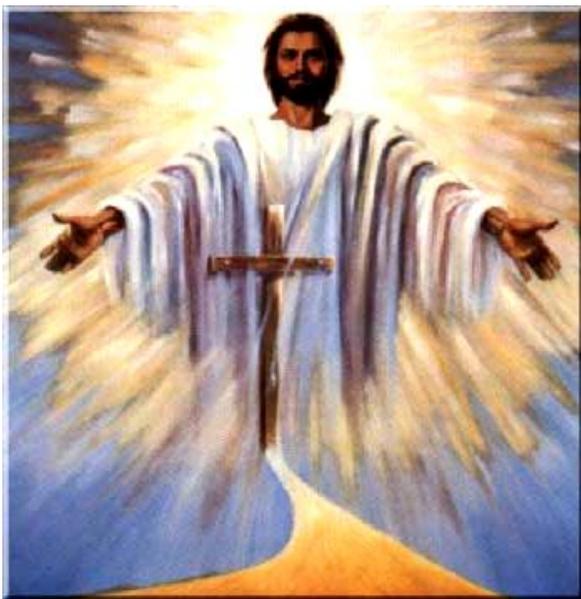


# How Do You Want to Adorn Your Heart?



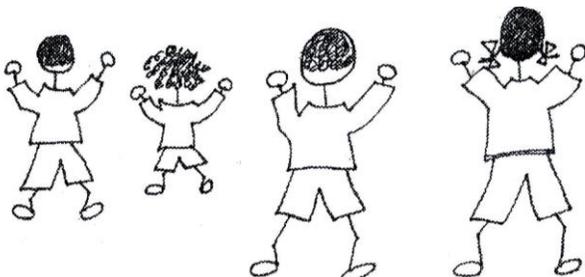
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Adorn means to beautify or decorate. There are many things people choose to beautify or decorate. Ornaments are put on Christmas trees; houses are painted; flowers and vegetables are planted in gardens; trees and grass are planted in yards; and people do whatever they can to make themselves look pretty or handsome. We can't see the part of us that is the most important to adorn or beautify - it is our heart or mind! It is the new person we are in Christ. Not all of us can afford to beautify the exterior things. However, God gives us what we need to beautify our heart!



*1 Peter 3:3-4 Your adornment must not be merely external - braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.*

*1 Samuel 16:7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."*





Share God's Word

*Colossians 3:2-5 Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, Who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory. Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry.*

Yes, we are to set our minds on things above! That means we are to think about what God tells us in the Bible. God the Holy Spirit gives us His power so we can set our minds on the things taught in the Bible and then follow God's commands. We can't learn God's word and follow His directions by ourselves on our human power. We have to be willing to use God the Holy Spirit's power; it is a partnership. When our mind is set on God, He can transform our heart! **God** can make it beautiful!

*Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*



How does God want to adorn our hearts? First, He wants us to put aside anger, wrath (which is getting REALLY angry) and malice (which is wanting suffering to come to another). He knows that we can't put them aside on our own. That is the job of God the Holy Spirit. We do have to be willing for the Holy Spirit to do it and **He will do it**. We have to fill our mind with the word of God which tells us to **FORGIVE** one another.

