

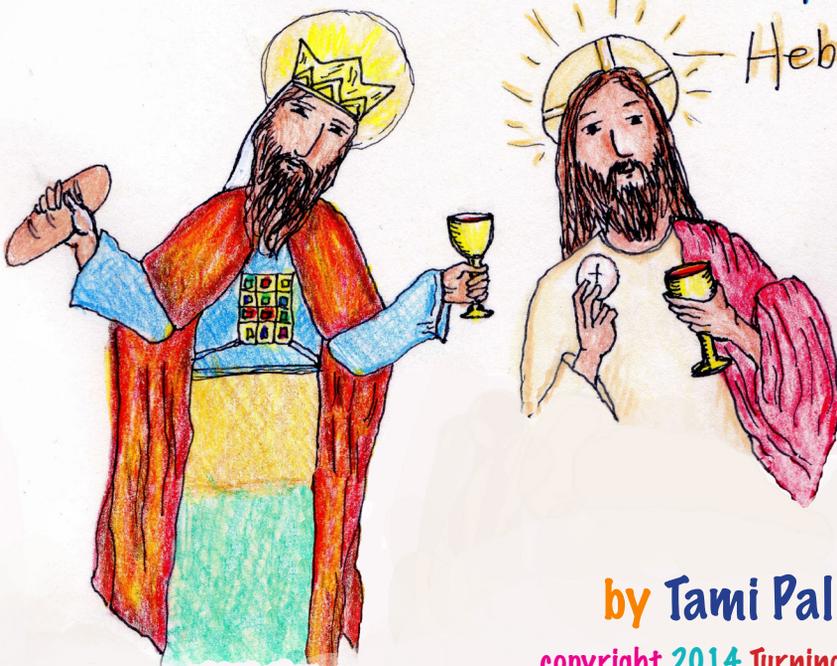
Visual Reflections

on the Letter to the Hebrews

LESSONS 1-9

“In the days of his flesh,
Jesus offered up prayers & supplications
with loud cries and tears, to him who was
able to save him from death,
and he was heard for his godly fear.
Although he was a Son, he learned
obedience through what he suffered;
and being made perfect
he became the SOURCE of eternal salvation
to all who obey him,
being designated by God a high priest
according to the order of Melchizedek.”

Hebrews 5:7-10



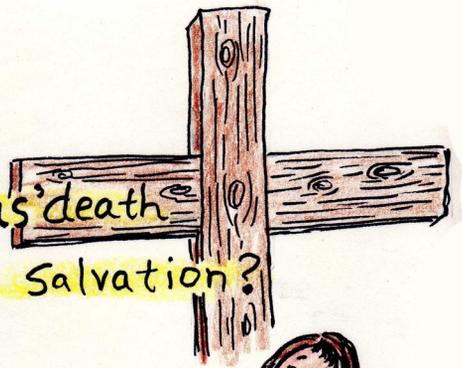
by Tami Palladino

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The letter to the Hebrews

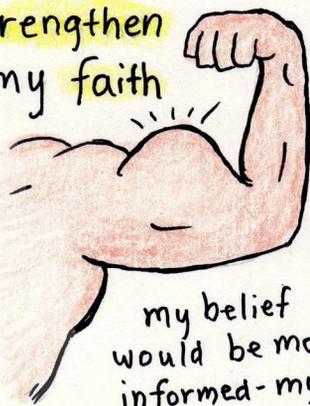
tells us:

Exactly **HOW** is Jesus' death able to bring about our salvation?



What impact would understanding this have on my life?

It would strengthen my faith



my belief would be more informed - my understanding increased.



It would give me **HOPE** and **COURAGE** so that I could endure hard times & persecution.

I would be able to better **spread the GOOD NEWS** & tell others about Jesus.

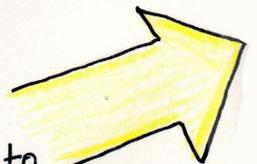


⊙⊙
Watch out for **Apostasy** (ABANDONING THE TRUTH)

It is important to have **A RIGHT Perspective of Jesus...**

God has revealed Himself to us. We don't decide for ourselves who Jesus is.

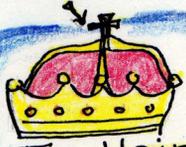
I need to constantly re-evaluate: "Who is Jesus in my life right now?"



Hebrews
1:1-14

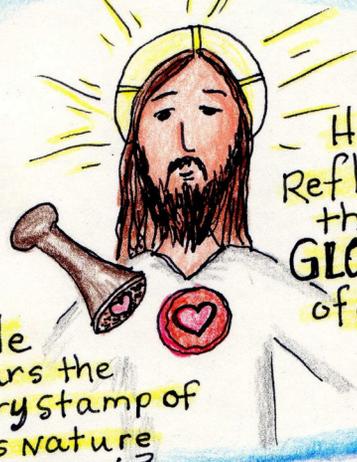
Jesus is:

 The **Word** of GOD
..in these last days he has
spoken to us by a **SON**. v.1


The Heir
of all things
v.2

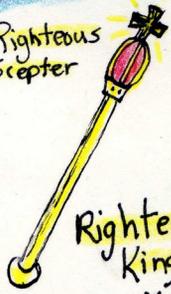

CREATOR of the
v.2 AGES


He upholds
the Universe
by his
WORD of
power
v.3

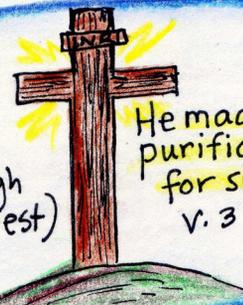

He
bears the
very stamp of
his nature
v.3

He
Reflects
the
GLORY
of GOD
v.3


He's
on the **RIGHT HAND**
of the Majesty
on HIGH
(i.e. equal to
GOD the Father)
v.3


