

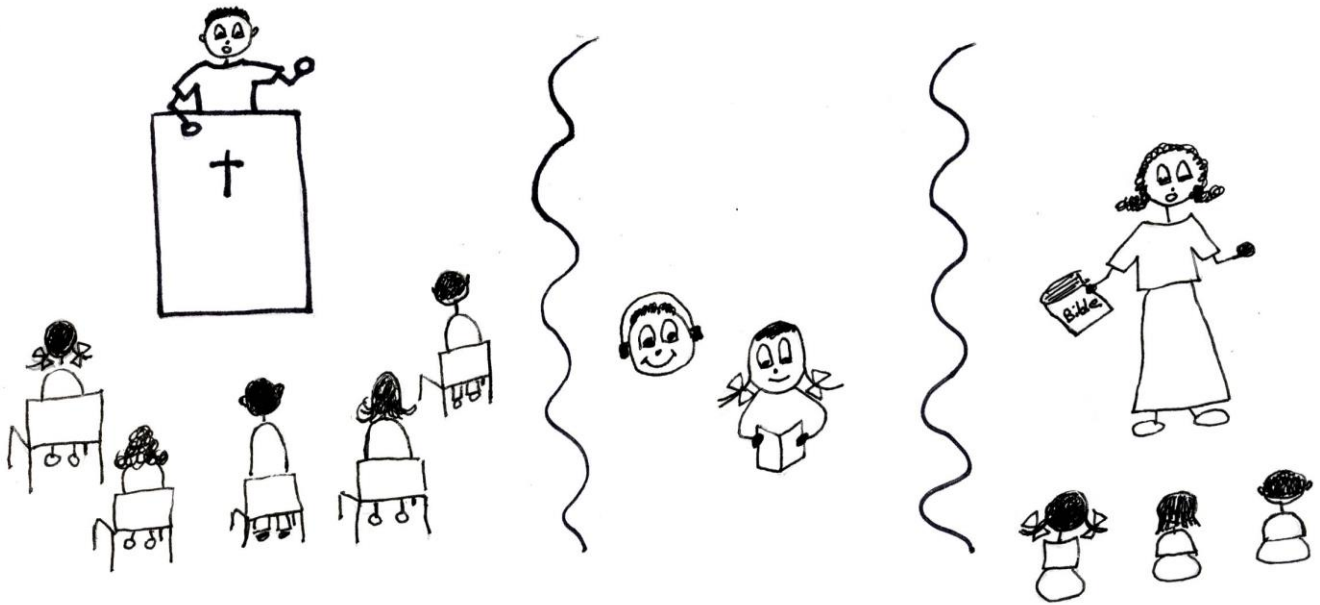
Equipped in Courage

Rewritten 1-5-2015



Before you can play any sport you have to learn the game and have the right equipment. Before you can cook something good to eat you need to know how to cook and have the right supplies and equipment. This is true about many things in life; you have to know how to do what you choose to do and have the right equipment. And of course, you need to practice. The more you practice, the better you get. These all give you the courage to do the thing you choose to do.





This is true in the spiritual life. Through the power of the Holy Spirit we learn in the Bible the truths about God. Our pastor-teachers, prep school teachers and parents teach us and equip us with God's word. We learn, believe and use or practice what we learn. This takes time. The more of God's word we learn, believe and use the better equipped we become. We become spiritually courageous because we believe God's power within us is more powerful than our flesh and anything in the world. We are courageous because of faith in God's grace provisions for us - His equipment!

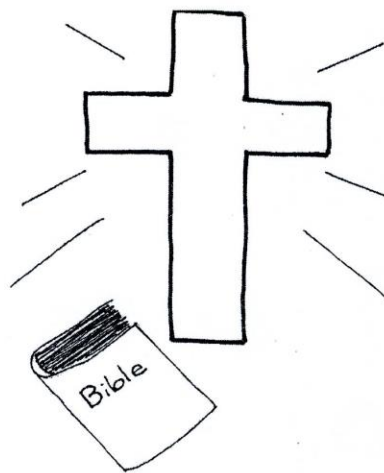
Isaiah 12:2 Behold, God is my salvation [deliverance], I will trust and not be afraid; for the LORD GOD is my strength and song, and He has become my salvation [deliverance].

