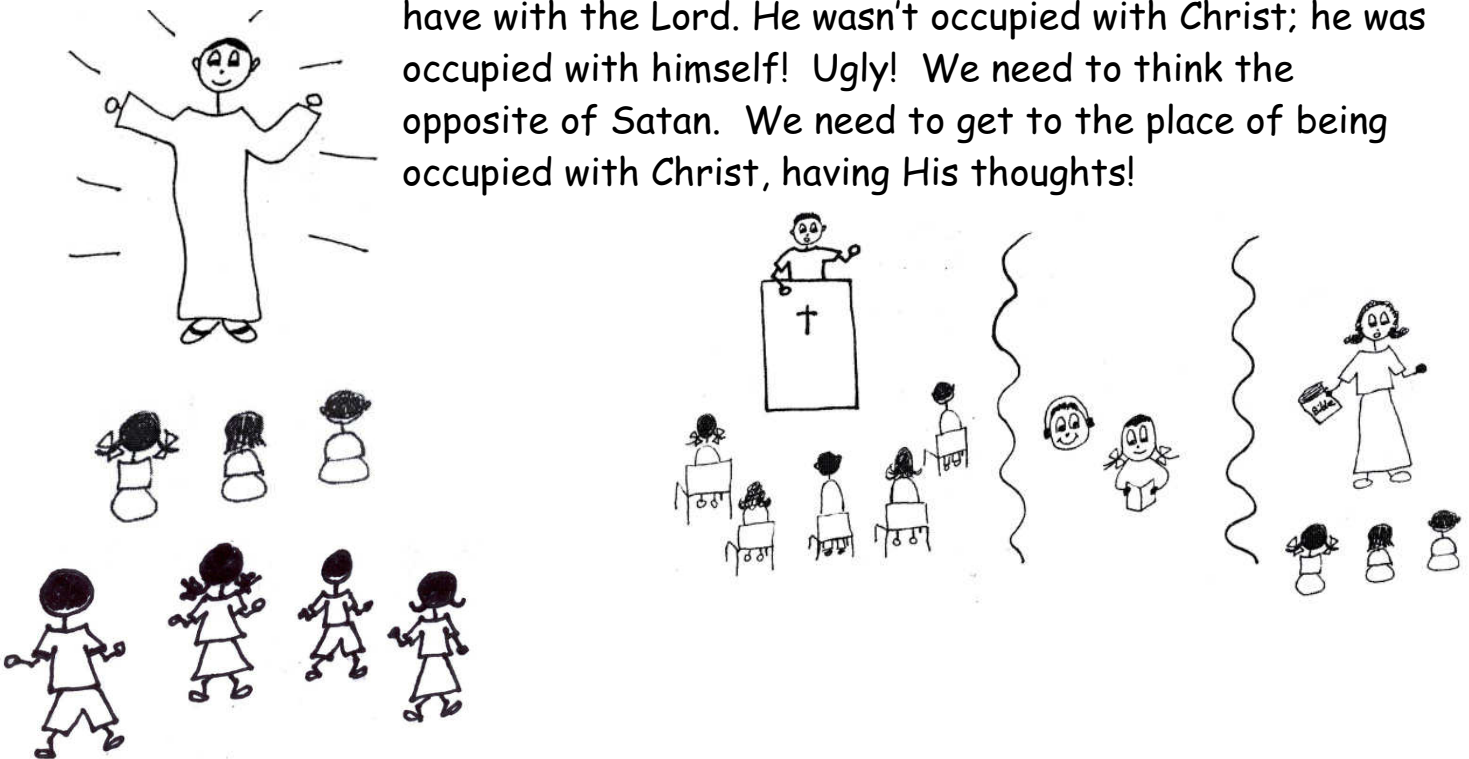


I Am
the
Head

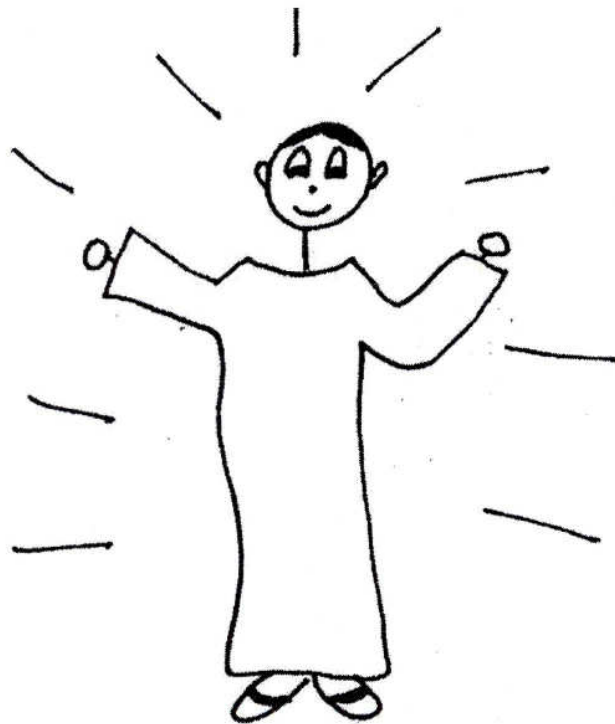
You are the Body

As a believer, you are a part of the greatest body in the world, the body of the Lord Jesus Christ! In the Church Age, Jesus Christ has His own spiritual body. It is called the Church. He is the head of the body, and all believers are members or parts of it! This body has "joints" and "ligaments". The joints refer to the pastor-teachers and ligaments refer to Bible doctrine. What a great Head we have! We need to "hold fast to the head" which means to be occupied with Jesus Christ. Sometimes we get too occupied with ourselves and our ways; we aren't occupied with Jesus Christ and His ways. That's just what Satan wants! He wants