

# How do we learn, apply, and use God's Word?

## Why Study God's Word?

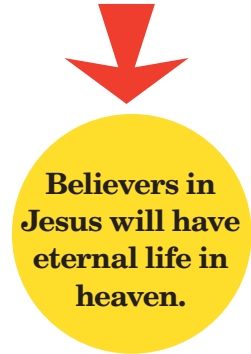
Past



Present



Future



**What about Now?**

## God's Word: A Weapon/A Tool

What advice would you give someone (or yourself) when tempted in these ways to do wrong? Before you respond, look on the next page to learn how Jesus handled temptation.

**I'm looking for the easy way.**

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**I'm looking out for number one.**

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**I'm looking to get whatever I want.**

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## Review

What do people want? Give examples.

Physical, material things \_\_\_\_\_

Fame, to be well-known \_\_\_\_\_

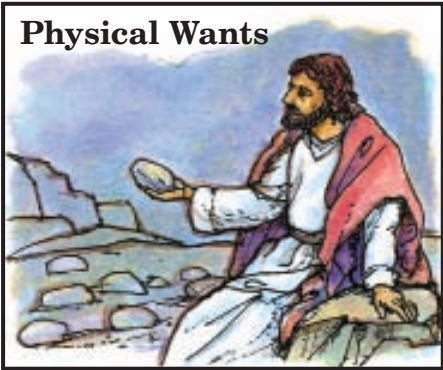
Fortune, money, wealth \_\_\_\_\_

# Tempted, but Didn't Fall (Matthew 4:1-11)

## Tempted By

## Response

## A Verse for You



Matthew 4:4  
Based on  
Deuteronomy 8:3

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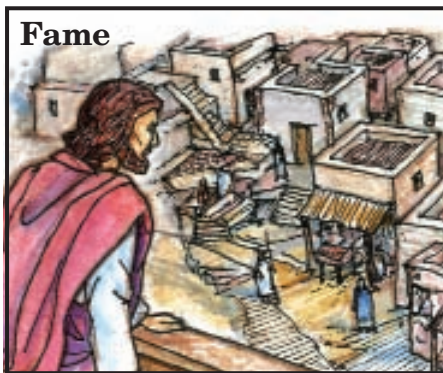
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Matthew 6:33



Matthew 4:7  
Based on  
Deuteronomy 6:16-17

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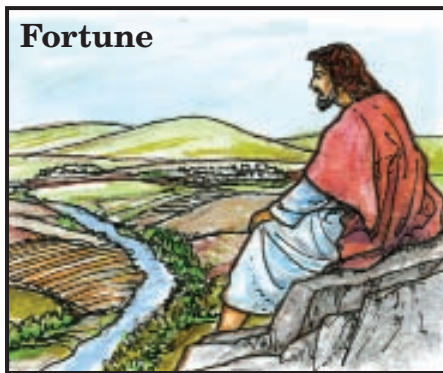
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Acts 5:29b



Matthew 4:10  
Based on  
Deuteronomy 13:4

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Luke 9:25

# Remember

“Whatever is \_\_\_\_\_, whatever is \_\_\_\_\_, whatever is \_\_\_\_\_, whatever is \_\_\_\_\_, whatever is \_\_\_\_\_, whatever is \_\_\_\_\_, if there is any \_\_\_\_\_, if there is anything \_\_\_\_\_, think about these things.” (Philippians 4:8)

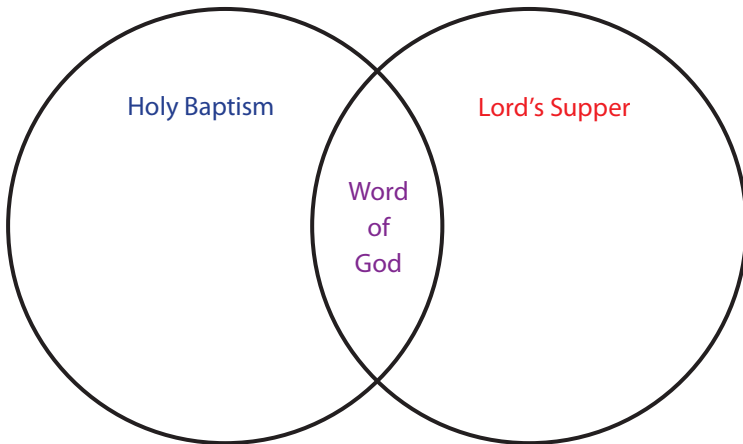


★ BOTTOM LINE: IT'S NOT THE METHOD; IT'S THE MAN.

