

Living with Virtue and Integrity

vs

Living without Virtue and Integrity:

The Choice Is Ours

Virtue

Virtue means goodness and excellence. It is the visible sign of what is invisible in the believer, Bible doctrine and the power of the Holy Spirit. It can only be manufactured through God's laws (the laws of divine establishment*), learning Bible doctrine, and living the spiritual life inside of the plan of God.

* God has made certain laws for the survival and freedom of the human race during the course of human history.



Read lessons.



Listen to teaching on a tape or CD.

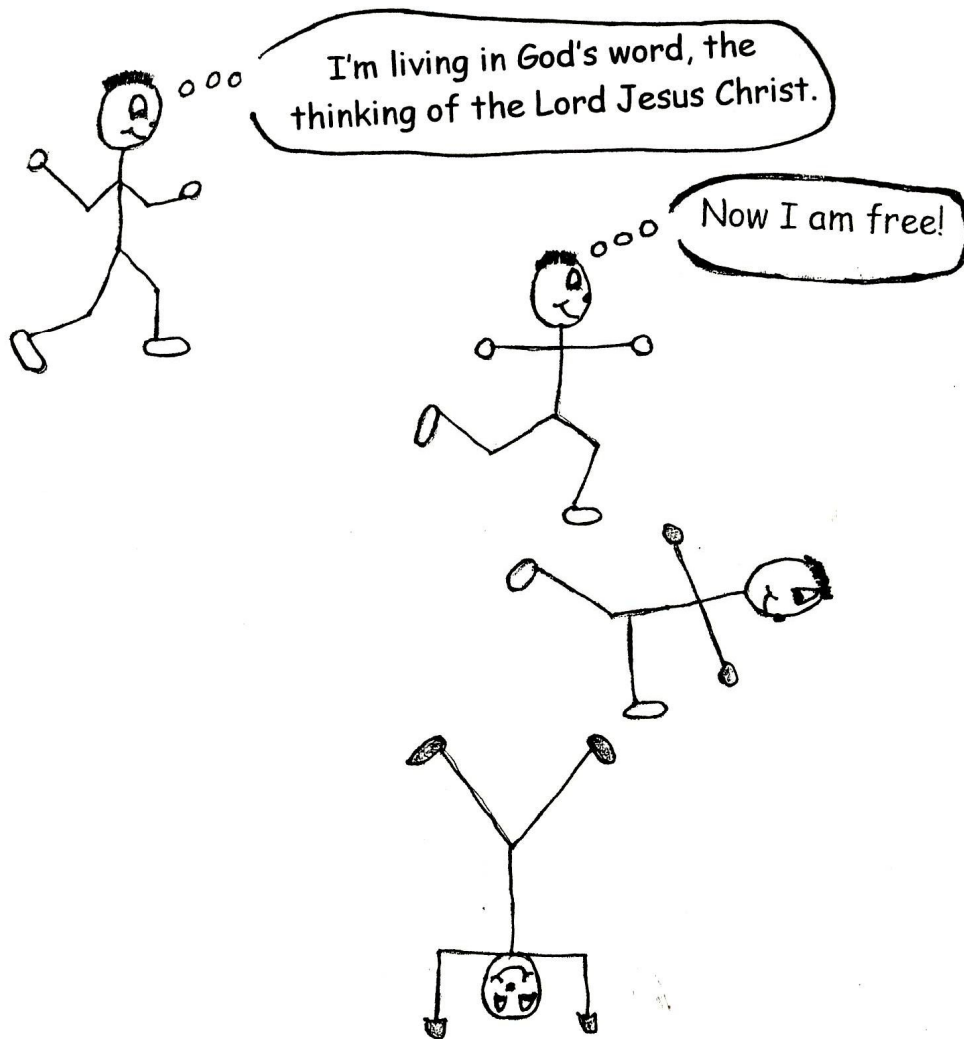


Listen to the teacher at Bible study.