us to be confused and not live in the peace we have with the Lord. He wasn't occupied with Christ; he was occupied with himself! Ugly! We need to think the opposite of Satan. We need to get to the place of being occupied with Christ, having His thoughts!



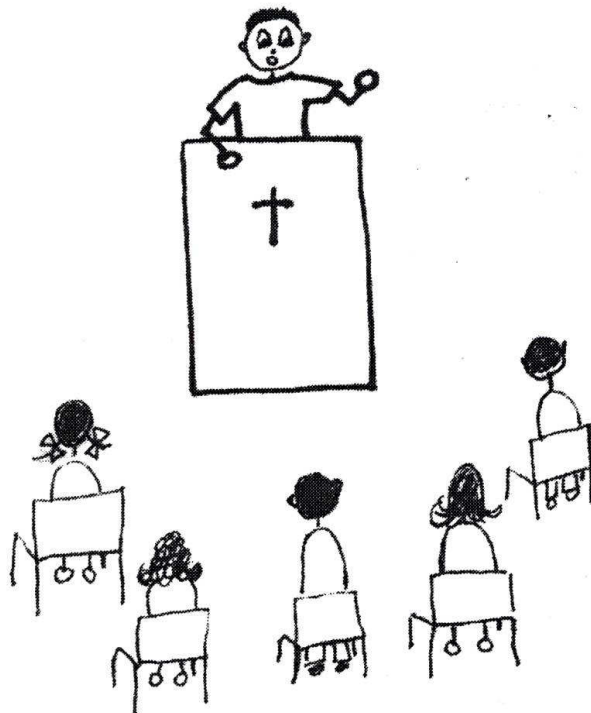
Colossians 2:18-19 Let no one keep defrauding you [say you are not eligible] of your prize be delighting in self-abasement and the worship of the angels [doctrine from demons], taking his stand on visions he has seen, inflated [no substance] without cause by his fleshly mind, and **not holding fast to the head**, from Whom the entire body, being supplied and held together by [through] the joints and ligaments, grows with a growth which is from God.