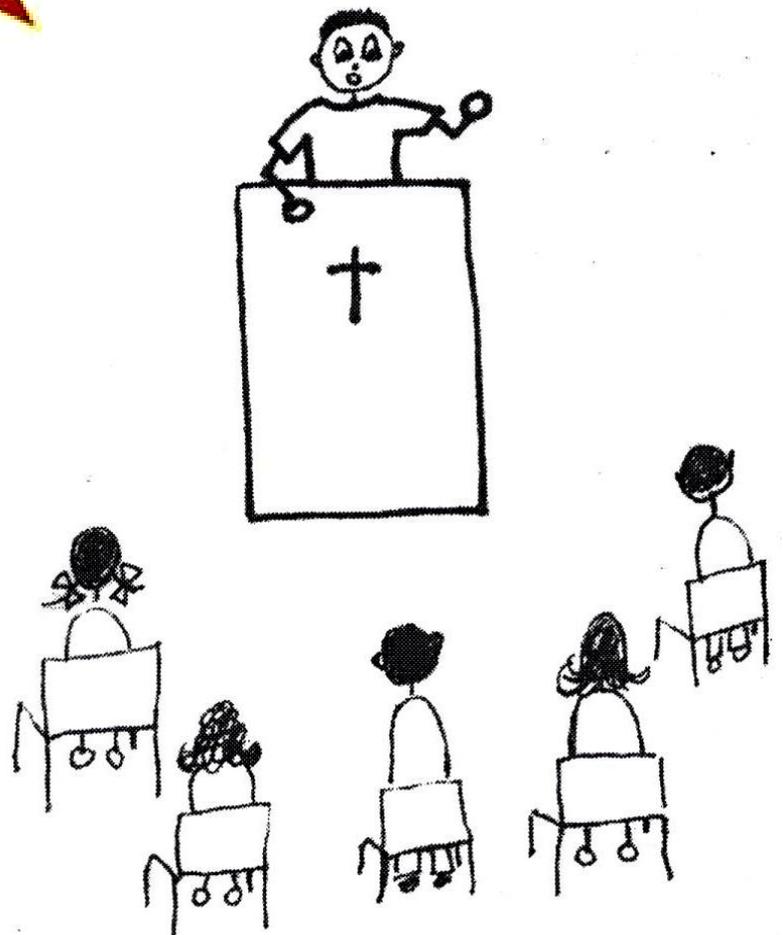


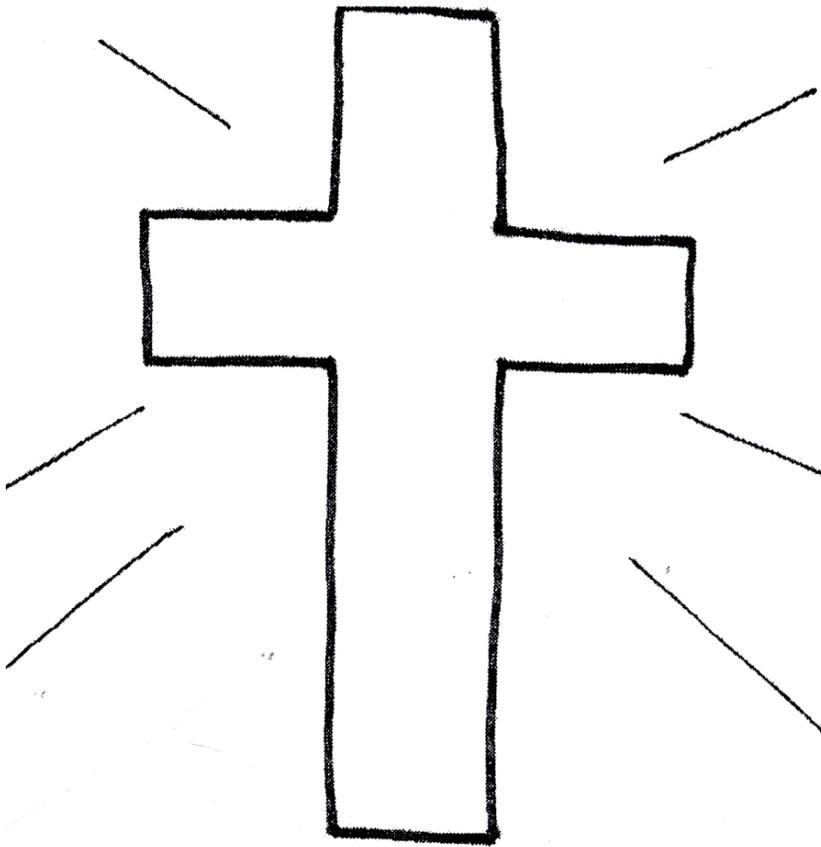
*Ephesians 4:31-32 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. (attitude: loving and forgiving just like God forgave you)*



*Colossians 3:8 But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth.*

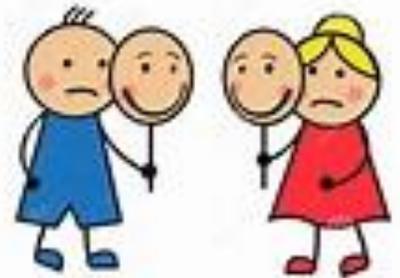
God doesn't want us to slander - tell lies - about others. He doesn't want us to be abusive - cruel and offensive in our speech! He wants us to put those aside also and put on love and kindness. Again, He knows that we can't do this on our own. This all comes from cooperating with God the Holy Spirit in teaching us God's word found in the Bible and having Him change us! He has the power!





