

BIG QUESTION 13



What Do God's People Keep Believing in Him?



ANSWER:

It Is God's Sustaining Grace!

VISUAL
AID

#1

take out

Big
Question
Briefcase

of BQB

The Big Question

Hold up the Big Question sign for all the children to see, and say:

The Big Question we are investigating today is
Big Question Number 13:

Why Do God's People Keep Believing in Him?
and the Answer is:
It Is God's Sustaining Grace!

Meaning:

All people enjoy many good things and suffer many bad or sad things in this world. Enjoying good things or going through bad things make some people turn away from God. They love the good things too much or get mad at God for the bad things that happen.

But that's not what happens with God's people. They have put their trust in Jesus. They want to love God most of all, even more than the good things they enjoy. They trust God and His good plans, even as they go through bad or sad things.

What makes the difference? It's God and His sustaining grace! That is, His gifts of strength to help us keep on believing in Him and living for Him. God will always give His people what they need! He wants them to depend on Him and He loves for them to ask for His help. He will never fail them. God will help you like this, too, if you turn away from your sins and put your trust in Jesus.

Let's sing our Big Question Song:"

Big Q & A 13 Song

*DDD NIV Songs 13, track 12
(adapted version of "This Old Man")*

Why do God's people keep
believing in God?
And why do God's people
keep living for Him?
Because God sustains them,
yes, God alone,
That's why God's people keep
believing in God.

BIG QUESTION 13: Six truths about God's sustaining grace



This Unit's Bible Truths

"It Is God's Sustaining Grace" is a good beginning, but there's so more to learn. So it's time for us to dig down even deeper for more answers to our Big Question about God. We're going to be learning SIX Bible truths that all tell us more about God's sustaining grace.

Who would like to hand me the picture with our six Bible truths on it? It's in the Big Question Box/Briefcase."

Choose a child to get it and hand it to you, then hold it up and show them the pictures of the six truths they will be learning.

After everyone has had a good look say...

"Ok, we've learned three truths about how God sustains His people. They are: "God Alone Sustains His People," "God, the Father, Promises to Help His People," and, "Jesus Provides God's People with Everything They Need to Live for God." (point to pictures as you identify each Bible Truth). Now let's look at our Bible Truth Clue sign and see if we can figure out which of these six truths we will be learning about today. Who would like to get it out of the Big Question Briefcase for me?"

Choose a child to open the briefcase, take out the Bible Truth Clue sign and hand it to you.

CAN YOU GUESS BIBLE TRUTH 4:

Why Do God's People Keep
Believing in Him?
It Is God's Sustaining
Grace...

The Holy Spirit
works ???? of
God's people!"

HINT: "This word is the
opposite of "outside."
It starts with an "I" and
it rhymes with "thin slide."

ANSWER:

The Holy Spirit works INSIDE of God's people!"

VISUAL
AID
#1
take out
Big
Question
Briefcase
of BQB



Revealing the Bible Truth We Are Learning

Hold up the front side for the children to see. Cover up the answer, written along the bottom, and say:

**“Why Do God’s People Keep Believing in Him?
It Is God’s Sustaining Grace!
The Holy Spirit Works ???? of God’s People!”**

We’re missing one word. Here’s the hint to what the missing word is. It says: “This word is the opposite of “outside.” It starts with an “I” and it rhymes with “thin slide.”

Can you guess? It’s “INSIDE.”

So the Bible Truth we are learning today is:
(uncover answer from bottom of sign, show it to them and say:)

**“Why Do God’s People Keep Believing in Him?
It Is God’s Sustaining Grace!
The Holy Spirit Works INSIDE of God’s People!”**

And here is what this Bible Truth means:
(read the meaning off of the back of the sign, say:)

God created all people with a special heart, deep inside of them. It’s different from the heart in your body that pumps blood and you feel beating. This special heart is invisible, but it’s the part of you that lives forever and can know God. In the Bible, this special heart is also called our spirit.

The sad news is that the beautiful, special heart that God gave us is broken with sin. Yes, we have all chosen to turn away from God and disobey Him. We deserve His punishment, not His friendship.

But there’s good news, too! God’s Holy Spirit can work in our heart and change it. He does this when we listen to God’s Word and when we pray. He can help us see our sins, turn away from them, and trust in Jesus as our Savior. This is how we become God’s people. And when we do, He makes our heart clean and new, able to know God and want to love and serve Him.