"Holding fast to the head" or occupation with Jesus Christ, Who is the head, means we realize that we are here for one reason - the glorification of the Lord Jesus Christ, Col. 3:1-2. It means it is normal in our Christian life to be occupied with Christ, Who is running the race before us, showing us the way, Heb. 12:1-2. We respond to the love of Jesus Christ by becoming a "doer" of the Word, James 1:21-22. This gives us stability and inner happiness, Psalm 16:8-9. When we are going through testing, occupation with self makes the suffering worse; whereas, occupation with Christ gives us the strength to handle any type of suffering, 2 Co. 12:9-10. When we are occupied with Christ, there is total dependence on God, Who provides for us in grace. And He does this throughout our Christian walk, all the way to supergrace! Psalm 37:4-5. God does the work and we get the rest, the eternal Sabbath! Hebrews 3:1-6. We show we are occupied with Jesus Christ by learning, believing, and using doctrine. Hold fast to the head, the Lord Jesus Christ!



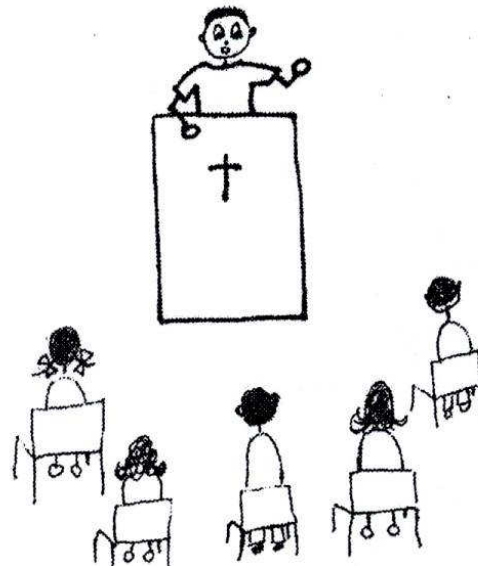
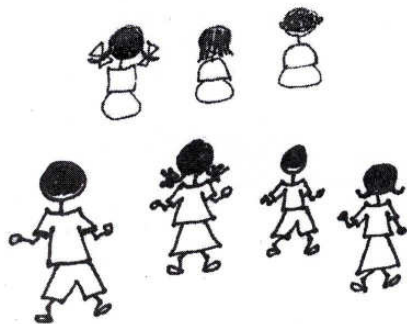
Colossians 1:18 He [Jesus Christ] is also head of the body, the church....

God gives us what we need to keep the body of Christ together; He gives us joints, pastor-teachers, and ligaments, Bible doctrine. The pastor-teacher is to teach us correct Bible doctrine so that we can be unified or brought together in our thinking, the thinking of the Lord Jesus Christ. This can protect us from religion, rituals, program spirituality, and even obsession with knowledge! These are the things in which Satan wants us to be involved! He wants us to be arrogant and not humble. Satan wants us to be so busy doing things that we don't learn, believe, and use the Word of God. He wants us to be independent from God. However, God comes to the rescue! God gives us "joints", pastor teachers, and ligaments, Bible doctrine! If we learn, believe, and use the Word of God, we will be depending on God! We will be humble and not arrogant! This will bring us to occupation with Christ! What a peaceful place to be!!!