"Behold, Thou dost desire truth in the innermost being, [the inner man] and in the hidden part [inner man] Thou will make me know wisdom."
Psalm 51:6

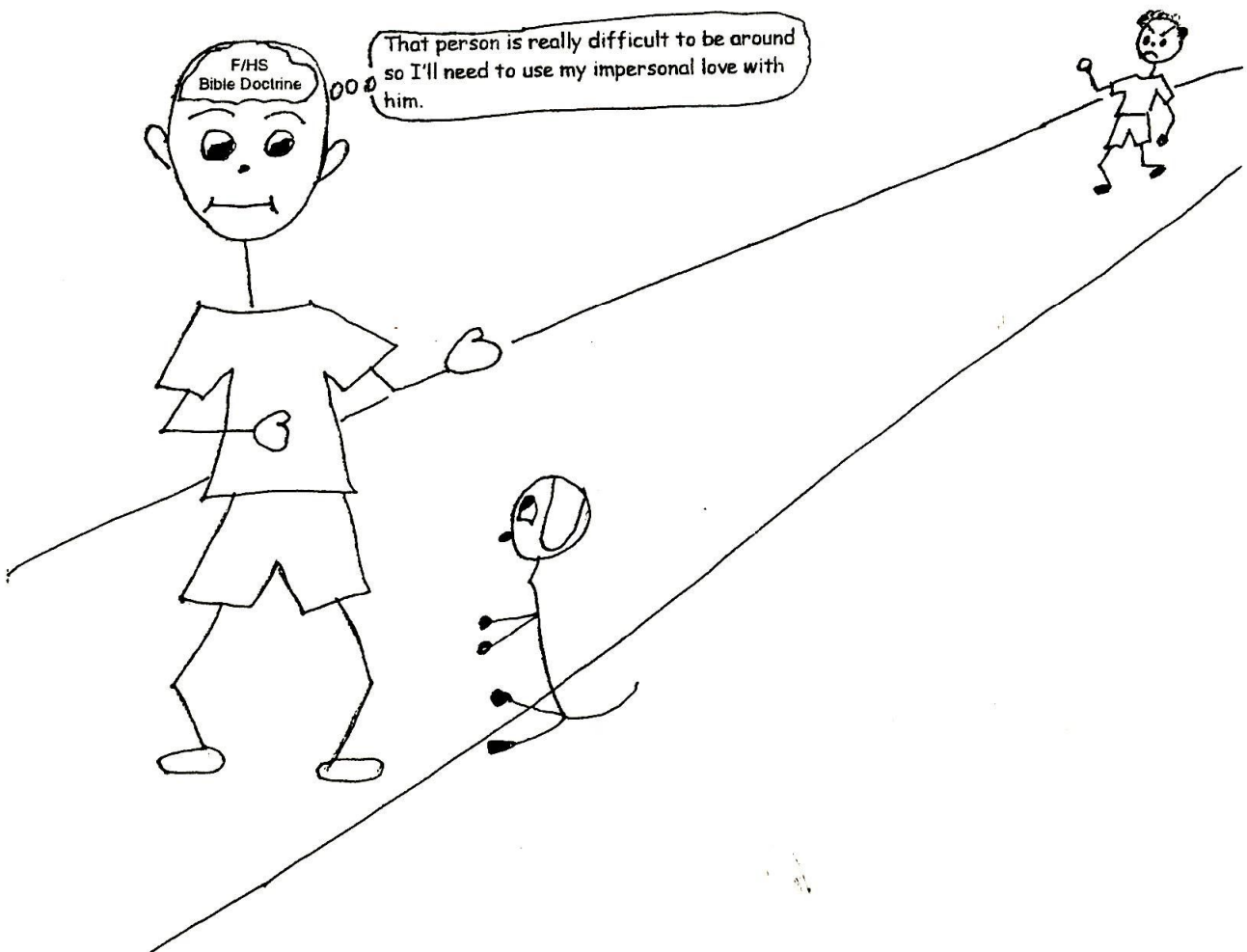
When we listen to and learn Bible doctrine, the Holy Spirit will change us. We don't have to try to change ourselves and promise to God that we will do better. When we sin, God will humble us through discipline. When we are on the right course, He will humble us through testing. We will build up our capacity for life and get more virtue!



