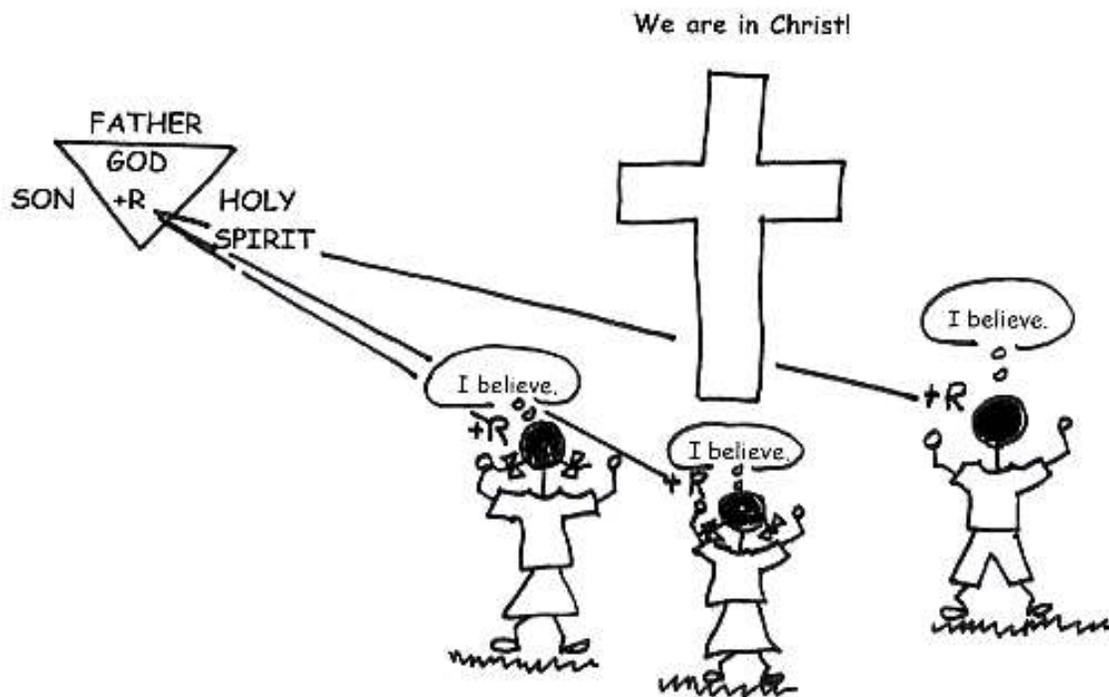


**Jesus Christ, Our Great Shepherd,  
Wants A Special Relationship With Us,  
His Sheep!**

(Revised: 4/2/2013)

Jesus Christ, our Great Shepherd, wants a special, personal relationship or involvement with you and me! On the cross He did all the work so that can happen. That relationship begins when we believe in Jesus Christ as our Savior. At that time, we are placed in union with the Lord Jesus Christ! We are with Him forever in His royal family! This is a very special relationship and family!



John 15:13 Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.