And that’s just the beginning of what the Holy Spirit does inside us when we become God’s people. He goes on working in our hearts, making the most amazing changes. He helps us know God and want to live for Him more and more. He gives us wisdom to understand God’s Word and boldness to tell others about Him. He helps us turn away from anger, jealousy, hatred and pride and replaces them with love, peace, patience, kindness, joy, goodness and self-control in their place.

Visual
Aid

#4

Place
verse in

take out



of BQB

God's Holy Spirit

"Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come."

--2 Corinthians 1:21-22

Bible Truth 4 Bible Verse

Remove the Bible Verse Picture from the "Bible" folder and hold it up for all the children to see, then say:

2 Corinthians 1:21-22 tells us:

2 Corinthians 1:21-22

"Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come."

Learn a Little:

"God makes us stand firm in Christ. He put his Spirit in our hearts."

What does that mean?

God's people keep on believing in God because God, Himself, establishes them. That means He makes sure they keep on standing firm in their trust in Him. Jesus is the Christ. He's the special one sent by God to save sinners and make them God's people forever. It's because of Jesus that God's people stand firm in their faith. Jesus bought them with His blood. He paid for them and owns them. They will always stand firm in the faith because no one can ever take them away from Him. They will be God's dearly-loved people forever. And as His people, forgiven through Jesus, God gives them another, most wonderful gift: He puts His Holy Spirit in their hearts. The Holy Spirit reminds them that they are God's dearly loved people. He helps them remember the truths of God's Word and believe them. He helps them be strong and brave in Jesus. He reminds them that they belong to God and one day will go to live with Him forever. God's people never have to go through anything alone. God's Holy Spirit is always with them, living inside of them. And He will go on living inside them their whole lives. We can become God's people, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Why do God's people keep on believing in God and living in Him? It is because of God's grace, His sustaining grace. God gives His people everything they need to keep on believing in Him and living for Him their whole lives. One of the most amazing ways He helps them is by putting His very own Holy Spirit in their heart.

"Now it's time to do a bit more deep down investigating. Let's see what Detective Dan wants us to help him figure out. Would someone like to get it out for me?"

"We've said our Bible verse, now let's sing it!"

Now It Is God: 2 Corinthians 1:21-22

DDD NIV Songs 13, track 22

Now it is God who makes both us and you,
Stand firm in Christ,
Now it is God who makes both us and you,
Stand firm in Christ.

He anointed us, set His seal on us,
His seal of ownership,
And He put His Spirit in our heart,
As a deposit guaranteeing what's to come,
what's to come.

Now it is God who makes both us and you,
Stand firm in Christ,
Now it is God who makes both us and you,
Stand firm in Christ.
Second Corinthians One, twenty-one and two.

"Now it's time to do a bit more deep down investigating.
Let's see what Detective Dan wants us to help him figure out.
Would someone like to get it out for me?"

"The Case of the Foolish Forgetters" The Book of Galatians



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #1

Foolish means doing something without thinking it through well, and something bad happens.

1. Who was foolish? What were they doing without thinking it through well?

2. What did they forget?



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #2

2 Corinthians 1:21-22, NIV

"Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come."

1. Who did the Galatians forget to depend on to help them live for God?

2. Who did they need to have live in their hearts and help them live for God?

(more listening and discussion questions are included in the curriculum at praisefactory.org)

GOOD NEWS



1. "Good news! Come hear my good news!" Paul announced, as Silas and he travelled through the land of Galatia. They went up tall mountains and down low valleys; through thick forests and alongside winding rivers. And everywhere they went, Paul told the people the good news of salvation through faith in God's Son. Can you remember the name of God's Son? It's Jesus! Yes, everywhere Paul went, he told people how they could become God's people through Jesus.



2. Some of the people Paul talked to were Jews. They had grown up knowing about the LORD. They knew God's Word and had been taught His laws. Each week, they gathered together to praise God and learn more about Him.

God's Laws



3. The Jews tried to keep all of God's laws, but couldn't. Why? Because they had sin in their hearts, just like we do. They were law-breakers, not perfect law-keepers. Oh, how could they ever please God if they couldn't keep His laws?