# How does the Holy Spirit keep us in the faith?

## Growing through the Means of Grace

### Sacraments



1. God's Word connects to the visible element of water.
2. By the power of His Word, Christ gives His body and blood in, with, and under the bread and wine.
3. An event a person celebrates often.
4. A one-time event that is remembered daily.
5. Usually reserved for older children and adults after instruction.
6. For any age, including infants.
7. Observed by Jesus at the beginning of His ministry.
8. Instituted by Jesus at the end of His ministry.

The Holy Spirit works through the Means of Grace to offer faith, forgiveness, life, and salvation through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

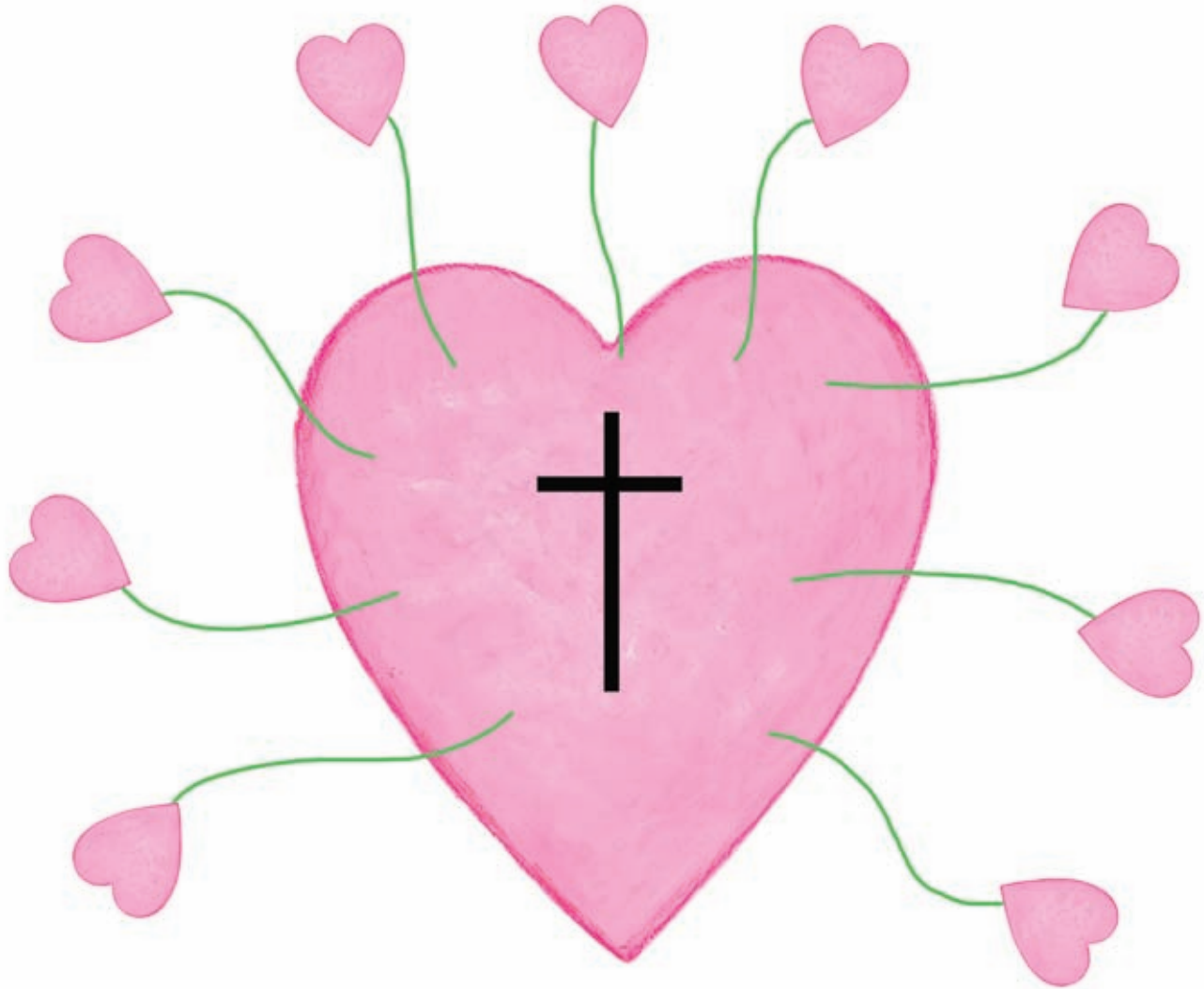
## Hearing the Word of God (Matthew 13:1-23)