Righteous
Scepter

Righteous
King
v.8


(High
Priest)
He made
purification
for sins.
v.3


Superior
to the
ANGELS
v.4

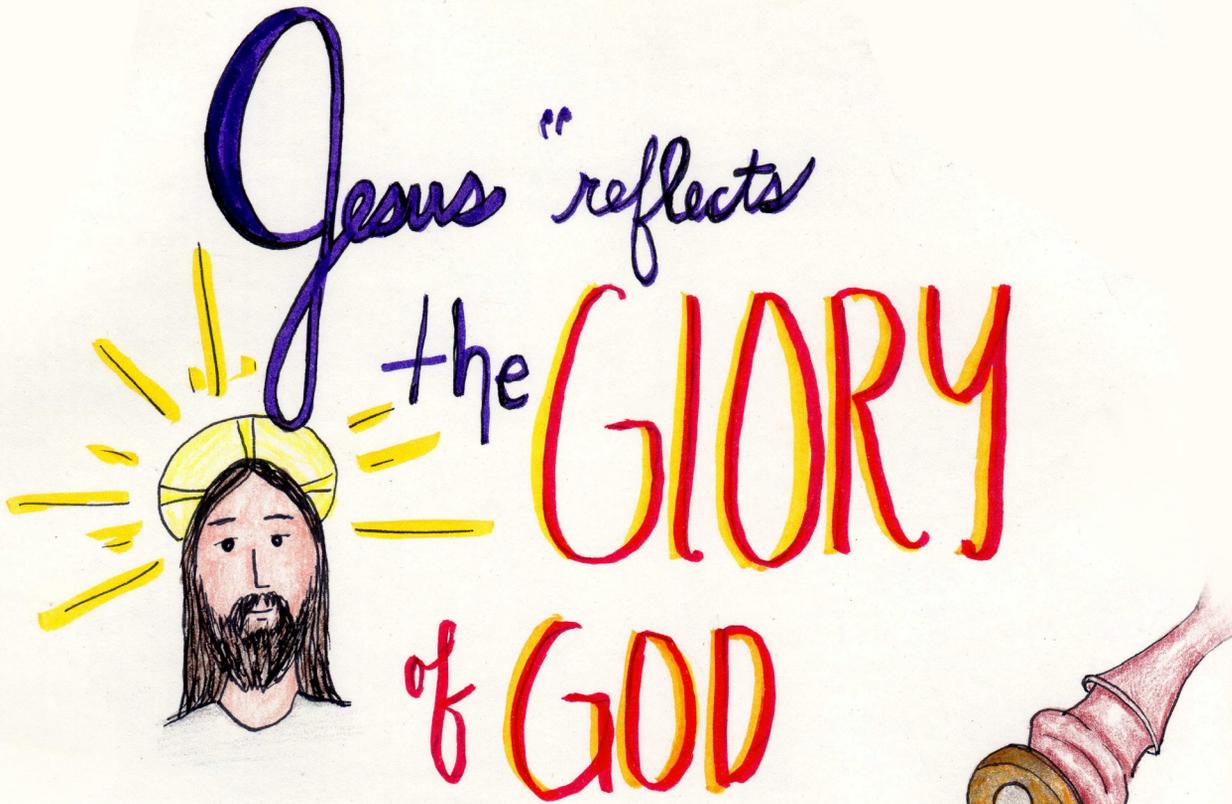
ETERNAL
"Your throne...
is for ever
and ever."
v.8


Anointed
v.9
(messiah)


the
first-born
v.6

Hebrews 1:3a

Jesus^{''} reflects
the **GLORY**
of **GOD**



and bears
the Very Stamp
of his Nature,

Upholding the **UNIVERSE**
by his **WORD of**
POWER^{''}

CCC #65:

"Christ, the Son of God made man, is the Father's one, perfect, and unsurpassable WORD. In him he has said everything, there will be no other word than this one.

"In giving us his SON, his ONLY WORD (for he possesses no other), he spoke everything to us at once in one SOLE WORD - and he has no more to say... because what he spoke before to the prophets in parts, he has now spoken all at once by giving us the ALL WHO IS HIS SON."

(~ St. John of the Cross)

Disfigured by sin + death, man remains "in the image of God," in the image of the SON, but is deprived "of the glory of God," of his "likeness." The promise made to Abraham inaugurates the economy of salvation, at the culmination of which the Son himself will assume that "image" and restore it in the Father's "likeness" by giving it again its Glory, the Spirit who is "the giver of life."

~ CCC # 705

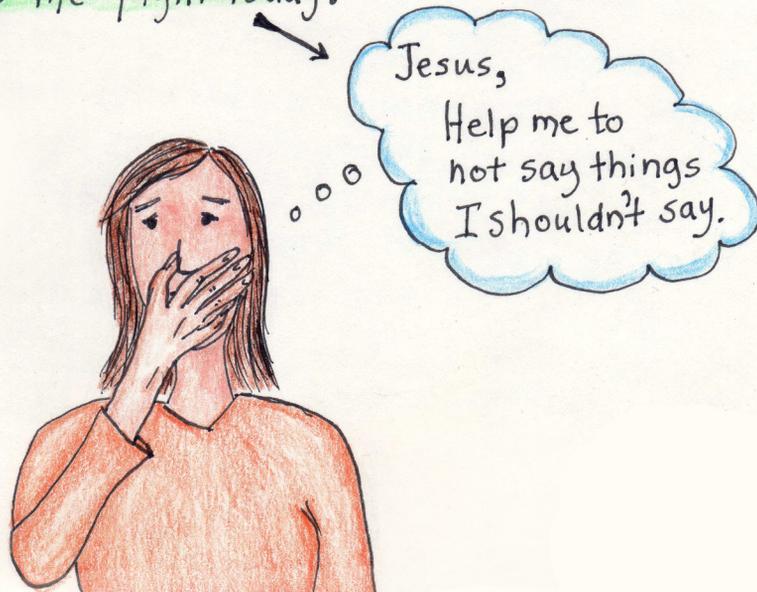
(Hebrews 2:17a)
Jesus "had to be made like his brethren in every respect."
Jesus is my brother.

↑
(EXCEPT
sin)



Because Jesus "himself has suffered & been tempted, he is able to help those who are tempted." - Hebrews 2:18

★ What temptations can Jesus help me fight today?