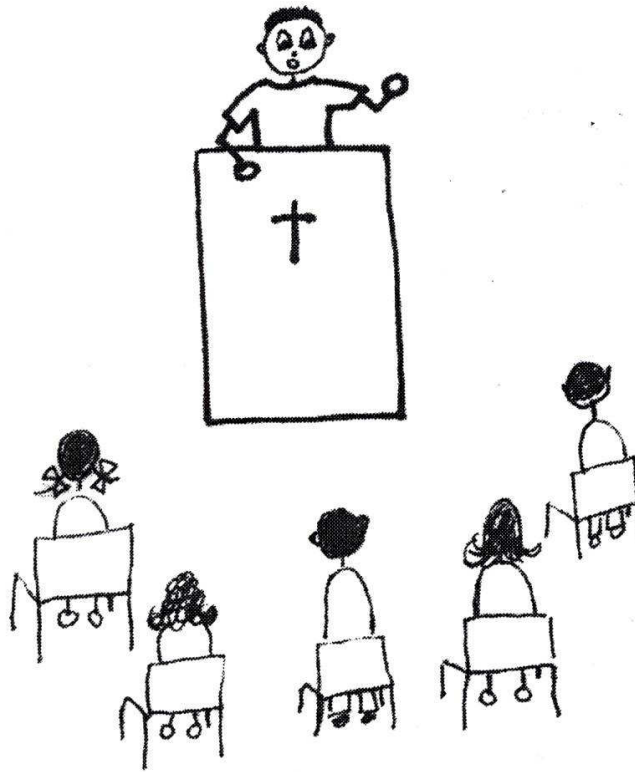
Ephesians 4:15-16 But speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him Who is the head, even Christ, from Whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint [pastor-teacher] supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

In our physical bodies we have a head and a body; we have joints and ligaments. The joints hold together the bones. Ligaments are bands of tough tissue joining bones or cartilages or holding a body organ in place. There's a lot of holding together! In the spiritual body, there is a lot of holding together also. Jesus Christ as the head holds the body together. He has "joints", pastor-teachers, who teach the body how to stick together. This means how to function in our separate spiritual lives, and how to function with others, especially the other members of the body of Christ. The ligaments or Bible doctrine is the bond which holds us together or keeps us in place! As part of the body of Christ, are we functioning properly or are we out of order?



Colossians 1:17-18 He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead [resurrection], so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.

Our pastor-teacher has been given his spiritual gift in order to be able to teach us. This is an important job. He supplies the body of Christ with nourishment, Bible doctrine. Since this is necessary for spiritual growth, you can be sure the kingdom of darkness is going to try to stop the pastor-teacher from doing his job. The kingdom of darkness doesn't want us to grow in the grace and knowledge of God. It will try to stop us from using the spiritual gifts God the Holy Spirit has given us. He has given us each a special spiritual gift. When we use it, we are helping to unify the body of Christ! What a privilege and opportunity! Also, what a privilege and opportunity it is to have our very own pastor-teacher!

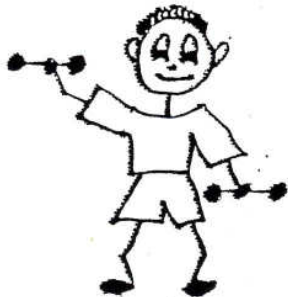


1 Corinthians 12:4-7 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. There are varieties of effects, but the same God Who works all things in all persons. But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit [spiritual gift] for the common good.

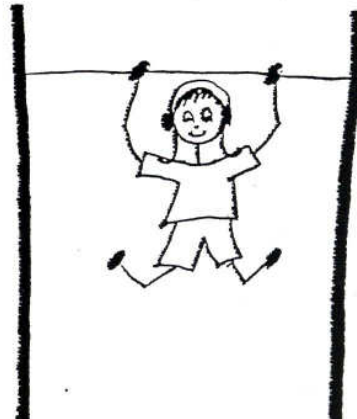
Our physical body needs exercise. Our muscles need to be used or they will get weak. We need good joints to help move our muscles and bones. Our spiritual body needs exercise also. The joints, pastor-teachers, supply the spiritual body, the church, with consistent teaching of Bible doctrine. We need to consistently learn, believe, and use Bible doctrine. This is our spiritual exercise. It takes a lot of self-discipline! That means we have to set aside time every day to learn God's Word daily. When we keep doing it over and over it will become a habit. We'll build up spiritual muscles! If we don't have Bible doctrine circulating in our souls, we'll be weak believers. If we are consistent with Bible doctrine, we'll be strong believers. We'll have godliness, living the spiritual life! This kind of spiritual exercise will pay off forever and ever!