<p>The dry path represents people who hear God's Word but either ignore it or reject it, so God's Word never has a chance to take root and grow in their hearts and lives.</p>	<p>The rocky soil represents people who at first are glad to hear God's Word, but they are not firmly connected (rooted), so when troubles occur, their faith dries up and withers away.</p>
<p>The soil with weeds represents people who hear God's Word but have other things growing in their hearts too (such as the love of money and good times) until those things take over and choke out the Word.</p>	<p>Good soil represents the best growing conditions, in which the Holy Spirit is working through the Means of Grace; the faith and life of these people grow as they share good works for the glory of God.</p>

## Review

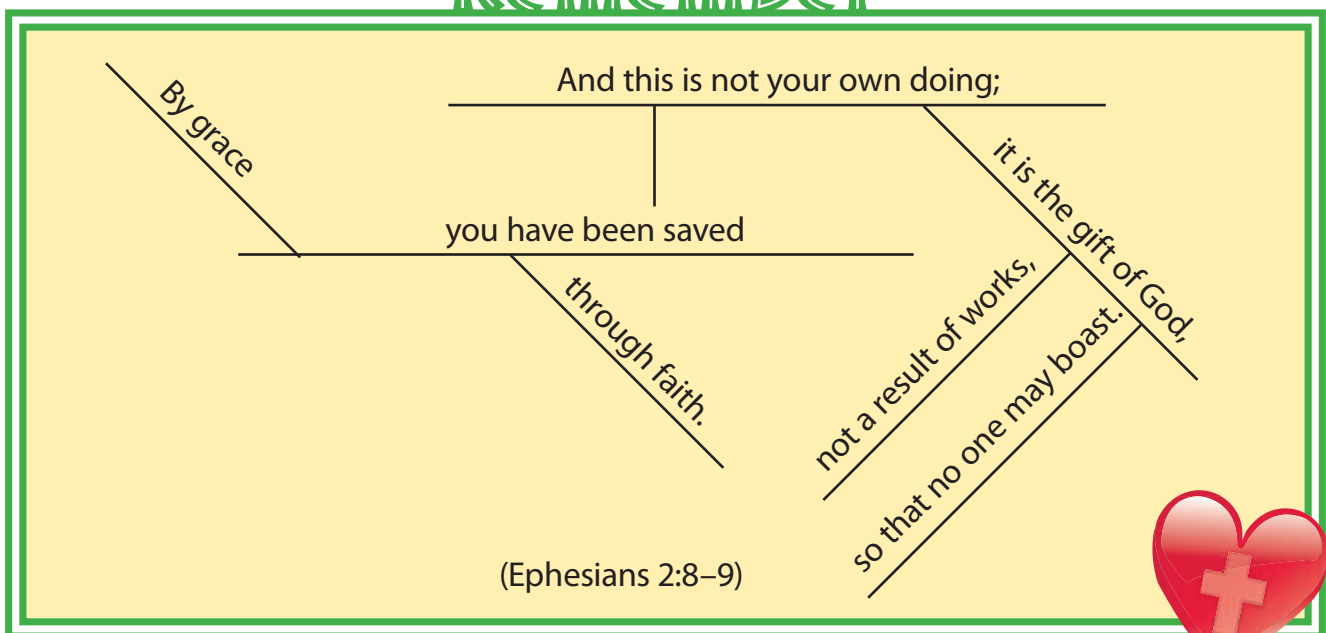
1. Fruit: The sweet part of a seed-bearing plant.
2. Fruit: The edible part of a plant.
3. Fruit: Results that have been produced.

# What's Growing in Your Heart and Life?



Galatians 5:22–23

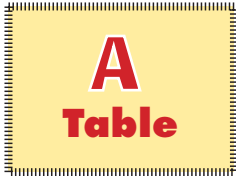
## Remember



# How does Jesus serve as my substitute?

## Your Substitute

Put an X on the one that could take your place.



What do these Bible verses tell about our substitute?

a. 2 Corinthians 8:9 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

b. Philippians 2:5–7 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

c. 2 Corinthians 5:21 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

d. Romans 6:3–8 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Review

*Sacrifice.* In the blood sacrifices of the Old Testament, the lamb was the substitute for the people. When the lamb was sacrificed, its death carried the people’s punishment for their sins. This ceremony prefigured the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus, the Lamb of God. Jesus was the ultimate substitute—true God and true man, holy and human. We live in New Testament times. Because of Jesus, there are no more blood sacrifices. Those ended with Jesus, the complete and perfect substitute. (See Hebrews 10:10, 14, 18.)

## Why as a Baby?

a. Our Lord did not “lord it over all.” What does that mean?