Hebrews 2:1-18



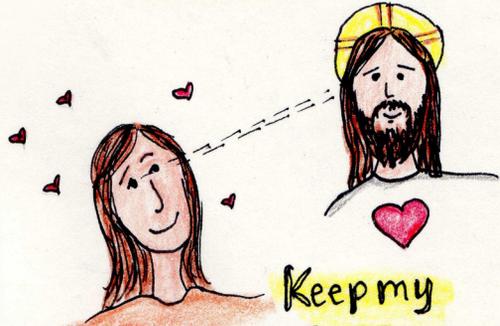
The Jews believed that angels delivered the law to Moses on Mt Sinai. (Galatians 3:19, Acts 7:38, 53)

and this message declared by angels was valid and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution. Hebrews 2:2 (a justly deserved punishment.)

How much worse would it be for me to neglect the salvation gifted me by Jesus? (Hebrews 2:3a)

- Jesus embodied the Law.
- He is the Fulfillment of the Law.
- The Message of Jesus is superior.

I need to...



"This focus on Jesus is a renunciation of self." CCC#2715

Keep my eyes fixed on Jesus (Heb. 12:2)



I can unite my suffering to Christ's. -CCC#1505

Cling to the cross

"Cling to him in prayer." CCC#2737

United with Jesus and by the power of the Holy Spirit, I can surrender my will to God. CCC 2825

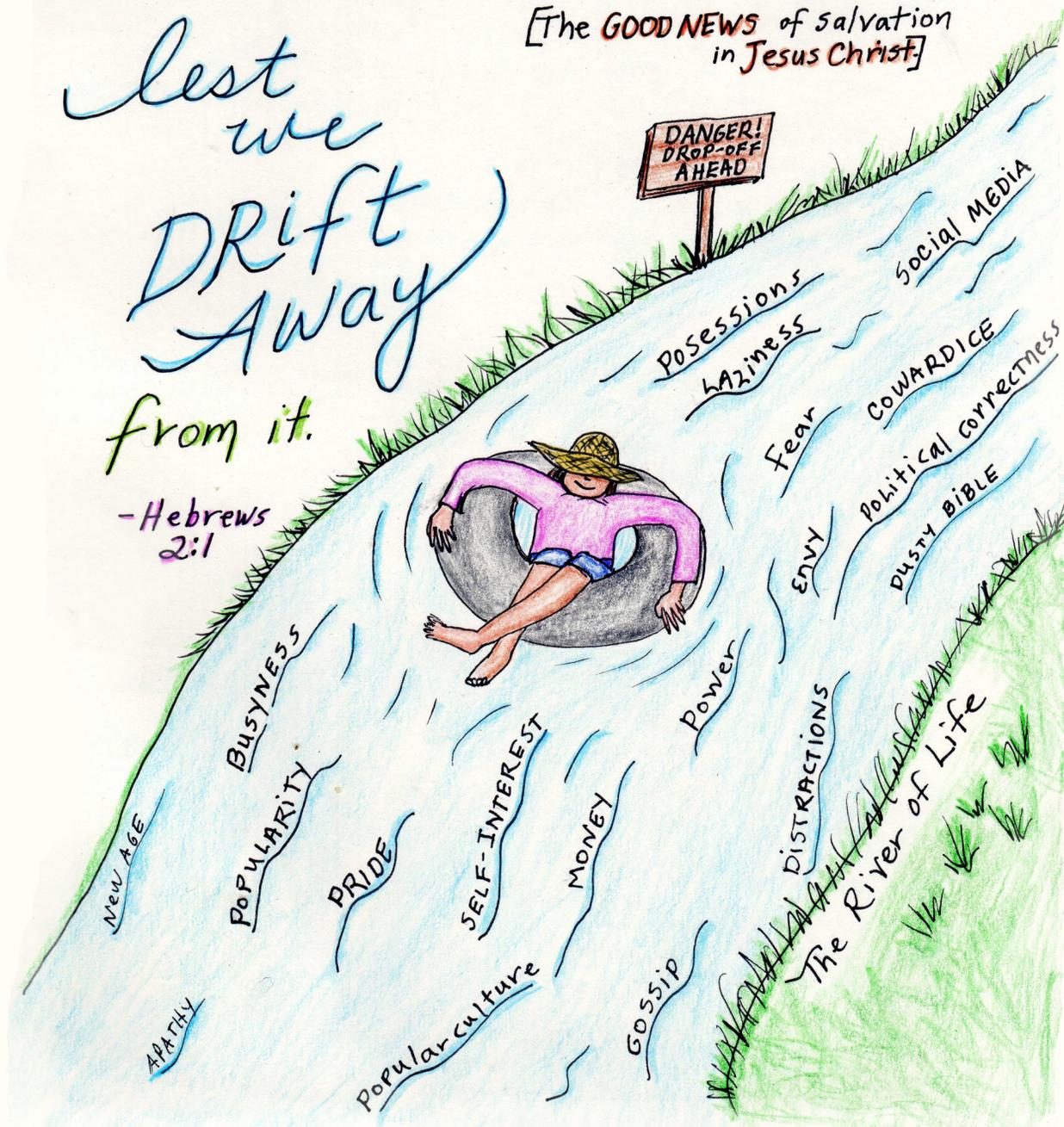
Jesus, in his humanity, was made perfect through his suffering - Hebrews 2:10

Therefore WE MUST PAY CLOSER ATTENTION

to what we have heard,
lest we
DRIFT
Away
from it.

[The **GOOD NEWS** of salvation
in **Jesus Christ**]

-Hebrews
2:1



There is only **one God**, and he is recognized as **Father** by those who, through faith in his **only Son**, are **reborn of him** by **water and the Spirit**. The **Church** is this new communion of God and men. United with the only **Son**, who has become "**the firstborn among many brethren**" she is in communion with **one** and the **same Father** in **one** and the **same Holy Spirit**.

Catechism of the
Catholic Church
2790

For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified have all one origin. That is why he is not ashamed to call them **brethren**.

-Hebrews
2:11

Also...

Don't be too busy doing the work of the Lord that you forget the Lord of the work.

TODAY

→ (Now! THIS VERY DAY)

WHEN

(Not "if" here - when)

- ♥ Expect it
- ♥ WAIT FOR it
- ♥ LOOK for it

I **HEAR** (Lord, give me ears to hear.)



GOD'S VOICE

(Wow, the GOD who created and sustains the universe wants to speak to me!)



AND NOT JUST ABOUT **BIG** things, but in lots of little ways about "little" things, too.