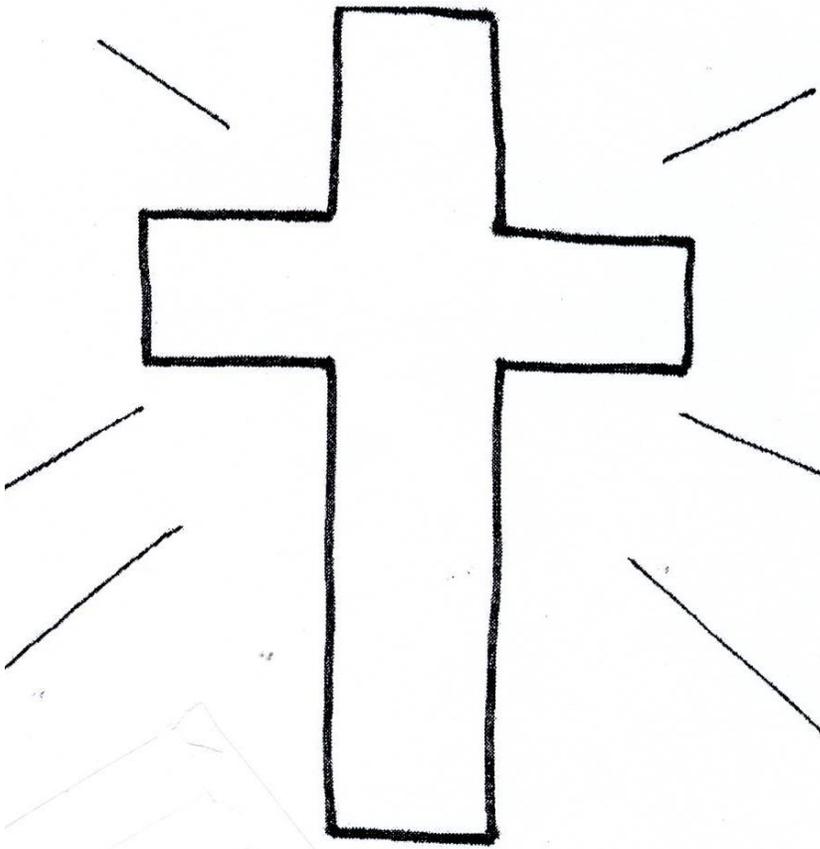
*Colossians 3:12-14 So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.*

We can't fake putting on a heart of compassion, kindness, etc. We can fool some people for a little while, but we can never fool God! He knows all of our thoughts and intentions! He knows if we are hypocrites or not. Being a hypocrite is saying one thing but being and doing the opposite. God wants us to be honest with ourselves and each other. When we are honest and humble, God the Holy Spirit will give us a heart of compassion, kindness, etc. We must cooperate with Him and use His power! He will change us from being angry, etc., to being compassionate and forgiving! That's a huge change!



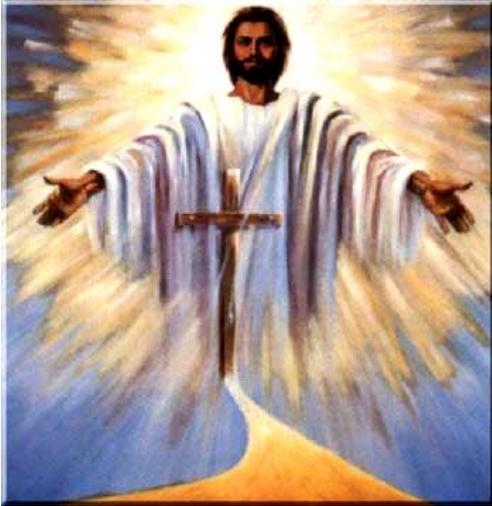
**Matthew 5:8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."**

For the pure in heart, how they live matches what they claim to believe. This means that the believer who is pure in heart has a **lifestyle** of obeying the will of God. Naturally we will sin at times, but we will turn back to God. We will remember what Jesus Christ did for us on the cross.



If we are pure in heart, when we hear the word of God, we do what it says. Remember, this is by the power of God the Holy Spirit; we will let Him adorn us with the word of God.