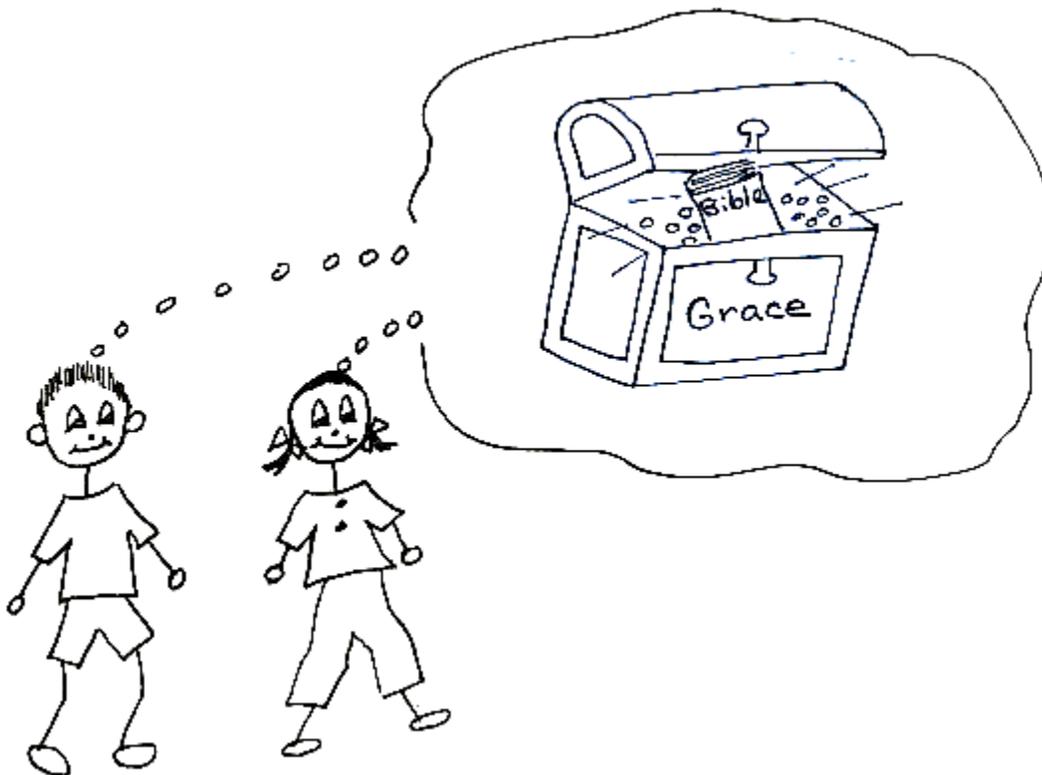
Jesus, our Great Shepherd, wants us to learn about Him so we can experience a great relationship and friendship with Him. He wants us to know His thinking. His thinking is always perfect wisdom, divine viewpoint found in the Bible. Jesus wants us to know His virtue love, His goodness and excellence. He wants us to know that He will always love us no matter what we do. He will never turn His back on us! He wants us to experience His great love for us and have the joy of loving Him in return.



2 Peter 1:5-8 Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in *your* moral excellence, knowledge, and in *your* knowledge, self-control, and in *your* self-control, perseverance, and in *your* perseverance, godliness and in *your* godliness, brotherly kindness, and in *your* brotherly kindness, love. For if these *qualities* are yours and are increasing [ready for action], they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.



Our Great Shepherd always treated others with virtue love. In His humanity, He used the word of God and the power of the Holy Spirit when dealing with others. These never failed Him or others! That's why He could be around people and have a relaxed mental attitude. When people were using divine viewpoint, He could love them. They had the same thinking. When they were using human viewpoint, He could love them. Jesus used the divine viewpoint or thinking in His soul. He wants us to learn to do the same thing. We have to relate to others with virtue love. It will never fail us or others.



1 Corinthians 13:4-8  
Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant.... (Read the rest.)

We need a good friendship with our Great Shepherd before we can have good friendships with others. We are always going to be around other people. Our problem is that we are born totally unable to get along with people. That's quite a problem since we are always with them. However, God has solved the problem! To learn how to live with others, we have to learn Jesus Christ's thinking, and develop a friendship with Him! We are guided to a greater relationship with Jesus Christ through His thinking, God's word. He must be our top priority!



2 Timothy 3:16  
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 [divine good work].

The stronger our dependence and friendship is with our Great Shepherd, the better our friendships with others will be. When we learn to lean on our Best Friend, His love and grace holds us up! This makes it possible for us to relate to others with Christ's thinking, Bible doctrine. Instead of reacting with emotions we respond with Christ's thinking! Emotions can't think! So, if they are going along with human viewpoint, they will be harmful emotions; if they are going along with divine viewpoint, they will be good emotions. With the thinking of Christ we can respond with divine viewpoint. This will make us good friends to others!

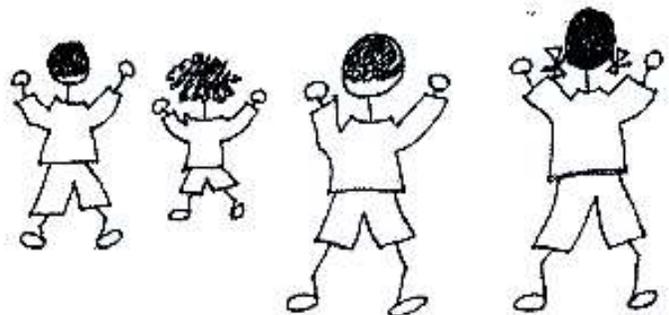
Matthew 11:28 Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.