HAPPINESS, CAPACITY, SUCCESS, PROMOTION
Depend on godliness or spiritual living!

Be filled with the Holy Spirit!

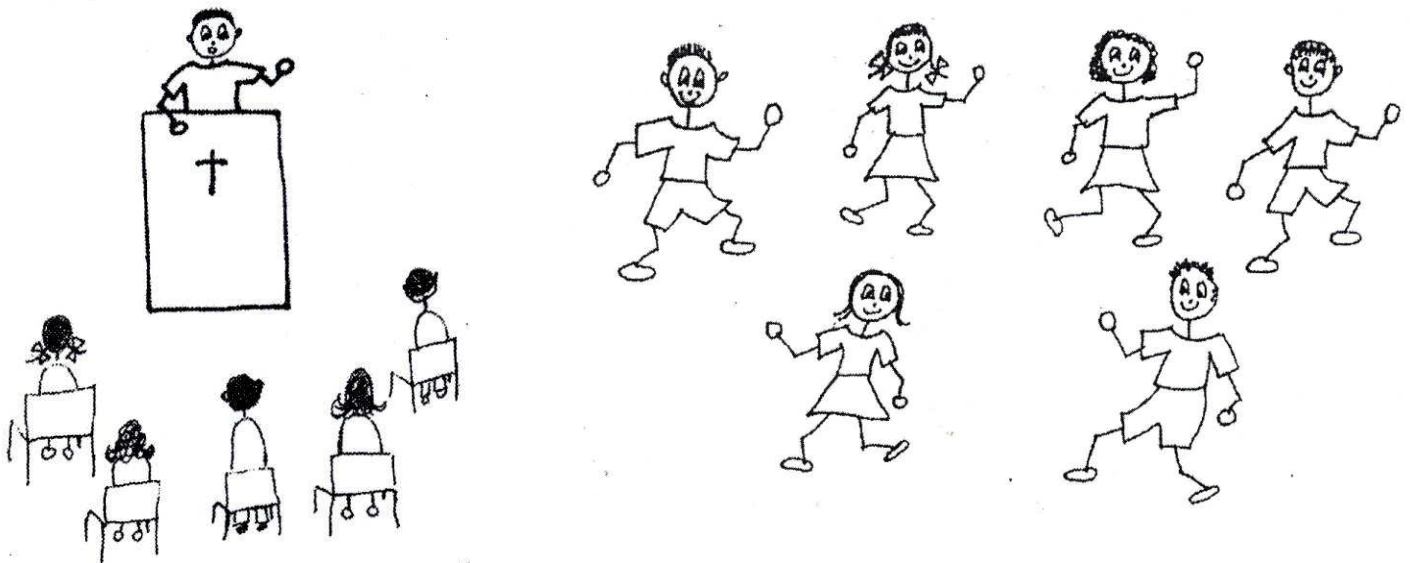


Listen to Bible doctrine daily!



1 Timothy 4:7-8 But have nothing to do with worldly fables fit only for old women. On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness [spiritual living]: for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.

Joints allow the body to jump into action. The pastor-teacher provides the means for the members of the body of Christ to jump into action. It happens this way: every action in life must be motivated by thought energy. By learning and believing Bible doctrine, believers have good thought energy - divine viewpoint. This leads to good spiritual energy from the Holy Spirit resulting in good spiritual production or spiritual action! The body of Christ is a big body, spread throughout the world. God makes it work just the way He wants it to work. Each believer has a special opportunity to do an exciting job in the body using the power of the Holy Spirit. God picked the job He wants you to do! He knows it will benefit you as well as others and that you will enjoy it! How awesome is that? It is the job of the pastor-teacher to teach us so we can grow spiritually, become winner believers, and glorify God! This is spiritual dynamics in action!