"DO

NOT **HARDEN** your **HEART**"



i.e. ♥ OBEY
♥ BELIEVE
♥ ACT

DON'T BE:

- STUBBORN
- RESISTANT
- DOUBTFUL
- LAZY)

How does God speak to me?

- In His WORD
- Through other people
- my conscience
- REASON
- my CIRCUMSTANCES
- A "still, small voice" (1 KINGS 19:12)



Jesus, make my heart like yours.

(Ezekiel 36:26-27)

HEBREWS 3:7-8

HEBREWS 3:1-19

Holy brethren { brothers & sisters made holy by GOD's grace at Baptism.

Who share in a heavenly call (v.1)

- A call from GOD
- A call that leads to GOD.



Jesus

- APOSTLE (SENT BY GOD)
- HIGH PRIEST (MEDIATOR BETWEEN GOD & HUMANITY OFFERS HIMSELF TO ATONE FOR OUR SIN)
- FAITHFUL SON

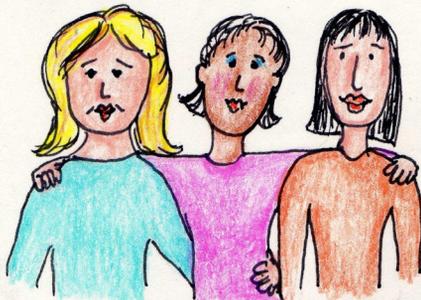
“Take care...

lest there be in... you an evil, unbelieving HEART

- PRAY, PRAY, PRAY
- MASS
- PRAISE
- READ THE BIBLE
- CONFESSION
- THANKFULNESS
- EXAMINE CONSCIENCE
- ACTS OF MERCY

Leading you to FALL AWAY from the LIVING GOD (v.12)

But **EXHORT** one ANOTHER



EVERY DAY...

that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. (v.12-13)

(v-16-12)
Just as the Israelites didn't get to enter the Promised Land— We won't go to heaven if we turn our hearts away from GOD.

But Christ was faithful over
God's house as a **SON**.

And we are his
house **If**
we **HOLD FAST**

our
confidence
and
pride in
our
HOPE.

For
We share
in Christ,
if only

we **HOLD**
our first confidence
firm to the end...

Hold
On
Pain
Ends

-Hebrews
3:6 & 14



Faith is an entirely free gift that God makes to man. We can lose this priceless gift, as St. Paul indicated to St. Timothy: "Wage the good warfare, holding faith and a good conscience. By rejecting conscience, certain persons have made shipwreck of their faith." (1 Tim. 1:18-19)

To live, grow, and persevere in the faith until the end we must nourish it with the word of God; we must beg the Lord to increase our faith; it must be "working (Mark 9:24) through charity," abounding in hope, and rooted in the faith of the Church. (Gal. 5:6, Rom 15:13, Jas 2:14-26)

- The Catechism of the Catholic Church #162



Jesus, to the Church at Ephesus:

But this I have against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first.

Remember then from what you have fallen, repent and do the works you did at first.

If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place,

unless you repent. - Revelation 2:4 & 5

For
the

WORD of GOD

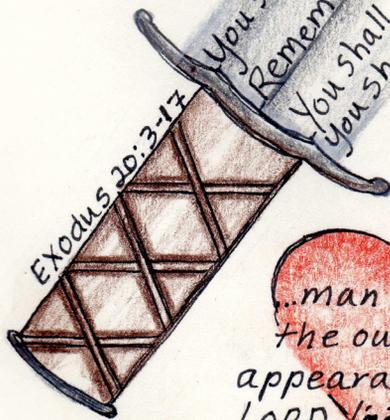
is living and active,
sharper than any
two-edged

sword,
piercing
to the
division

of
Soul and
Spirit, of
joints &
marrow,
and

discerning the
thoughts & intentions
of the heart.

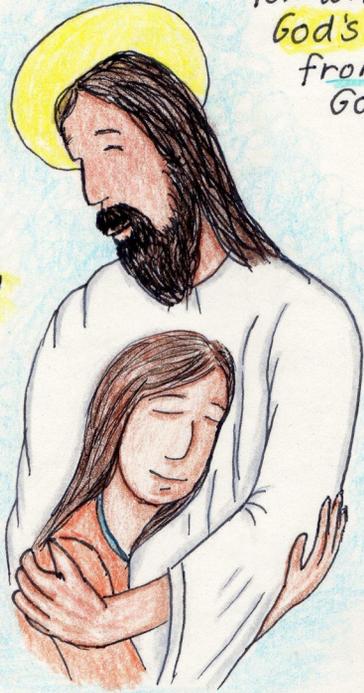
-Hebrews 4:12



...man looks on
the outward
appearance, but the
LORD looks on the heart.
-1 Samuel 16:7b

Hebrews 4:1-16

For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not speak of another day. So then, there remains a **sabbath rest** for the people of God; for whoever enters **God's rest** also ceases from his labors as God did from his. - Heb 4:8-10

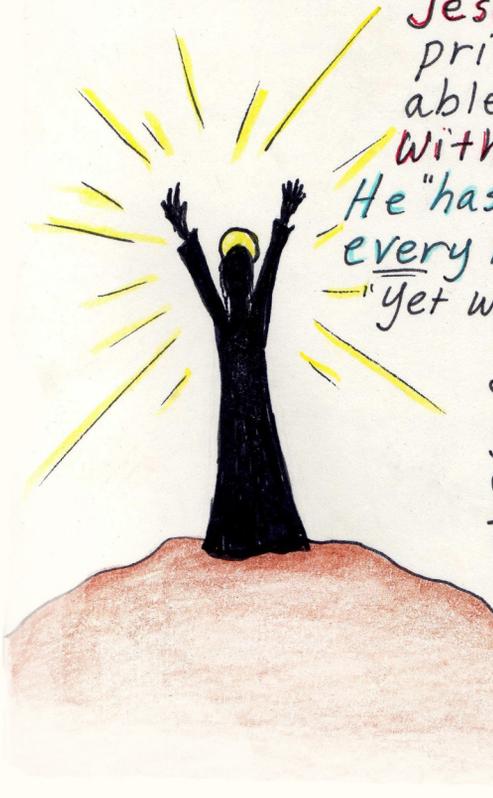


Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. - Matthew 11:28

The promise of **rest** is for **today** and for **eternity**.