This equipment doesn't cost us anything. The grace gift of our equipment has already been paid for by our Lord Jesus Christ. He paid a **huge** price! He died on the cross for all mankind so we could choose to live for eternity with Him in heaven! He was buried, raised from the dead, ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father! Jesus is the most courageous! We first need to believe in Jesus Christ as our Savior. Then God the Holy Spirit will teach us how to use all the provisions or equipment God has available for our spiritual lives. He will teach us to use the thinking of Christ found in the Bible. He will give us the power to understand it and use it. We are to keep our eyes on Jesus Christ, our truly courageous Leader and Shepherd!



1 John 2:2 And He Himself is the propitiation [Jesus Christ satisfied the justice of God the Father] for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.

Jesus Christ, our Shepherd, is the greatest leader ever! A true leader can tell what is really going on in different situations. He looks for what a person can become rather than looking at the faults of the person. A true leader removes spiritual obstacles for the person so he can grow spiritually. A true leader isn't selfish; he is oriented to God's grace; he is directed by God's grace. A true leader encourages others. This all describes Jesus Christ, our Great Leader! When we think with His thinking we are spiritual leaders. We can have courage in our souls because of our Leader!



*Ecclesiastes 4:10
For if either of
them falls, the one
will lift up his
companion. But
woe to the one who
falls when there is
not another to lift
him up.*



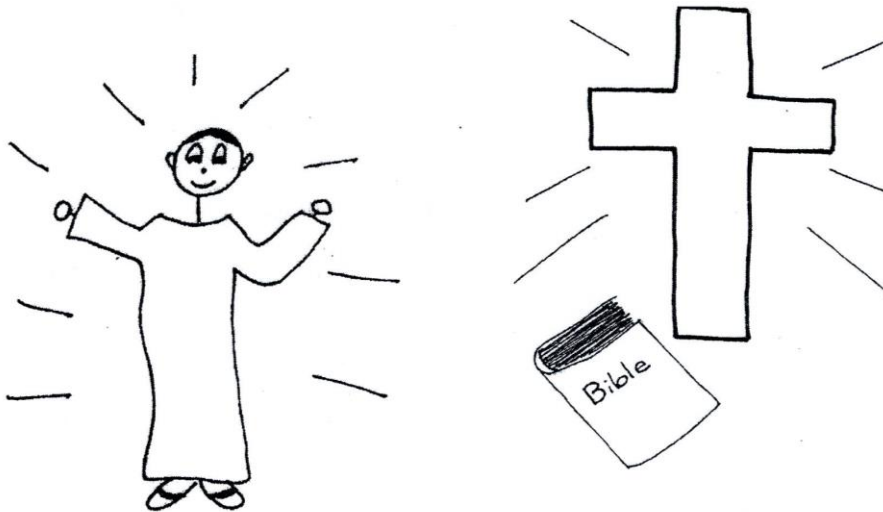
True courage is having faith and trust in the word of God. It is using faith to make decisions. That's what we call "stepping out in faith". A true leader does not let fear rule him. He may be *shaking* a little, but he knows God will come through for him; he doesn't let emotion rule because he knows emotions can't think. He is prepared in the spiritual life through the thinking of Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit and leads through the thinking of Christ and the power of God the Holy Spirit. To be a courageous leader there has to be faith and trust in the word of God.



Deuteronomy 20:1-8 When you go out to battle against your enemies and see horses and chariots and people more numerous than you, do not be afraid of them; for the LORD your God, who brought you up from the land of Egypt, is with you....

John 16:33 These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.