Hebrews 10:22-25 Let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience [rebound] and our bodies washed with pure water [Word of God]. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He Who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love [impersonal love] and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

Remember, God will do the work in changing us into winner believers. We just have to study His Word, His thinking. God's thought energy in us will continually change us until the day we die. He is sooo gentle in doing it, and He is with us all along the way! During this time, we learn to know and love Jesus Christ because we see His love for us. When we know and love Jesus Christ, we know and love the Father and the Holy Spirit. This in turn makes us love ourselves for who and what we are. Then we can love* others! We can then have a positive impact on those around us, even on people around the world! And get this; the angels are watching us to see how we use God's viewpoint! (1 Peter 1:12b) God is doing a good work in us!

*Virtue love



Philippians 1:6 Being confident of this, that He Who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Each member of the body of Christ has been given time to learn about God and time to wait for God to do His work within us. Sometimes it seems like we are not making any progress even though we are learning, believing, and using Bible doctrine. However, *we are progressing*. We just aren't experiencing it yet. Then one day we will experience our progress and shout for joy! It's like practicing for weeks for some event. Sometimes the practices go well, other times there are problems, but we just keep practicing. Then the day of the event arrives, we take part in it and have a great experience! It took time to prepare for the event. It takes time for God to shape us into what He wants us to be.



Galatians 6:9 And let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we shall reap if we do not grow weary [tired].

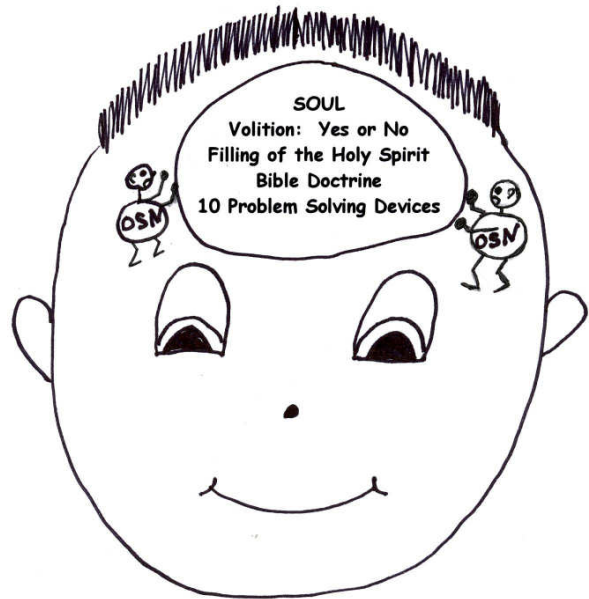
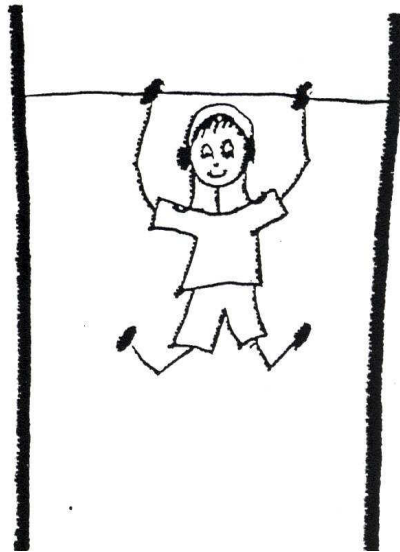
Hebrews 13:21 God is strengthening and equipping you with everything good that you may carry out His will; while He Himself works in you and accomplishes that which is pleasing in His sight.

As members of the body of Christ, we each need to do spiritual exercise daily. We need to learn well from our pastor-teacher the four spiritual mechanics* so we can develop spiritual skills**. Then we can live the dynamic spiritual life! We can be living the peaceful yet exciting life God has planned for us because we will have the capacity to enjoy it! Keep on pressing on!