"If you live in My Word, then you are truly students of Mine; and you shall know the truth, and the truth will make you free." John 8:31-32

Living with Virtue We Use Impersonal Love

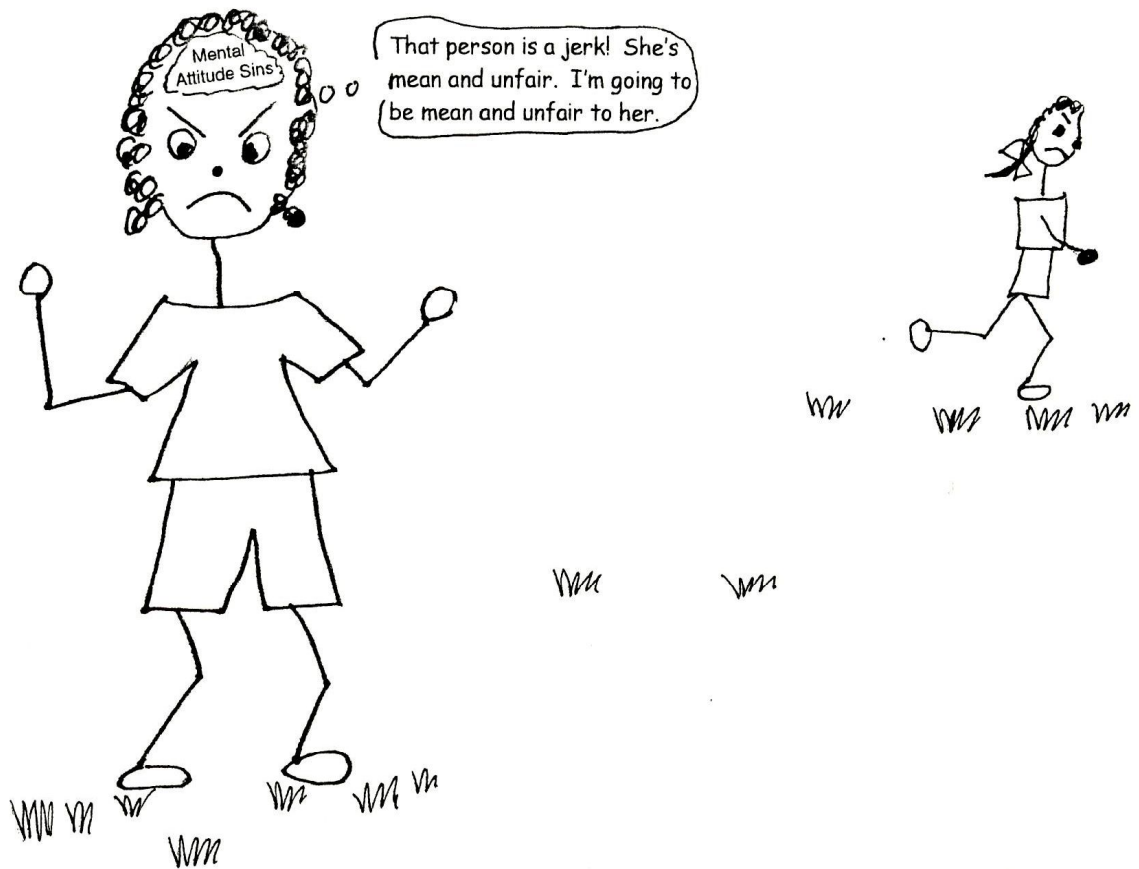
When we live with virtue, we use impersonal love. Impersonal love highlights something in you rather than highlighting something in the object of your love. You may not personally love someone at a certain time because of the way he or she acts. However, you can treat the individual with impersonal love if you have the filling of the Holy Spirit and Bible doctrine in you soul. Those need to be the highlights in you!



"For God so loved the world [impersonal love] that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

Living without Virtue We Don't Use Impersonal Love

Those who don't use impersonal love rely on their own power and human viewpoint. They find it very difficult to get along with people. Let's face it. There are many people who do things that we don't like, including ourselves!




"Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances [complaints] you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over these virtues put on love [impersonal love], which binds them all together in perfect unity." Colossians 2:13-14

Living with Integrity We Use Bible Doctrine


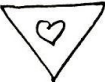
Integrity (honor, uprightness) is the spiritual strength to use doctrine in a pressure situation. Integrity is walking in the predesigned plan of God for your life, and allowing doctrine to speak to you and guide you in your mind. It means trusting in God's Word in any situation, and trusting in the Lord without wavering (indecision). It means having the spiritual strength to apply Bible doctrine in your soul to situations, and also having the "faith-rest" to leave them in the Supreme Court of Heaven.

Promise



"When I am afraid, I will put my trust in Thee."
Psalm 56:3

Think

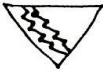




God is all knowing.


God is all powerful.

God is love.

God is our ruler.

Relax



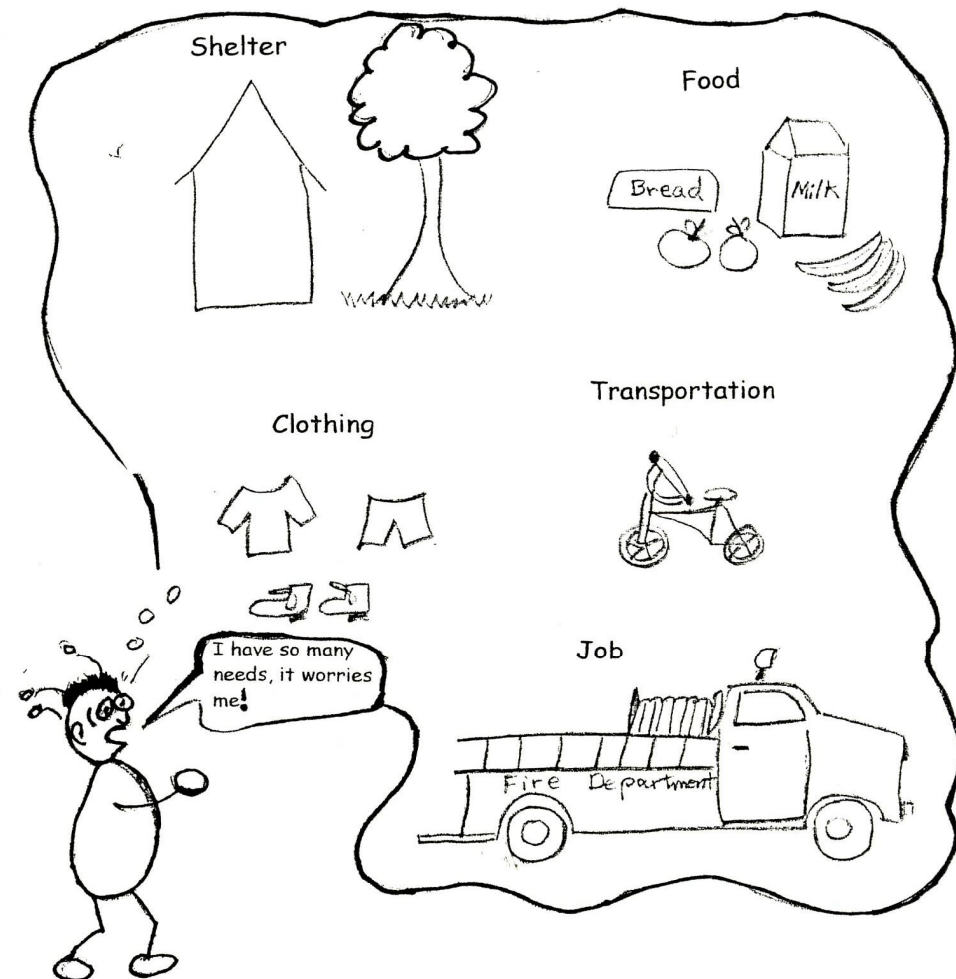
"What then shall we say to these things?
If God is for us, who is against us?"
Romans 8:31