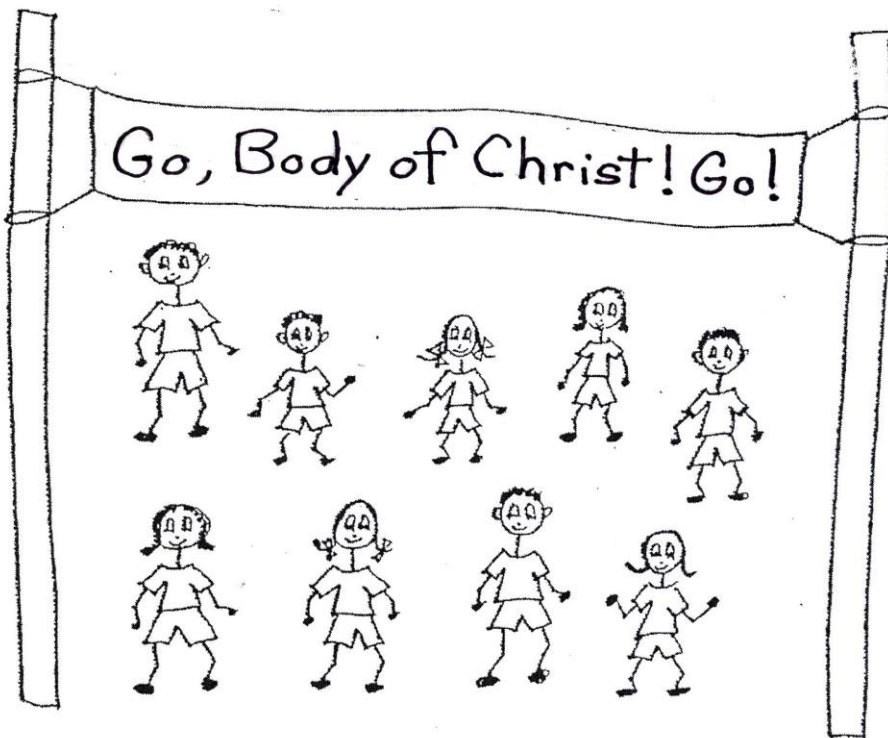
Our Shepherd knows that we can be equipped for the job which He wants us to do. He wants to get us to the point where we can function well in God's will for our lives. And God the Father gave us or equipped us with the same power Jesus Christ used in His humanity while on earth - the power of God the Holy Spirit and the word of God. This is so we can think like Jesus Christ does. This thinking we are to share with the rest of the Body of Christ; it gives us unity and not division. We are to be equipped with the mind of Christ. Fantastic thinking! Take courage in our Leader!