Jesus Kept God's Laws Perfectly



Jesus Beat Sin & Death for God's People



4. Paul opened the Bible, God's Word, and told them how. "I've got good news for you! You can't keep God's laws perfectly, but Jesus could!" Paul said. "Jesus is God's Son, the Messiah, sent to save us from our sins, just as God promised. Jesus obeyed God's laws perfectly. He offered up His life as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of God's people when He suffered and died on the cross. On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead, proving He had really fulfilled all of God's laws and beaten sin and death for God's people," Paul told them.



5. "Turn away from trying to please God on your own. Repent of your sins and trust in Jesus as your Savior. This is how you can be God's people. Stop trying to deserve to be God's people with your own law-keeping! No one is good enough to do that," Paul urged them. Hmmmm.... This was very, VERY different from anything these Jews had heard before. Could Jesus really be the Messiah? Could He really be the one God promised to save them from their sins? Had He really fulfilled all of God's laws in their place? This was a lot to think about. Would they believe this good news Paul preached this day?



6. The Holy Spirit worked in the hearts of many Jews that day. He helped them turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. He filled their hearts with joy and gave them power to live a new life for God. How happy they were that Jesus had saved them! How much better it was to have the Holy Spirit working inside them, helping them know God and live for Him! How glad they were to be free from trying to please God just by keeping His laws and never being able to do it! Yay!



7. But Paul's good news wasn't just for the Jews in Galatia. It was for the Gentiles who lived there, too. The Gentiles didn't know God's Word or His laws. They had grown up worshipping fake gods, like Hermes and Zeus. They gave their worship gifts to these fake gods and honored them with wild, worship parties and other bad things. How far from the LORD these Gentiles were! Oh, how would they ever please Him, the one, true God, if they kept worshipping these fake gods and doing these bad things?



8. It was only through Jesus!



9. So, Paul told the good news of Jesus to all the Gentiles who would listen. “Your gods are fake gods. I’ve come to tell you about the LORD, one, true God!” Paul told them. “HE is the One who created this whole world. He created you. He’s the One who gives you food to eat and all the other things that you enjoy,” Paul explained. “And now, He’s sent His Son, Jesus, to save you from your sins and give you eternal life. Come, know the living God! Turn away from your fake gods and your sins! Put your trust in Jesus and be saved!” Paul exclaimed.



10. Hmmmm.... This was very, VERY different from anything these Gentiles had heard before. Could the LORD be the one, true God? Could Jesus really be His Son, sent to save them? Could they really be forgiven their sins and have eternal life with God? This was a lot to think about. Would they believe this good news Paul preached this day?



II. Yes, they would! The Holy Spirit worked in the hearts of many Gentiles that day. He helped them turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. He filled their hearts with joy and gave them power to live a new life for God, just He had in the Jewish believers. How happy these Gentiles were that Jesus had saved them! How much better it was to have the Holy Spirit working inside them, helping them know God and live for Him! How glad they were to be free from worshipping fake gods and trying to find happiness in their old, hopeless way of living. Yay!



12. These new believers began to gather together to hear God's Word and encourage each other in the wonderful, good news they had come to believe. Once they had been Jews and Gentiles. Now, they were believers in Jesus, brothers and sisters together in God's family. Soon there were little churches: in Lystra, Derbe, Iconium and other cities-- all over Galatia. How Paul happy was!



13. Up mountain, down valley. Through forests, along winding rivers, went Paul with Silas again. They were leaving Galatia to tell other people, in other places, the good news of Jesus. But even though Paul left the land of Galatia far behind, he never forgot the little churches of believers gathering together there. He prayed for them and longed to hear news about them. Oh, how he hoped they were doing well and growing in the Lord!



14. One day, the news Paul was waiting for came. Would it be good news or bad news? I'm sorry to say that it was **BAD** news! Things had started out well in the little churches of Galatia, but they had not stayed that way. Bad teachers had come in. "Paul has it wrong," they told the believers. "Gentiles have to trust in Jesus **AND** live by the Jews' old laws, if they are to be God's people," they taught. The believers in the little churches were so confused. Some started believing these bad teachers and began to leave Paul and the good news of Jesus behind! Oh, no!



