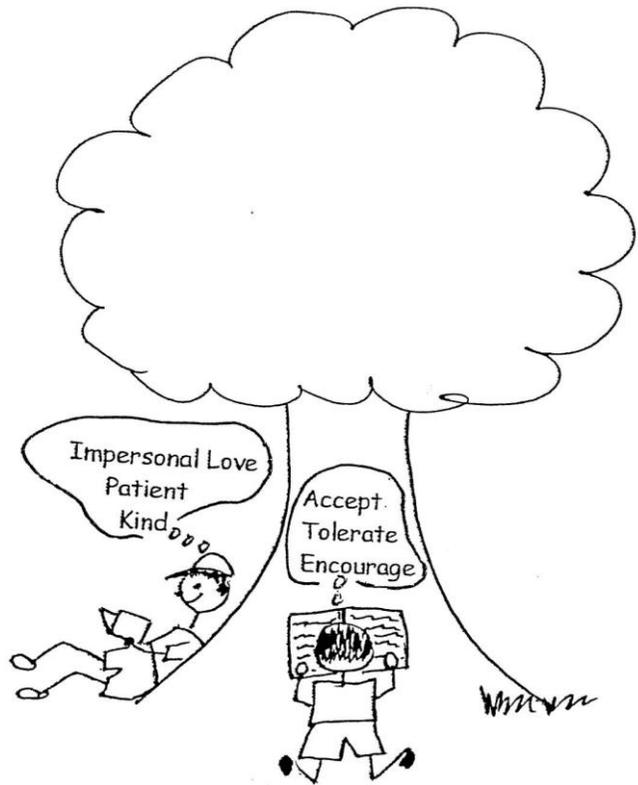
Luke 2:14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom His favor rests.

[Peace with God is received by faith in Jesus Christ.]

Psalms 72:19 Praise be to His glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with His glory.

Amen and Amen.

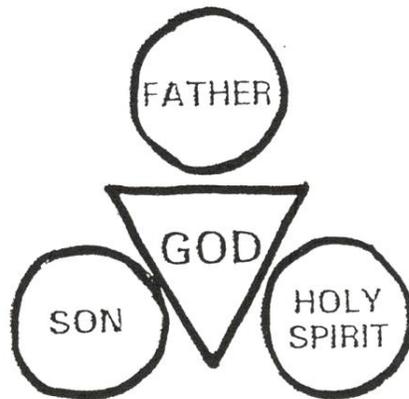
Grace oriented believers do not condemn others. They greatly appreciate that there is no condemnation in Christ Jesus. As believers, we know we are in Christ Jesus. Jesus Christ came to save and offer mankind forgiveness. When we sin, God treats us with patience and mercy. We need to treat ourselves and others with patience and mercy! When we are using grace orientation, we will not criticize or judge. We will be slow to anger. We will listen to others with tolerance. We will build them up and restore them. That's real kindness. That's peace of mind. That's **grace orientation!**



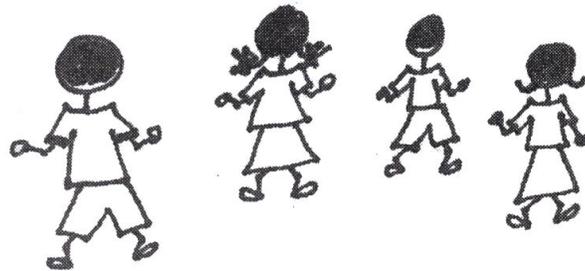
Romans 8:1 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.

Romans 14:4 Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. And he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

The more we learn about God's love for us and His grace, the more we will realize how much we have been healed in our souls. This will energize us to tell others how the Lord Jesus Christ will heal their souls! The healing is a free gift. It is grace! When we use grace orientation, we see people as God sees them: helpless, needing grace, and needing the word of God. We remember when we were blind and had no hope. God helped us and continues to grace us out! **THANK YOU, GOD!!! Thank You for *grace orientation!***



Thank You, God, for Your love and grace.



Galatians 6:1-5 Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. [This does not mean to stick your nose into other people's business. If someone is looking for help, or if we know someone well, we are to help that person with gentleness and kindness.]