*Filling of the Holy Spirit, metabolized Bible doctrine circulating in the soul, ten problem-solving devices, execution of the predesigned plan of God.

**Filling of the Holy Spirit, word of God circulating in the soul, the ten problem-solving devices the soul ready for spiritual battle.

Listen to Bible doctrine daily!

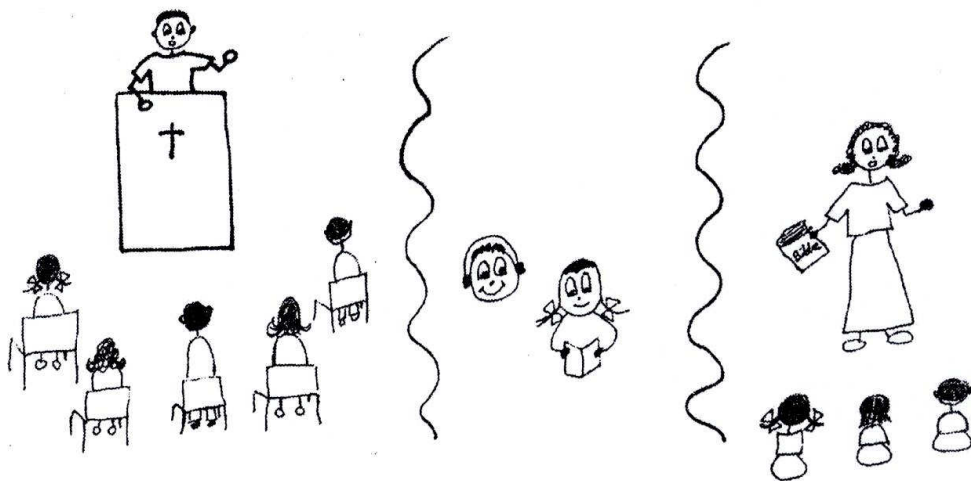


Philippians 3:14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

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.

Points to Remember

1. In the Church Age, Jesus Christ has His own spiritual body. It is called the Church.
2. When we are occupied with Christ, there is total dependence on God, Who provides for us in grace.
3. God gives us what we need to keep the body of Christ together; He gives us joints, pastor-teachers, and ligaments, Bible doctrine.
4. Jesus Christ as the head holds the body together; He has pastor-teachers teach the body how to stick together; Bible doctrine is the bond which holds us together or keeps us in place.
5. Since Bible doctrine is necessary for spiritual growth, you can be sure the kingdom of darkness is going to try to stop the pastor-teacher from doing his job.
6. The kingdom of darkness will try to stop us from using the spiritual gifts God the Holy Spirit has given us.
7. We need to consistently learn, believe, and use Bible doctrine. This is our spiritual exercise.
8. The pastor-teacher provides the means for the members of the body of Christ to jump into action.
9. God will do the work in changing us into winner believers.
10. Each member of the body of Christ has been given time to learn about God and time to wait for God to do His work within us.
11. We need to learn well from our pastor-teacher the four spiritual-mechanics so we can develop the spiritual skills and live the dynamic spiritual life.



Questions for Discussion

1. What is the body of Christ?
2. What does occupation with Christ mean?
3. In the Bible, what do joints and ligaments mean?
4. What is the job of the pastor-teacher?
5. How does Bible doctrine help the body of Christ?
6. What does the kingdom of darkness try to do to the body of Christ?
7. What kind of spiritual exercise do we need to do?
8. Do we have to be concerned about changing ourselves into winner believers? What do we have to do?
9. What are the four spiritual mechanics?
10. What are the three spiritual skills?
11. God has given us time. What are we to do with it?
12. What kind of life does God want us to live?



I Am The Head You Are The Body

References: Robert McLaughlin Bible Ministries

www.gbible.org

Lessons: 10-8, 9, 10-08; 10-15, 16, 17-08, 10-19-08