- **Have faith**
- **Believe**
- **Strive to obey**
- **Be pure of heart** knowing that **nothing is hidden from God.**

Jesus is our high priest who is able to **sympathize with our weaknesses** - He "has been tempted" in **every respect** as we are "yet without sinning." - Heb 4:15



Jesus never gave up, never gave in (like I do). He experienced **temptations fully** and was **victorious**.

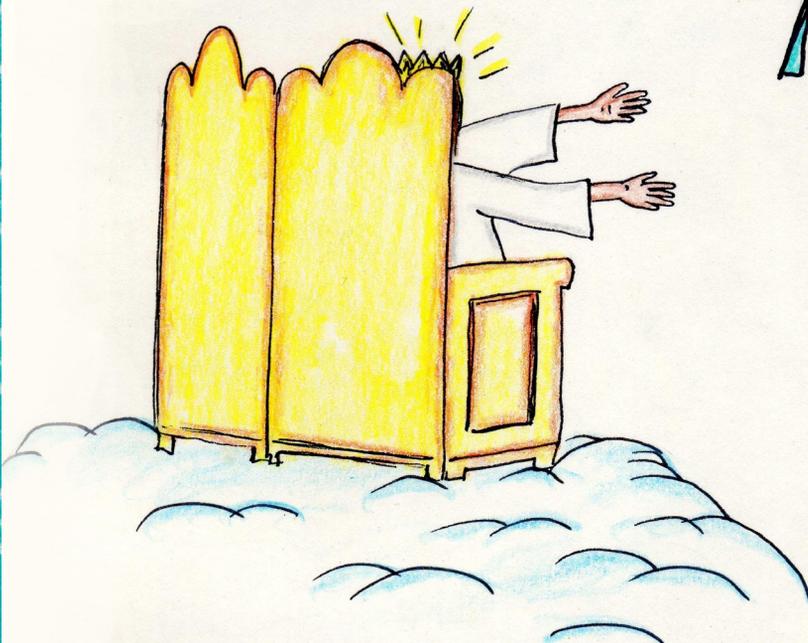
In Jesus I can also be **victorious**.

Let us then

with **CONFIDENCE**

draw near
to the

**Throne of
GRACE,**



that we may receive

MERCY

and find

GRACE to help in

time of need.

-Hebrews 4:16

Let us therefore **STRIVE** to enter that rest, that no one fall by... disobedience.
- Hebrews 4:11

Therefore, while the promise of entering his rest remains, let us fear lest any of you be judged to have failed to reach it. - Hebrews 4:1

DEATH ↔ The end of our "earthly pilgrimage"



Every action of yours

EVERY Thought,

should be those

of

ONE WHO EXPECTS to DIE

BEFORE the DAY

is OUT.

Death would have no great terrors for you if you had a quiet conscience.

Then why not keep clear of sin instead of running away from death?

If you aren't fit

to face death **today** — it's unlikely you will be tomorrow.

-The Imitation of Christ (ccc 1014)

↓
The time of **GRACE & MERCY** which God offers us so as to work out our earthly life in keeping with the **DIVINE PLAN**

↓
and to decide our ultimate destiny.

-ccc 1013

Hebrews 5:11-14

Spiritual Maturity:

Spiritual Immaturity:

(Heb 5:12) Needs to be taught the first principles of God's Word.

(Heb 5:13) unskilled in the word of righteousness.

(Heb 5:11) Dull of hearing (disobedient)



Unable to distinguish good from evil. (Heb 5:14)

Teaches by her quiet example

My mother and my brethren are those who hear the word of GOD and do it. - Luke 8:21

Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the LORD. - Luke 1:45

Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word. - Luke 1:38



... and his mother kept all these things in her heart. - Luke 2:51

... and a sword will pierce through your own soul also. - Luke 2:35

The obedience of Faith (ccc 144)

To obey (from the Latin ob-audire, to "hear or listen to") in faith is to submit freely to the word that has been heard, because its truth is guaranteed in God who is truth itself.

... the **Virgin Mary** is its most perfect embodiment,

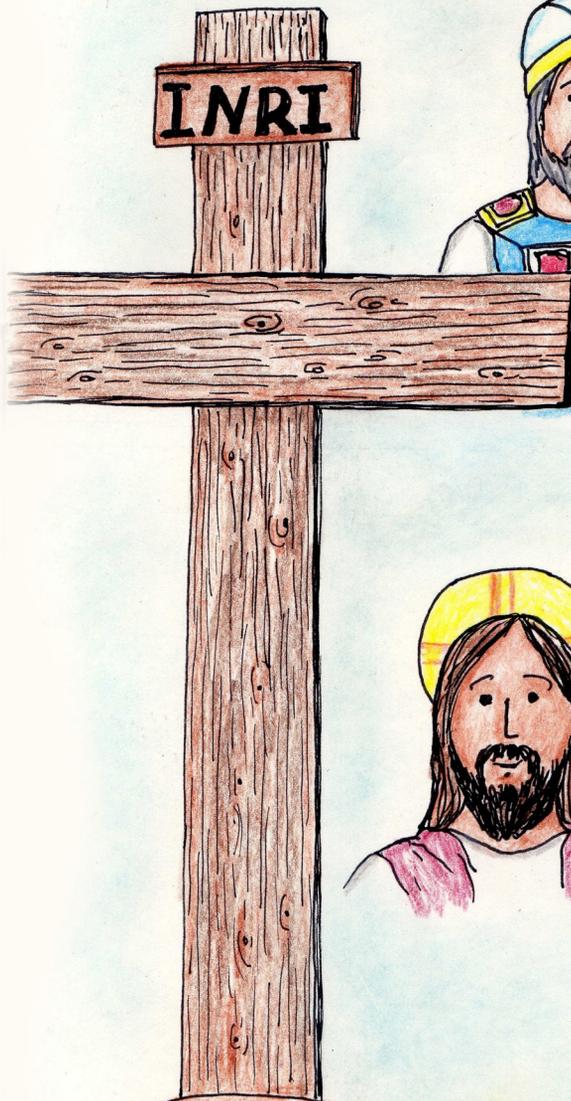


In the difficult times I pray more and listen more for God's guidance. In the good times I often forget to pray and thank God - I become more self-reliant.