"Vindicate me [clear me from blame], O Lord, for I have walked in my integrity; and I trusted in the Lord without wavering [indecision]." Psalm 26:1

"He who walks with integrity, and produces divine righteousness, speaks truth [or doctrine] in his heart [mind]." Psalm 15:2

Living without Integrity We Don't Use Bible Doctrine

When we live without integrity, we don't apply doctrine in pressure situations. We panic and get out of God's plan for our lives. We don't trust God's Word in our pressure situations. We don't have the spiritual strength to apply Bible doctrine to our problems! We keep them in our hands rather than handing them over to God and faith-resting them. What a mess!



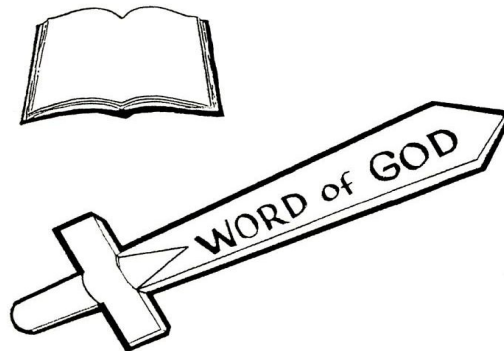
"Lo, God will not reject a man of integrity, nor will He support the evildoers."
Job 8:20

Living with Virtue and Integrity We Don't Play the Blame Game

When we live with virtue and integrity, we don't blame others for our problems. We take the responsibility for our own decisions. We make decisions from a position of strength, God's Word in our souls, and go forward in the plan of God. We replace blame with claiming God's grace, thanking Him for who we are and what we have as a gift of His grace.

DOCTRINAL ORIENTATION is learning to think like Our Lord Jesus Christ. When we have this knowledge, we can use it in our lives. We can make good decisions.

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



"The word of God is alive and powerful, sharper than any two edged sword..." Hebrews 4:12

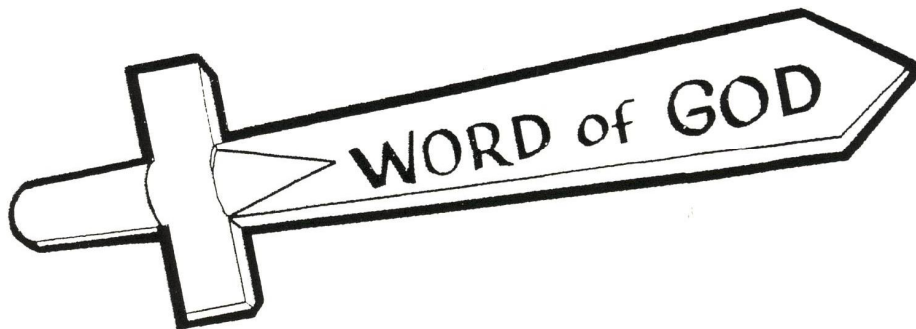
"But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace to me was not without effect [result]." 1 Corinthians 15:10

"It is God Who arms me with strength and makes my way perfect."
2 Samuel 22:33

"I can do everything through Him Who gives me strength."
Philippians 4:13

Living without Virtue and Integrity We Play the Blame Game

When we are living without virtue and integrity we play the blame game. Everyone else is the cause of our problems. However, God knows us inside and out, or He can see right through us. We can't blame others to make ourselves feel better because God can't be fooled! We don't need to blame others because it isn't about our sins. They've been judged! It's about our salvation and deliverance. God wants us to have the best. We may put ourselves down, but He never does. His mercy and grace are abounding, they go on forever!!!