15. Paul was worried and angry when he heard what was going on. Would everyone in Galatia forget the good news of Jesus? He wanted to protect the little churches from these bad teachers. Something must be done, and Paul wasted no time in doing it. He sat down and wrote a letter to remind them of the truths he had taught them. Paul gave the letter to a messenger, and said, "Quick, take this letter to the churches in Galatia!" Then, up mountains, down valleys. Through forests, along winding rivers, the messenger went to take Paul's letter to the Galatians.



16. The Galatian Christians gathered together to hear what Paul wrote. “You foolish Galatians! Don’t listen to those bad teachers!” Paul told them. “Don’t go back to your old way of living! It didn’t make you happy. It didn’t make you right with God, or help you live for Him. No, the fruit of your old life was unhappiness and all kinds of sin!” Paul exclaimed. “Only faith in Jesus can make you right with God. And, only the Holy Spirit living in your heart can help you know God and live for Him,” Paul reminded them.



17. "Go back to the real gospel! Keep trusting in Jesus," Paul urged the believers. "And keep in step with the Holy Spirit whom God has put in your hearts! He's the One who changes you from the inside," Paul explained. "The fruit of the Holy Spirit is so different from the fruit of your old way of living. His fruit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, and self-control. There will never be a law against the good things that the Holy Spirit gives us! He helps us to keep on living for God." Paul.



18. Would the little churches forget the gospel and fall apart, or would God sustain them? Would the Holy Spirit use Paul's words to help these believers? Paul learned the answer a few years later he travelled with Timothy and Silas back up the mountains, down the valleys, through the forests, and along the winding rivers to Galatia once more. He rejoiced to find believers gathering together still. He preached God's Word to them, and the Holy Spirit strengthened their hearts! God had been faithful to sustain His people and He always will be!

"The Case of the Foolish Forgetters" The Book of Galatians

SOLVED



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #1

Foolish means doing something without thinking it through well, and something bad happens.

1. Who was foolish? What were they doing without thinking it through well?

The new believers in the church in Galatia. They were obeying new, bad teachers who weren't teaching them the good news of Jesus.

2. What did they forget? They forgot that only by trusting in Jesus could they please God. They forgot that only by the Holy Spirit living in their hearts did they love God and live for Him.

For You and Me:

Like the people of Galatia, we need God's help if we are to live for Him. We can never do this on our own. But the good news is that we don't have to! God promises to forgive all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. He promises to give the Holy Spirit to them. He will live in their hearts and help them live for God. Ask God to help you do this! He loves to answer this prayer!



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #2

2 Corinthians 1:21-22, NIV

"Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come."

1. Who did the Galatians forget to depend on to help them live for God?

They forgot to depend on God and the good gifts of salvation and life that He gives them through Jesus.

2. Who did they need to have live in their hearts and help them live for God?

The Holy Spirit.

For You and Me:

Like the people of Galatia, we need God's help if we are to live for Him. We can never do this on our own. But the good news is that we don't have to! God promises to forgive all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. He promises to give the Holy Spirit to them. He will live in their hearts and help them live for God. Ask God to help you do this! He loves to answer this prayer!

Why Do God's People Keep Believing in Him?
It Is God's Sustaining Grace!
The Holy Spirit Works Inside of God's People!

The Gospel



No matter how hard we try, we can never love God or live for Him on our own. We all have chosen to turn away from God and live our own way instead. We deserve God's punishment, not to be His people.

But in His mercy, God sent His Son, Jesus, to be our Savior. Jesus lived a perfect life. Then, on the cross, Jesus gave it as the full payment for the sins of God's people. On Day Three, Jesus rose from the dead. He had really beaten sin and death for them.

Now, all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior can be God's people. Not only does God forgive their sins, but His Holy Spirit comes to live in their hearts. He helps them love God and live for Him more and more. We can become God's people, too. Ask God to help you! He loves to do this!



A Prayer

A Holy Spirit, we praise You for the way You can powerfully work in our hearts, changing us from the inside out.

C God, we confess that many times we are proud, jealous, envious, and hateful. We need Jesus to save us. We need Your Holy Spirit to replace with humility and love. We need a Savior!

T Thank You, Holy Spirit, for being stronger than any of our sins. Thank You for being able to work powerfully in our hearts and truly change us.

S Holy Spirit, work in our hearts, help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Fill our heart with Your good ways. Make us joyful, peaceful, kind, patience, self-controlled, joyful, loving, and good. Give us wisdom and make us bold and strong to do God's will.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