... We rejoice in our **Sufferings**, knowing that suffering produces **ENDURANCE** and endurance produces **CHARACTER** and character produces **HOPE**... - Romans 5:3-4

Hebrews 5:1-10

High Priest



- Chosen by GOD
- Appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to GOD. (mediator)
- offers sacrifice for sins (for the people & for himself)
- Does not take the honor of high priest upon himself but is called by GOD (like Aaron).

+ **Jesus** also was appointed, called by God the Father.

+ He offers sacrifice like Aaron and the Levitical priests

+ His priesthood is eternal like the order of Melchizedek.

Although he was a Son, he learned **OBEDIENCE** through what he suffered.
- Hebrews 5:8

↓
"How much more reason have we sinful creatures to learn **OBEDIENCE** — we who have become children of adoption. in him (- CCC 2825)

...united with Jesus and with the power of his Holy Spirit, we can surrender our will to him and decide to choose what his Son has always chosen: to do what is pleasing to the Father. (John 8:29)

In the days of
his flesh,
Jesus offered up



prayers and supplications
with loud cries and tears,
to him who was able to save
him from death
and he was heard
for his godly fear.
-Hebrews 5:7

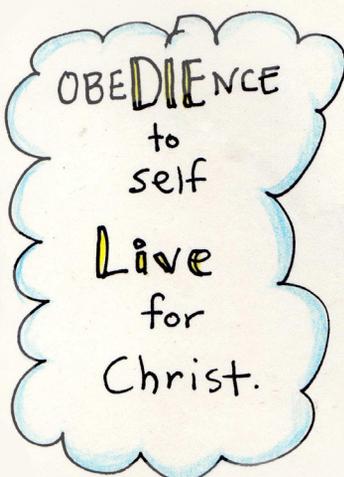


As St. Irenaeus says,
"Being **OBEDIENT** she
became the cause of
salvation for herself
and for the
whole human race."
Hence not a few of the
early fathers gladly assent...

The **KNOT** of Eve's **DISOBEDIENCE**
was **UNTIED**
by **Mary's**
OBEDIENCE:

What the Virgin **EVE**
bound through her
disbelief, Mary
loosened by her
FAITH.

- The Catechism of
the Catholic Church
#494

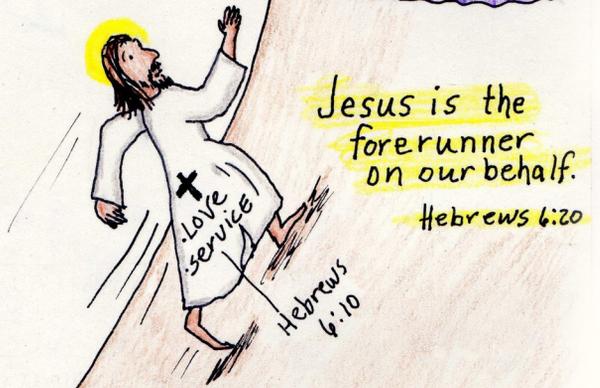
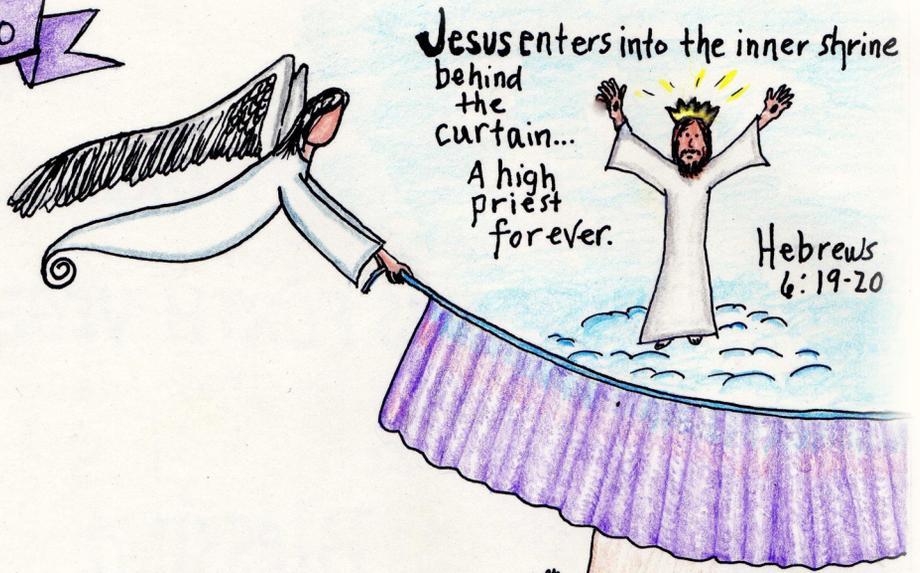


Whenever I find myself
drifting along in my faith life
I need to remember to seize the
HOPE of Christ and drop ANCHOR.

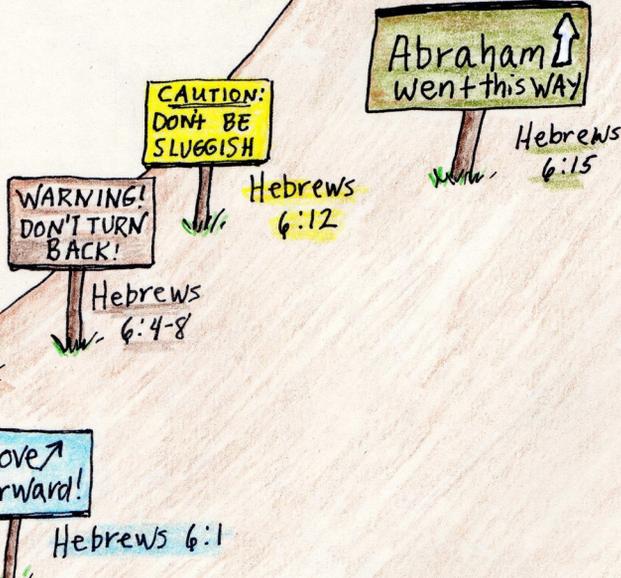
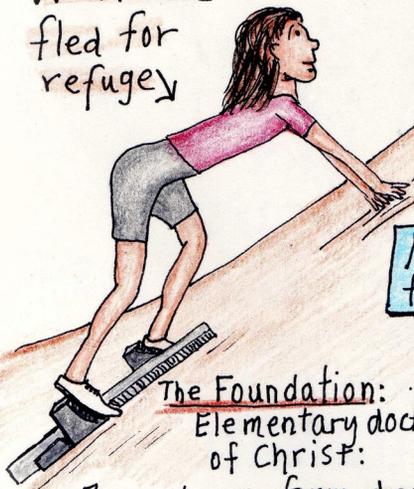
DANGER!
DROP-OFF
AHEAD!