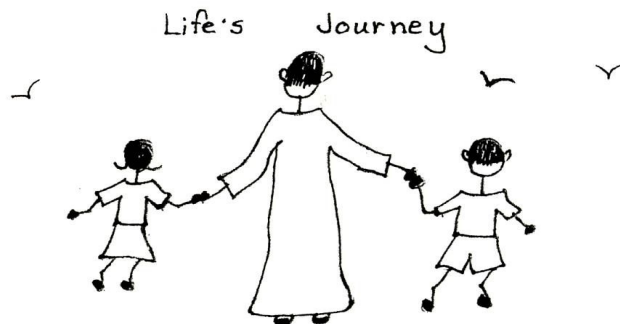
"For the Word of God is alive and powerful. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates [goes in deep] even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart [mind]. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of Him to Whom we must give account." Hebrews 4:12-13

"Set your mind on the things above [God's viewpoint], not on the things that are on earth [human viewpoint and unfairness]." Colossians 3:2

Living with Virtue and Integrity We Have the Right Focus

When we live with virtue and integrity we have the right focus. We focus on good, on God and His just treatment of us. Jesus concentrated on the justice of God while He was being treated unfairly. He had the right focus. We focus on the Lord Jesus Christ as our role model. We don't feel let down because we trust in the Lord. We can count on His constant acceptance and understanding!

In our journey through life we never need to be alone. We have a best friend whom we cannot see, but we can know. The more we know Him, the more we love Him. We become occupied with Him. He went through torture so that we could have salvation. He was judged for our sins! He does everything He can for us. What an awesome friend! He is the Lord Jesus Christ, our Savior, who is always by our side, giving us strength and power. OCCUPATION with the LORD JESUS CHRIST gives us great peace. What a perfect friend to have for eternity.



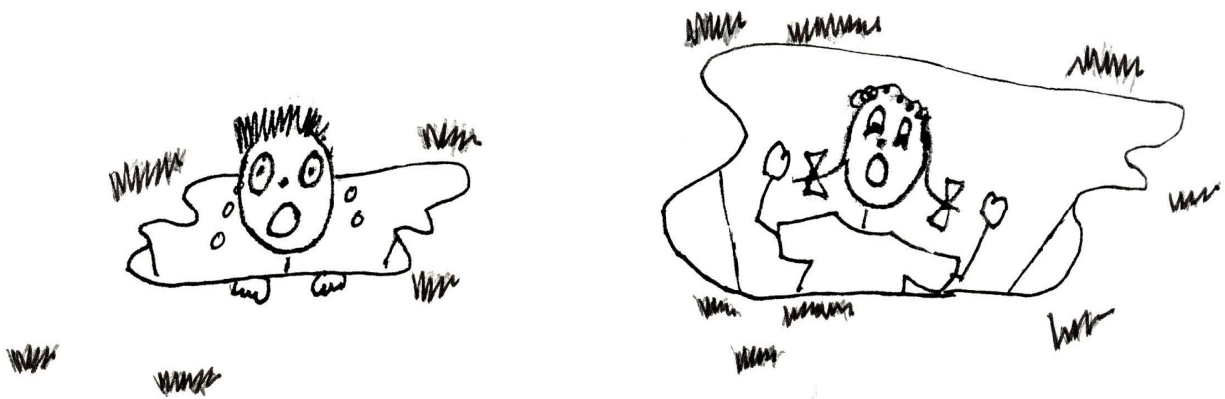
"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the defense of my life; whom shall I dread?" Psalm 27:1

"Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble [respectful], whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or see in me - put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you."

Philippians 3:8-9

Living without Virtue and Integrity We Don't Have the Right Focus

When we are living without virtue and integrity, we don't have the proper focus. We focus mainly on ourselves and the unjust treatment we think that we receive. We feel that life has let us down, when in reality we have let ourselves down. We have put ourselves into a pit. Life is the pits! We feel that life is unfair and we get into self-pity. What a pity!



"Remember the word that I said to you, 'A slave is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you..."