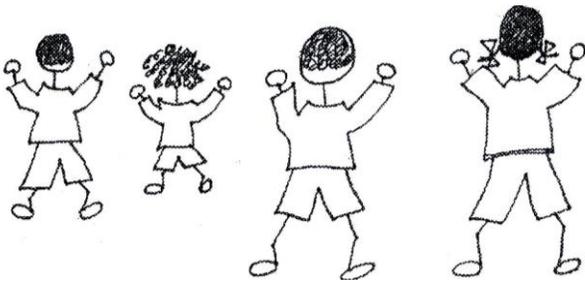




*John 14:15*

*"If you love Me, you will keep My commandments."*

*John 15:12 "This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you."*



Jesus Christ, the Son of God, loves us so much that He was willing to come to earth and die for our sins! He considered the redemption of mankind more important than staying in Heaven and not suffering! He was

sinless but He took on our sins and paid the price for them. The Father accepted His sacrifice and Jesus was raised from the dead and now is in Heaven waiting for us. He wants us to treat others as more important than ourselves. What we need to remember is that God the Father sees Christ in us and we are very important in His eyes. We are secure in His love!

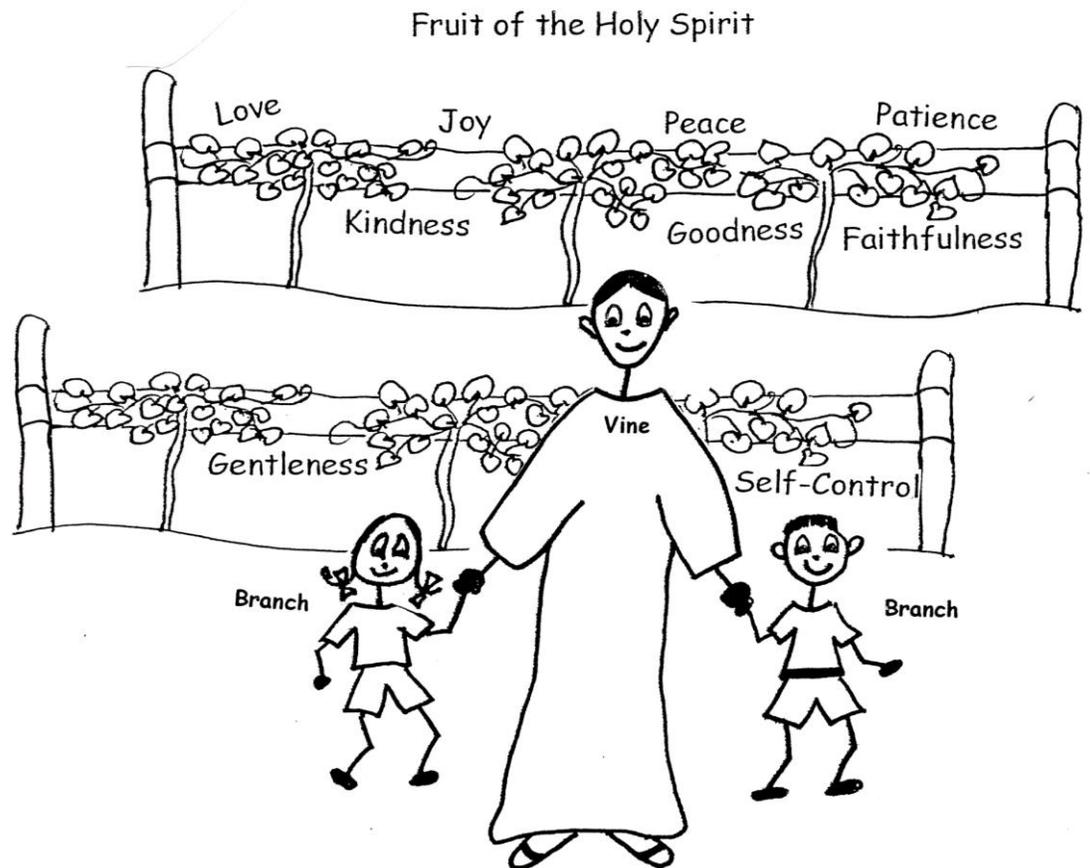
Therefore, through the power of God the Holy Spirit, we can reach out to others in love - love that Jesus has shown to us!



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*2 Corinthians 12:9 And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.*

Check your heart each day to see if you are relying on God's grace. When we rely on His grace, we know that without God we can do nothing. We know that even though we don't deserve it, **God always gives us all we need** to obey His will and commands! It is good that we have weaknesses; they show us that we need the power of God to obey His will and commands. Our weaknesses can keep us humble. They show us how God comes through for us again and again and again! We just need to rely on Him and His grace! We need to stay out of God's way and let Him adorn our hearts with the fruit of the Holy Spirit. That's a lot of adorning!



*2 Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.*