"Seize the
HOPE set
before us... this
sure and
steadfast
anchor of
the soul."
- Hebrews 6:18-19

Hebrews 6:1-20



Hebrews 6:18
We who have fled for refuge



The Foundation: Elementary doctrines of Christ:

- Repentance from dead works
- faith towards GOD

Hebrews 6:1-3

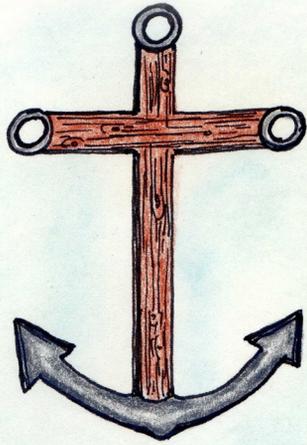
Instruction about:

- Baptisms
- The laying on of hands
- The Resurrection of the dead
- Eternal Judgment

For land which has **DRUNK** the **RAIN**
that often falls upon it,
and **BRINGS FORTH VEGETATION**
useful to those for whose sake
it is cultivated,
receives a **Blessing**
from **GOD.**

But if it bears
THORNS and **Thistles**,
it is worthless and near to
being cursed; its end is to
be **BURNED.**

-Hebrews 6:7-8



HOPE

is the theological virtue by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our

HAPPINESS, placing our **TRUST** in **CHRIST'S PROMISES** and relying **NOT** on our own strengths, but on the **HELP** of the

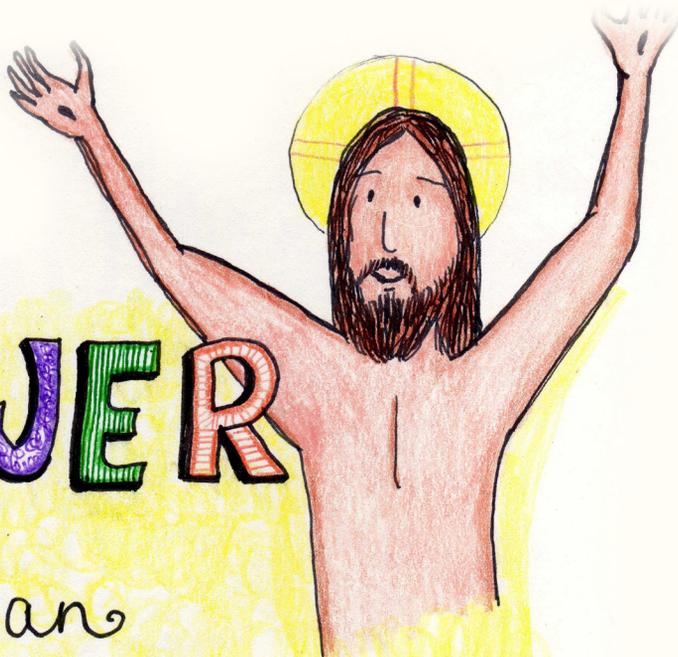
HOLY SPIRIT...

it keeps us from discouragement; it **SUSTAINS** us during times of Abandonment; it

OPENS UP our **HEARTS** in expectation of **ETERNAL BEATITUDE**.

Buoyed up by **HOPE**, we are preserved from selfishness and led to the **happiness** that flows from **charity**.

from - The Catechism of the Catholic Church #1817-1818



the **POWER**

of an

Indestructible

LIFE

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of **GOD** in **Christ Jesus Our Lord**.

- Romans 8:37-39

... what is the **IMMEASURABLE GREATNESS** of his **POWER** in us who believe...

~ Romans 1:19

Hebrews 7:1-17



Jesus

- KING of Righteousness
- KING of Peace
- Eternal Son of God
- Priest forever in the order of Melchizedek "by the power of an indestructible life."

Melchizedek

- King of righteousness
- King of Salem (peace)
- unknown genealogy
- a priest for ever
- Blessed Abraham
- Received tithes from Abraham
- Superior to Abraham

Abraham

- Apportioned a tenth part of everything to Melchizedek
- Received a blessing from Melchizedek
- Ancestor of Levi

It is beyond dispute that the inferior is blessed by the Superior.

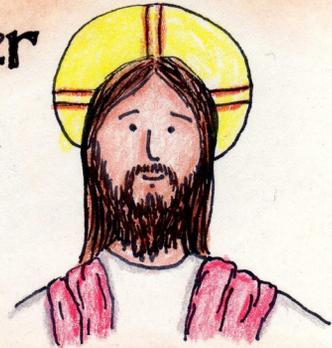
- Hebrews 7:7



Now, if perfection had been attainable through the Levitical priesthood (for under it

the people received the law), what further need would there

have been for another priest to arise according to the order of



Melchizedek, rather than one named according to the order of Aaron?

- **Hebrews 7:11**

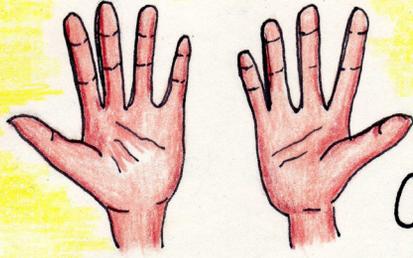
Blessing is a divine
and life-giving action, the
source of which
is the **FATHER**;

his blessing is both word & gift...

From the beginning until the end
of time the whole of God's work is
a blessing...