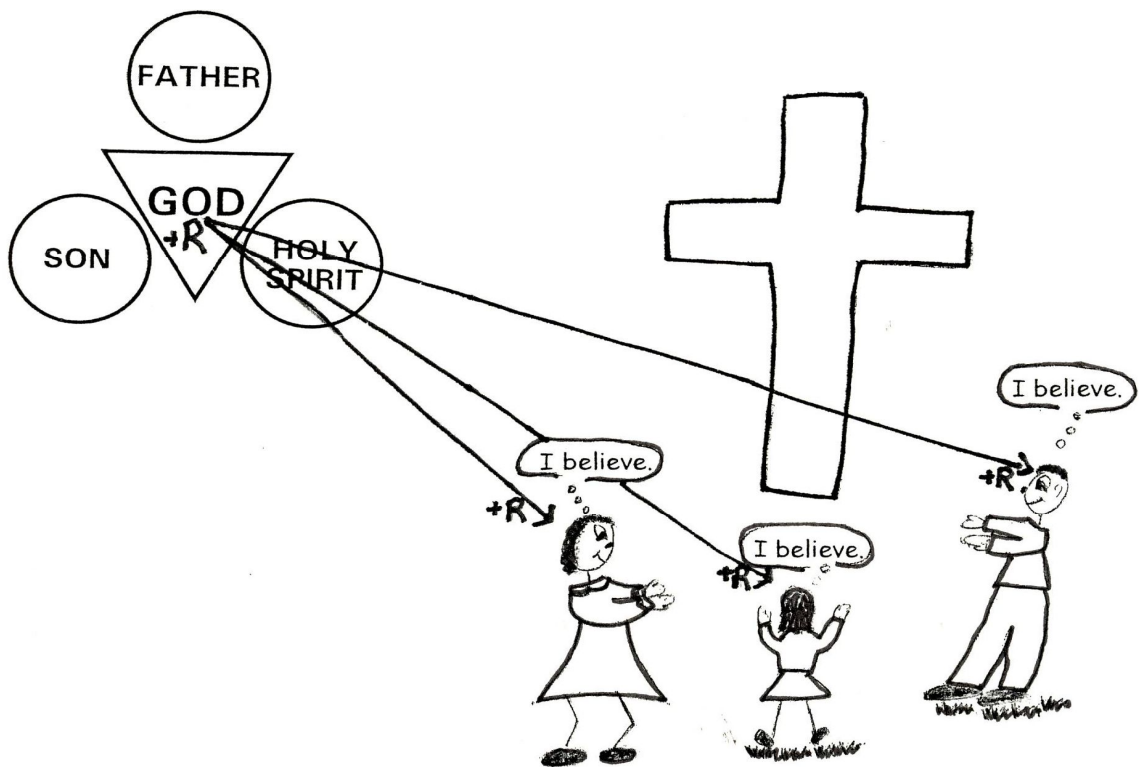
John 15:20

"...Who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion..."

Psalm 103:4

Living with Virtue and Integrity
We Live in God's Righteousness

God is awesome! His love for us is magnificent! At salvation, He gave us His righteousness, +R, which is divine integrity. Since we have +R, God is able to bless us. It was freely given to us; we don't have to earn it. When we understand, believe and use Bible doctrine, we build up capacity (room) for blessing. We are living in the perfect righteousness of God. We are living in the righteous Word of God, the fair and honorable Word of God!

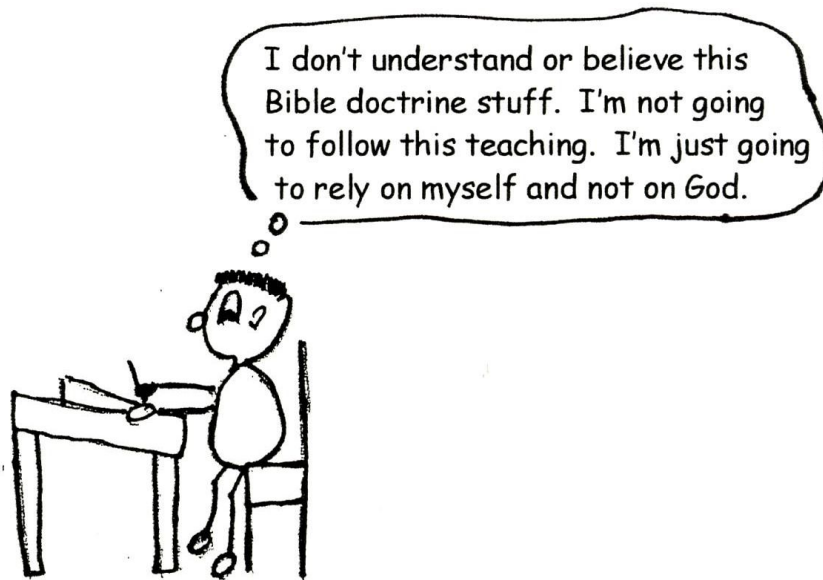


"For surely, O Lord, You bless the righteous; You surround them with Your favor as with a shield." Psalm 5:11