2 Timothy 3:16-17 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.



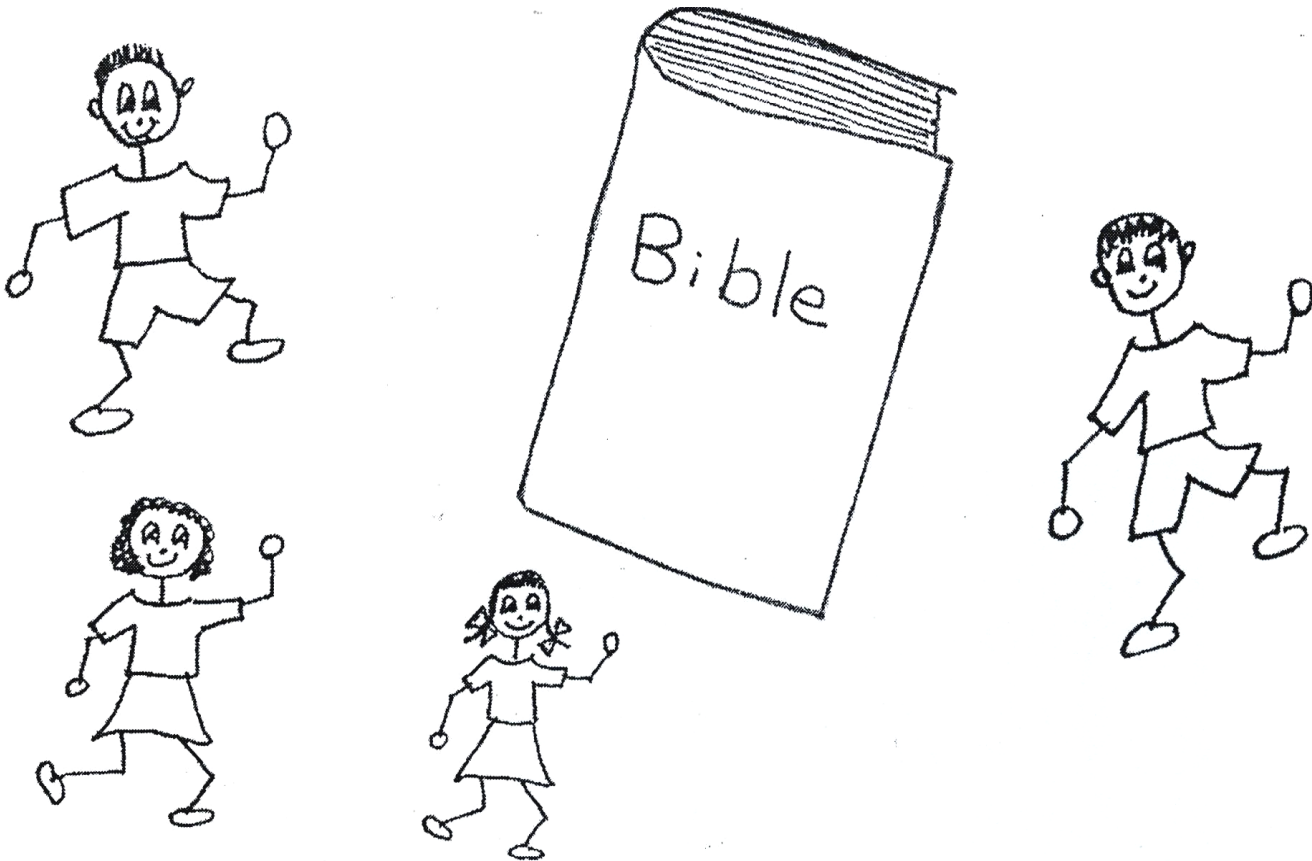
We can be with believers we do like and with those we don't like when we have the thinking of Christ; we can be united in thought! Awesome! God doesn't expect us to like everyone but He does want us to get to the point where we can have virtue love for all. This means we can love them because of the thinking of Jesus Christ that we have in our soul. When we learn to hate the evil in people, yet keep our virtue love for them, we can bear one another's burdens or weaknesses. Jesus Christ never gave up on us and He doesn't want us to give up on others. Through His thinking in us, He wants us to lead them to Him. We are to be set apart, sanctified, for His purposes.



Hebrews 13:20-21 Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead [resurrection life] the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord, equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

2 Corinthians 13:11 Finally brethren, rejoice, be made complete [equipped], be comforted, be like-minded, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.

The word of God is the greatest book on leadership; it is the thinking of our Great Leader, Jesus Christ. It teaches us leadership that rules our souls! It teaches us how to think under pressure. Jesus Christ doesn't expect us to have blind courage; He wants us to use the power of the Holy Spirit and Bible doctrine to obey and follow the will of God. God will show us the way and give us courage! Awesome!



We can have courage in our spiritual warfare by having faith in our Shepherd and His thinking. He showed us everything we need to win the battle. The directions and procedures are written in the Bible. God the Father gave us the Holy Spirit so we would have His supernatural power to learn the directions and procedures and follow them. In time, with practice using what we learn, this all gives us spiritual courage! Our Shepherd guarantees our growth and deliverance! He has already won the battle for us and He wants us to experience it. He equips us in courage!



Isaiah 26:4 Trust in the LORD forever, for in God the LORD, we have an everlasting Rock.

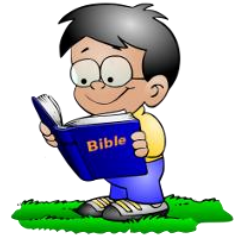
Points to Remember



1. We are courageous because of faith in God's grace provisions for us - His equipment!
2. The grace gift of our equipment has already been paid for by the Lord Jesus Christ.
3. The equipment doesn't cost us anything.
4. Jesus Christ, the Great Shepherd, is the greatest leader ever!
5. True courage is having faith and trust in the word of God.
6. We can be with believers we do like and those we don't like when we have the thinking of Christ; we can be united in thought!
7. The word of God is the greatest book on leadership; it is the thinking of our Great Leader, Jesus Christ.
8. We can have courage in our spiritual warfare by having faith in our Shepherd and His thinking.



Questions for Discussion



1. How do we get equipped for the spiritual life?
2. What is a true leader in the spiritual life?
3. What does it mean to be courageous in the spiritual life?