In the Church's liturgy the divine blessing
is fully revealed and communicated. The
Father is acknowledged & adored as the **SOURCE**
and the end of all the blessings of creation
and salvation. In his **WORD** who became
incarnate, died, and rose for us, he fills us
with his blessings. Through his **WORD**,
he pours into our hearts the **GIFT**
that contains all gifts, the
HOLY SPIRIT.

- Catechism of the Catholic Church
#1078-79 & 1082



On the one hand
a former commandment
is set aside because of
its weakness and uselessness
(for the law made nothing
perfect);

On the other hand,
a **BETTER HOPE**
is introduced,
through which
we **DRAW NEAR**
to **GOD**.

-Hebrews 7:18-19

CCC #2657:

The **HOLY SPIRIT**, who
instructs us to celebrate the liturgy
in expectation of Christ's return,
teaches us to pray in HOPE.

Conversely, the prayer of the Church
and PERSONAL PRAYER **NOURISH HOPE**
in us. **THE PSALMS** especially

with their concrete & varied language,
teach us to **FIX OUR HOPE in GOD**:

"I waited patiently for the LORD; he
inclined to me & heard my cry." (Psalm 40:2)

As St. Paul prayed, "May the **GOD of HOPE**
fill you with all joy & peace in believing
so that by the **POWER of the HOLY SPIRIT** you
may abound in **HOPE**" (Romans 15:13).

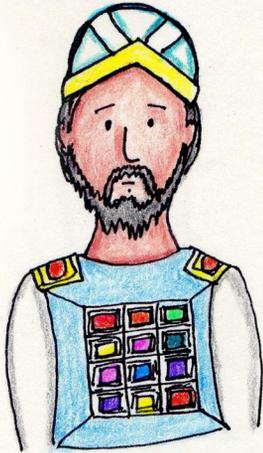
Act of Hope

O my GOD,
relying on
your **ALMIGHTY POWER**
& infinite mercy
& promises,
I HOPE

to obtain
PARDON
for my sins,
the **HELP** of
Your grace,
& **LIFE**
EVERLASTING,
through
the merits
of
Jesus Christ,
my **LORD** &
REDEEMER.
AMEN

Hebrews 7:18-28

Levitical
Priesthood



- temporary
- took office without an oath (so subject to change)
- numerous priests, prevented from continuing in office by death
- sinners just like everybody else
- had to offer daily sacrifices first for their own sins & then for those of the people
- weak
- serves under the law of the Old Covenant which was unable to perfect humanity

Jesus:
HIGH PRIEST FOREVER



- the BETTER HOPE
- the BETTER COVENANT

- Permanent
- priest by GOD's unchangeable oath
- continues as high priest for ever
- always lives to make intercession
- holy, blameless
- unstained
- separated from sinners
- exalted above the heavens
- offered himself up once for all people
- has been made perfect for ever
- able for all time to save those who draw near to GOD through him.



He is able
for all time

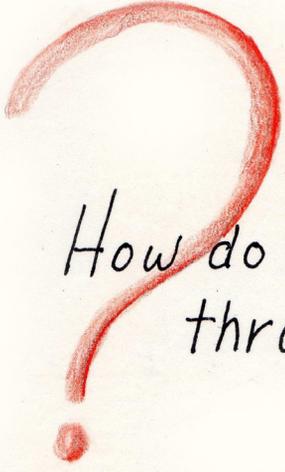
to **SAVE**

those who

DRAW NEAR to **GOD**

through him.

-Hebrews 7:25



How do I **DRAW NEAR** to **GOD**
through Jesus Christ?

Believers who respond to **GOD'S WORD** and become members of **Christ's Body**, become **intimately united** with him:
"In that body the life of Christ is communicated to those who **believe**, and who, **through the sacraments**, are **united** in a hidden and real way to **Christ** in his Passion & glorification."
This is especially true of **BAPTISM**, which unites us to Christ's death & Resurrection and the **Eucharist**, by which really sharing in the body of the **LORD**,... We are taken up into communion with him and with one another.

- Catechism of the Catholic Church # 790

honesty protection
 fulfillment eternity happiness Refuge
 Blessing power victory openness excitement
 Intimacy Praise Mercy glory Justice
 Amazement gentleness WONDER Delight
 Goodness Discovery **Light** ABUNDANCE KNOWLEDGE
 Satisfaction Renewal holiness understanding
 Truth surprises Gifts tenderness honor
 ENCOURAGEMENT Sharing uplifting Community Kindness
 Answers Wisdom PATIENCE Spirit Purity Zest
 SALVATION healing MYSTERY strength Journey
 APPRECIATION Joy Life contentment
 Rest worship family LOVE closeness
 Courage Hope clarity Adventure
 Beauty Thanksgiving PRAYER
 GROWTH HELP
 Deliverance



Faith

makes everyday life

BETTER

Now the POINT

in what we are saying is this:



We have such a

HIGH PRIEST,

• one who is seated at the

RIGHT HAND of the

MAJESTY

 in heaven,

• a **MINISTER** in the sanctuary and the

TRUE TENT...

A ministry which is much more excellent than the OLD.

As the Covenant he mediates is **BETTER** since it is enacted on

Better Promises:

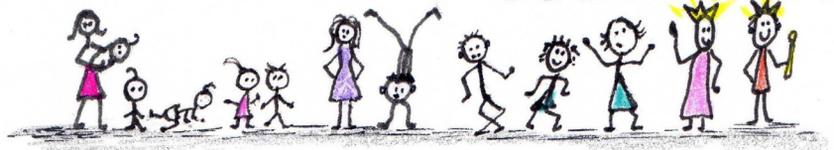
Jeremiah 31:31-34

- intimate knowledge of GOD
- Personal relationship with GOD
- Mercy / forgiveness of sins

on GOD's initiative: "I will put my laws into their minds and write them on their hearts, and I will be their GOD, and they shall be my people." Hebrews 8:10b

For **ALL** Shall **KNOW**
ME,

from the **Least** to the **GREATEST.**



For I Will be **MERCIFUL**

toward their iniquities,

and I
will

Remember their

sins

NOMORE

-Hebrews 8:11b-12

Jesus Christ,

having entered the Sanctuary of
HEAVEN

once and for all, INTERCEDES
constantly

for us
as the **MEDIATOR**

who Assures us
of the permanent
outpouring

of the
Holy Spirit.

-The Catechism of
the Catholic Church
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