God specifically puts us with certain people for their divine good and for our divine good. He wants us to get past their personalities and look at their souls. With positive volition - letting the Holy Spirit be in control - divine good can be done! We must stay positive to God's word. Virtuous or divine good relationships connect on common ground - divine viewpoint. With virtue, our existence becomes something attractive to others in the flock. And this draws us near to one another through our common relationship with Christ. The Great Shepherd's staff, God's word, is meant to draw like minded people together so they can all grow spiritually!



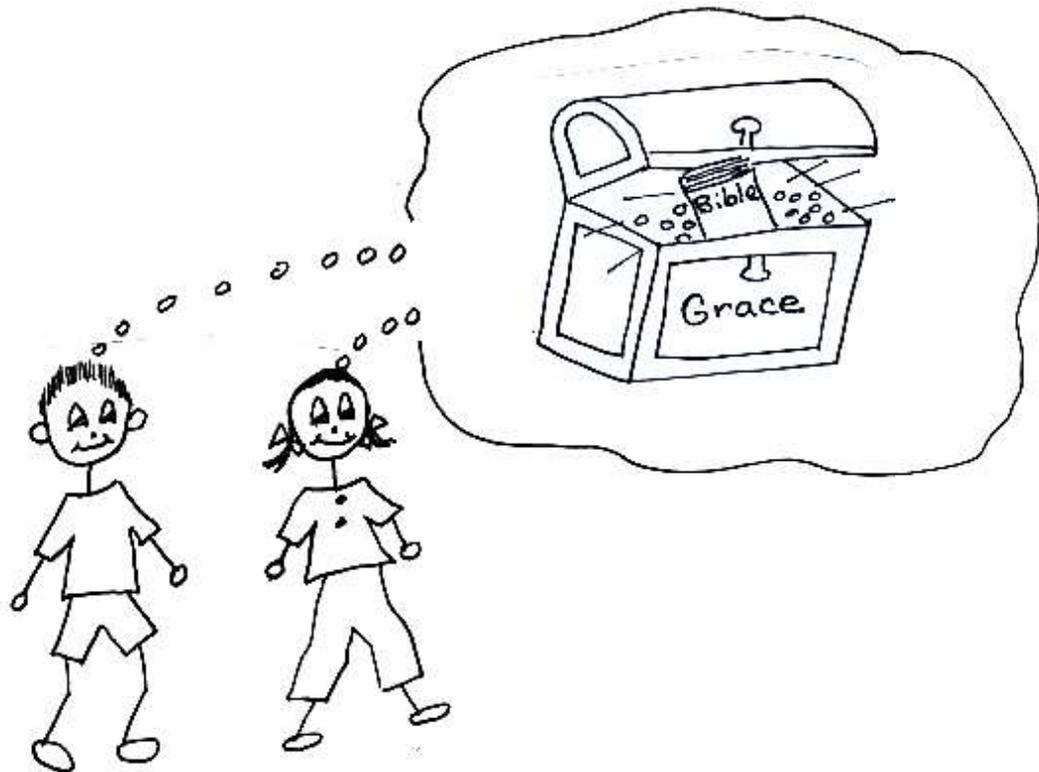
2 Peter 3:18 But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and forever! Amen.