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b. What message did Jesus’ humility give? \_\_\_\_\_

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c. Identify another time when Jesus showed humility.

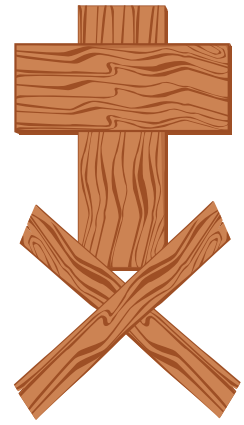
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d. Explain in your own words what the symbol above tells you. \_\_\_\_\_

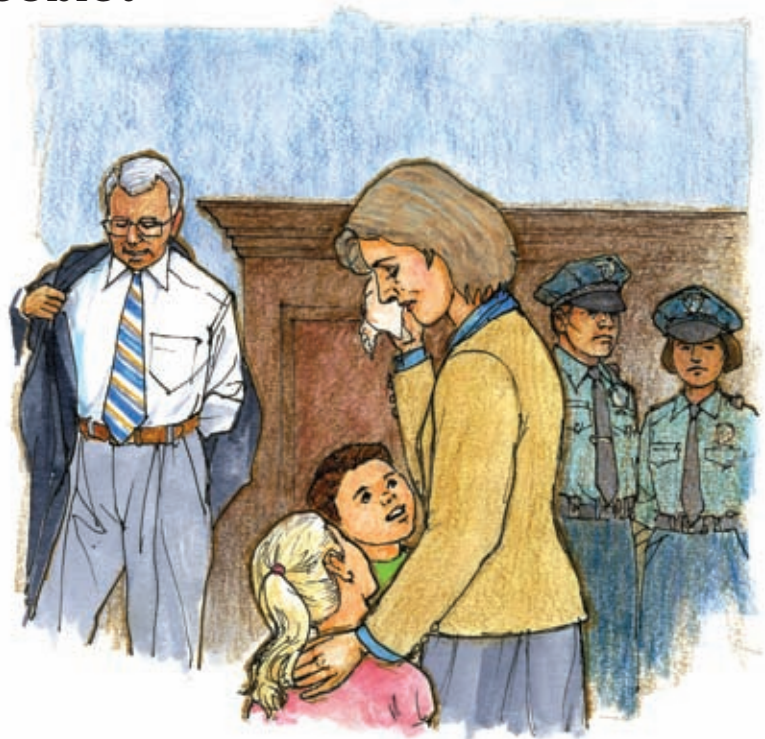
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## Why Go to So Much Trouble?

Why did God go to so much trouble, having His Son be born as one of us, only to later suffer and die on a cross? Why didn't He just snap His fingers and say, "Sin, be gone"? God wouldn't do that, because He is a just God. If there was no punishment for sin, the message would be "sin as much as you want because it doesn't matter anyway." This would not be justice from a just God. The penalty had to be paid. So God Himself took the punishment for us. He calls us to repentance and a new life in Christ.

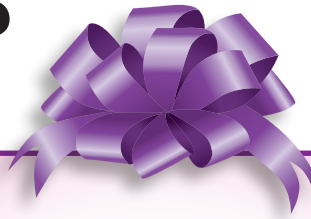


## Remember

“For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.” (2 Corinthians 5:21)



# From what and for what did Jesus redeem us?



## The Unexpected Gift

We often talk about Jesus as the “best Christmas gift.” But He was not the gift people expected. They were looking for a mighty warrior and king. Read the Bible verses in the gift box to the right and list some of the unexpected things about Jesus.

*Isaiah 55:8–9: “My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts.”*

1. Luke 2:11–12 _____ _____
2. John 1:45–46 _____ _____
3. Matthew 13:54–55 _____ _____
4. Luke 19:7, 10 _____ _____
5. 1 Corinthians 1:23–25 _____ _____
6. Luke 24:1–11 _____ _____

## The Redeemer

Instead of comparing Jesus our Redeemer to a gift box, perhaps it would help to compare Him to a gift certificate. (As our Redeemer, Jesus paid the price, purchasing us to buy us back.)

	PURCHASED FROM	PURCHASED WITH	PURCHASED FOR
Gift Certificate	fast-food place	money	lunch
My Redemption			

## Review

**Redeem:** to buy back or to pay a debt owed by someone else. Jesus came to redeem Israel and all people from slavery to sin and death. We owe God perfect obedience, but we are sinners and cannot give Him what we owe. The penalty for our sin is death and separation from God. Jesus, our Redeemer, came to suffer that punishment in our place. He paid the price to set us free, not with money but with His own blood.