"Lo, God will not reject a man of integrity, nor will He support the evildoers."
Job 8:20

Living without Virtue and Integrity
We Don't Live in God's Righteousness

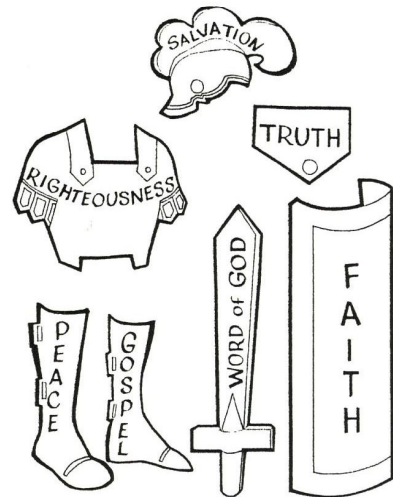
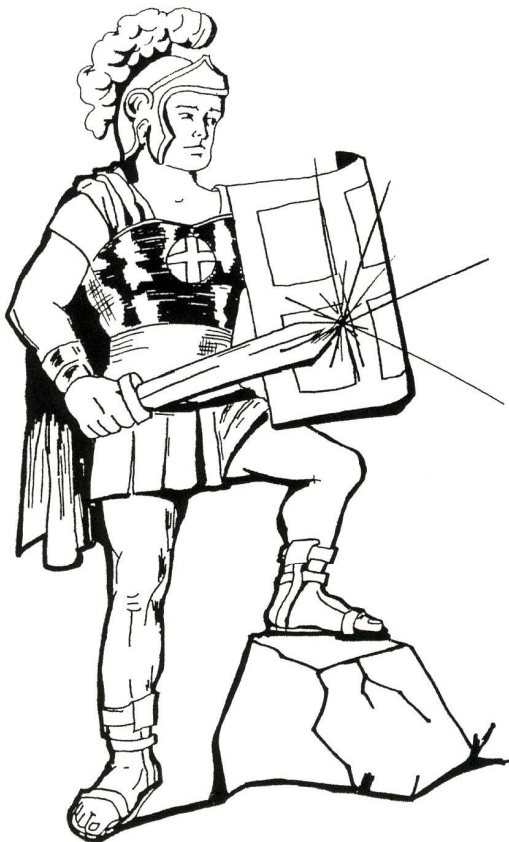
Sometimes we don't live in +R. Sometimes we fail to understand, believe, and use Bible doctrine. We don't let God bless us as much as He could because we don't have the capacity or room in our souls. We are not living in the righteous Word of God, the fair and honorable Word of God. What a downer for us!



"Woe [trouble, sorrow] to him who builds his house without righteousness and his upper rooms without justice." Jeremiah 22:13a

Living with Virtue and Integrity

We use impersonal love.
We use Bible doctrine.
We don't play the blame game.
We have the right focus.
We live in God's righteousness.



"Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins [made yourself strong] with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness..."
Ephesians 6:14

2 Peter 1:3-11

"His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness [spiritual living] through our knowledge of Him Who called us by His own glory and goodness [virtue, excellence]. Through these [His glory and virtue] He has given us His very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith [doctrine] goodness [virtue]; and to virtue, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness [spiritual living]; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love [virtue love]. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins."

Living with Virtue and Integrity vs Living without Virtue and Integrity

References used: Robert McLaughlin Bible Ministries
wwwgbible.org

Lessons: 11-12-03, 5-4-04, 4-29-04, 4-30-04,
5-2-04

Book: *Adjustment to the Justice of God*,
Robert R. McLaughlin

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