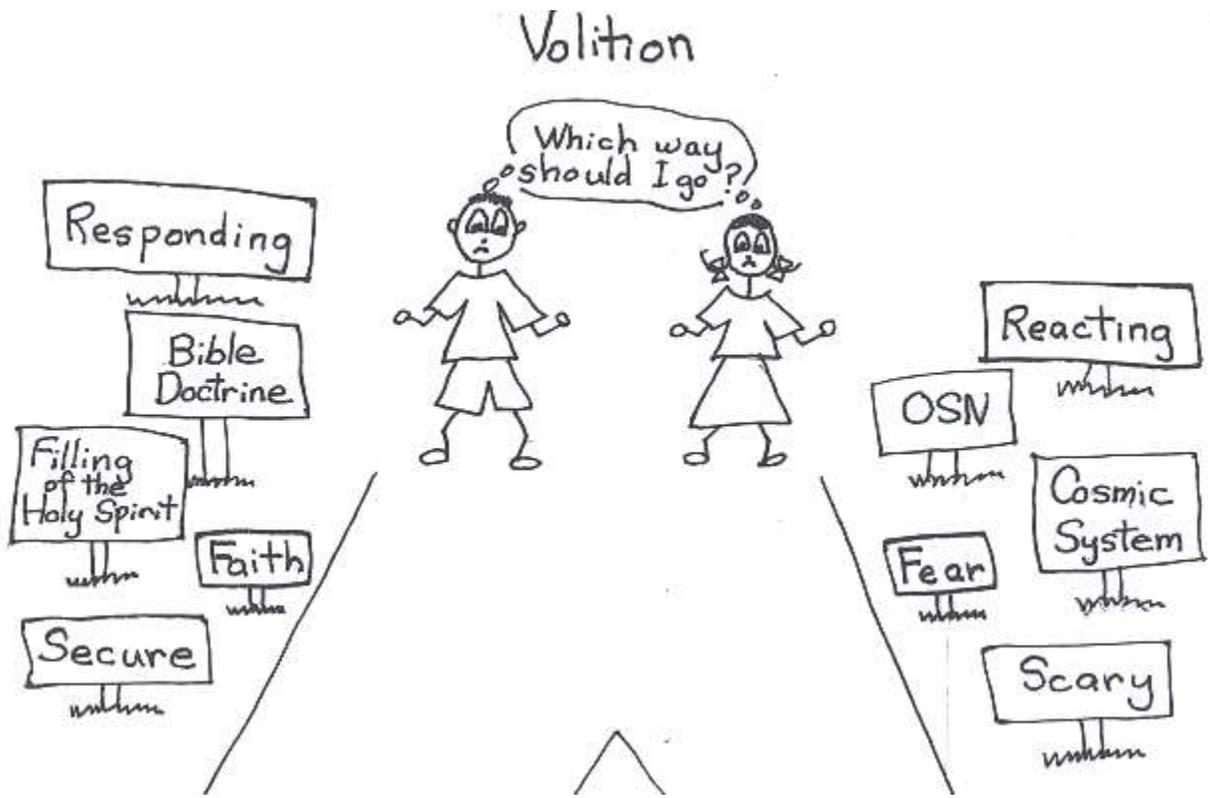
We can't control others; we can only relate to them. They may grow in God's grace and knowledge or they may not. It depends on their volitions; we can only choose how we will relate to them. If we relate with emotion - explosion! If we relate with Bible doctrine - spiritual growth takes place. So, we need lots of knowledge about God's grace - how He treats us and others with His love and favor. He planned it so that in every relationship goodness is possible. God gave us the parents, family, friends, etc. He wants us to have. He wants us to relate to them with the thinking of Christ.

Galatians 5:15-16 But if you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another. But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.

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When a person relates with emotions, we say he or she is reacting. When he relates with the word of God, we say he is responding. There is a big difference between the two! Reacting with emotions or feelings means the person is focusing and depending on self. Oh-oh! This causes insecurity. The person is looking for happiness from emotional highs! Emotions or feelings can't hold up or support a person; we can't always be feeling high or up!



Isaiah 41:10 Do not fear, for I am with you; do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand [ power].

When a person is responding with Bible doctrine it shows he/she is focusing and depending on Jesus Christ, our Great Shepherd. This brings him/her great security. It can also bring a joyful spirit even when going through difficult times. When a person has one, key relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ it carries him through all other relationships. Put the relationship with Jesus Christ in first place! Without a good relationship with Jesus Christ we can't have good relationships with others.



We learn to be virtuous - it takes time. We have to spend time with true virtue or goodness, the Lord Jesus Christ, before we can know true virtue or goodness. We have to spend quality alone time with Jesus. This can be done in Bible class learning His thinking. It can be taking a walk and thinking about what we have learned. It can be done by listening to spiritual songs that bring Jesus' thinking to our minds. It can be on a chair lift on a beautiful mountain. God gives us many ways and times to be alone with Jesus Christ and to learn His virtue. We just have to use the opportunities.



The staff of our Great Shepherd, the word of God, guides us to a greater relationship with Him. When we are baby believers, Jesus uses His staff to bring us to and unite us with other believers. When we wander off a little, He uses His staff to bring us back to Him with the other sheep, other believers. What we think is very important. Our Great Shepherd delivers us with His thinking. He gets us out of trouble and keeps us out of trouble with His thinking. We learn to trust Him and therefore to follow Him.