## Is This the Christ?

Our Savior and Redeemer suffered and died on a cross for us. His enemies derided Him, and His followers felt hopeless; neither expected this could happen to the Promised One. But God's plan was perfect! Jesus did all things necessary to save us. Read Luke 23:32–47. Draw lines to connect the words to whoever said them.

“Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”

“He saved others; let Him save Himself, if He is the Christ!”

“If you are the King of the Jews, save Yourself!”

“Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit!”

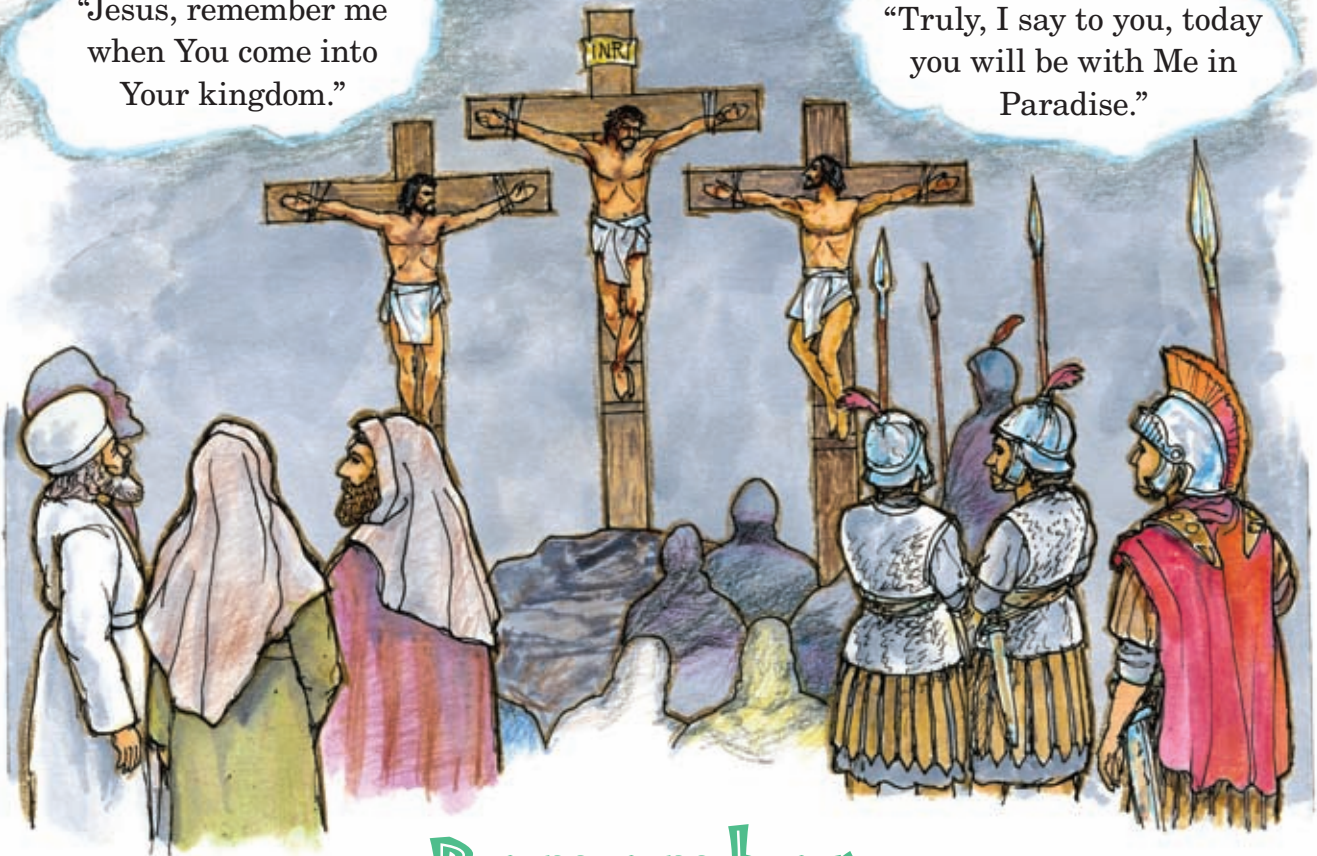
“Are You not the Christ? Save Yourself and us!”

“Certainly this man was innocent!”

“This is the King of the Jews.”

“Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.”

“Truly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.”



## Remember

“ I have \_\_\_\_\_ your transgressions like a cloud and your \_\_\_\_\_ like mist; return to Me, for I have \_\_\_\_\_ you.” (Isaiah 44:22)