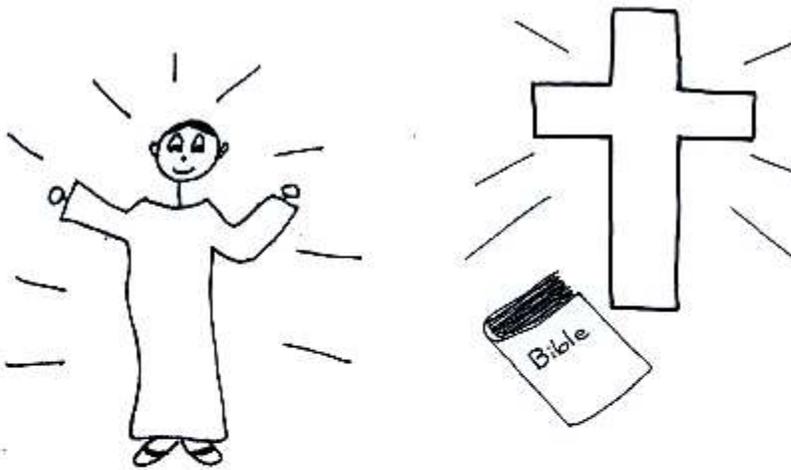
1 Corinthians 1:10 Who delivered [salvation] us from so great a *peril of death*, and will deliver *us* [from trials], He on whom we have set our hope. And He will yet deliver us....[Ultimate Sanctification]

A shepherd lays his staff on the side of his sheep to reassure and comfort them. He reminds them that he is with them, even before they wander. The staff of our Great Shepherd is used to reassure and comfort us, even before we wander. It is used to guide our thoughts. Jesus reminds us that we are going in the right direction. We don't need to fear! Sometimes we just need to be reminded that God is with us. His grace always comes to us before difficulties come. He does this so we can keep going forward in His plan. Through God and His grace, all things are possible. Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me."



Proverbs 12:25  
Anxiety in a man's  
heart weighs it  
down, but a good  
word makes it glad.

We are called to a life of virtue love. We will collide with others and this becomes a time of testing our virtue love. True love goes past feelings and uses thoughts based on Christ's thinking! True love gives us security; it never fails us or others. We can see how important it is to learn, believe and use Bible doctrine - Christ's thinking. Our Great Shepherd is always there to guide and encourage us with His staff, His thinking. This is how He comforts us. Our Great Shepherd wants a special relationship with us; and He wants us to have good working relationships with others.



1 Corinthians 13:8 Love  
[virtue love] never fails.



**LEANING ON THE EVERLASTING ARMS**

WHAT A FELLOWSHIP, WHAT A JOY DIVINE

LEANING ON THE EVERLASTING ARMS

WHAT A BLESSEDNESS, WHAT A PEACE OF MIND

LEANING ON THE EVERLASTING ARMS

**CHORUS**

LEANING, LEANING, SAFE AND SECURE FROM ALL ALARM  
LEANING, LEANING, LEANING ON THE EVERLASTING ARMS

WHAT HAVE I TO DREAD, WHAT HAVE I TO FEAR

LEANING ON THE EVERLASTING ARMS

I HAVE BLESSED PEACE, WITH MY LORD SO NEAR

LEANING ON THE EVERLASTING ARMS

**CHORUS**

LEANING, LEANING, SAFE AND SECURE FROM ALL ALARM  
LEANING, LEANING, LEANING ON THE EVERLASTING ARMS

**CHORUS**

LEANING, LEANING, SAFE AND SECURE FROM ALL ALARM  
LEANING, LEANING, LEANING ON THE EVERLASTING ARMS

LEANING ON THE EVERLASTING ARMS

LEANING ON THE EVERLASTING ARMS



## My Word Search

T I R I P S Z F D M I V G W O  
Y V I R T U E R V D U D N T V  
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P E E H S H L O E S J V K D G  
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### Find These Words:

BIBLE  
DOCTRINE  
FRIENDSHIP  
JESUS  
RELATIONSHIP  
SECURITY  
SPIRIT  
VIRTUE

CHRIST  
FAMILY  
GOOD  
LORD  
ROD  
SHEEP  
STAFF

DIVINE  
FOCUS  
HOLY  
LOVE  
ROYAL  
SHEPHERD  
THINKING

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Pastor Ed Collins

[www.eusebeia.org](http://www.eusebeia.org)

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