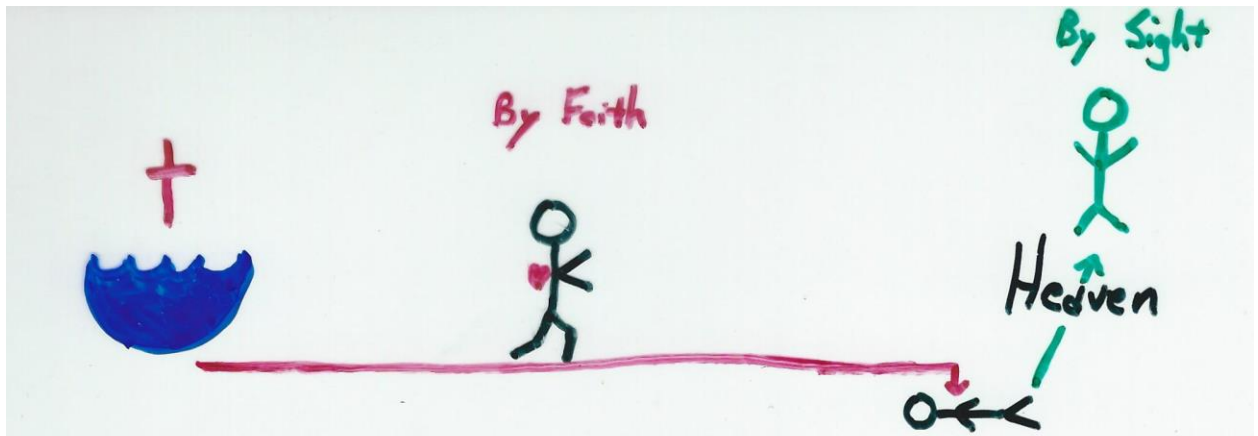


Review:



Apart from faith it can't happen

- holding to Christ
- bearing up under trouble and toil
- enduring persecution
- dying and death

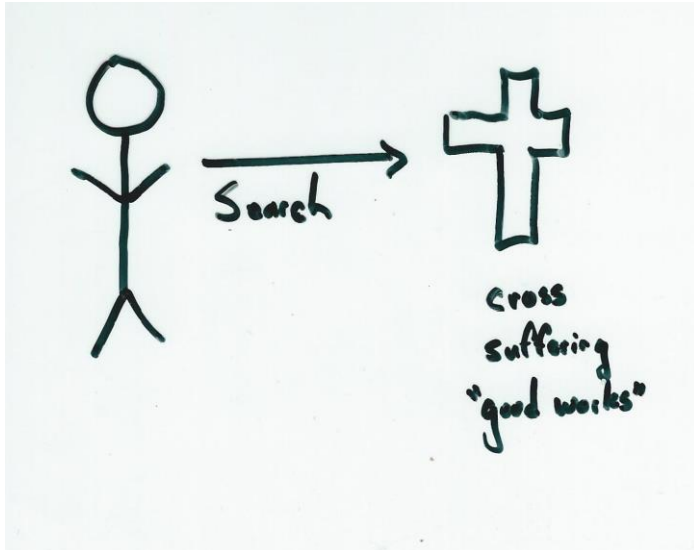
I walk as one who is already saved.

My victory is won. Heaven is assured

I am free to serve my neighbor
(in my vocation)

I am concerned for my neighbor, not my love/works

The Lesson:



Luther's Works, v.42 p.49

When God hears us in the first three petitions and hallows his name in us, he incorporates us into his kingdom and pours into us his grace, which begins to make us godly. As soon as this grace starts to do God's will, it encounters a resisting Adam. Thus St. Paul laments in Romans 7 [:19] that he does not do what he wants very much to do. One's own will, inborn from Adam, contends with all our members against the good impulses. Then the grace in our hearts cries to God for help against this Adam and says, "Thy will be done." For man finds himself heavily burdened with his own self.

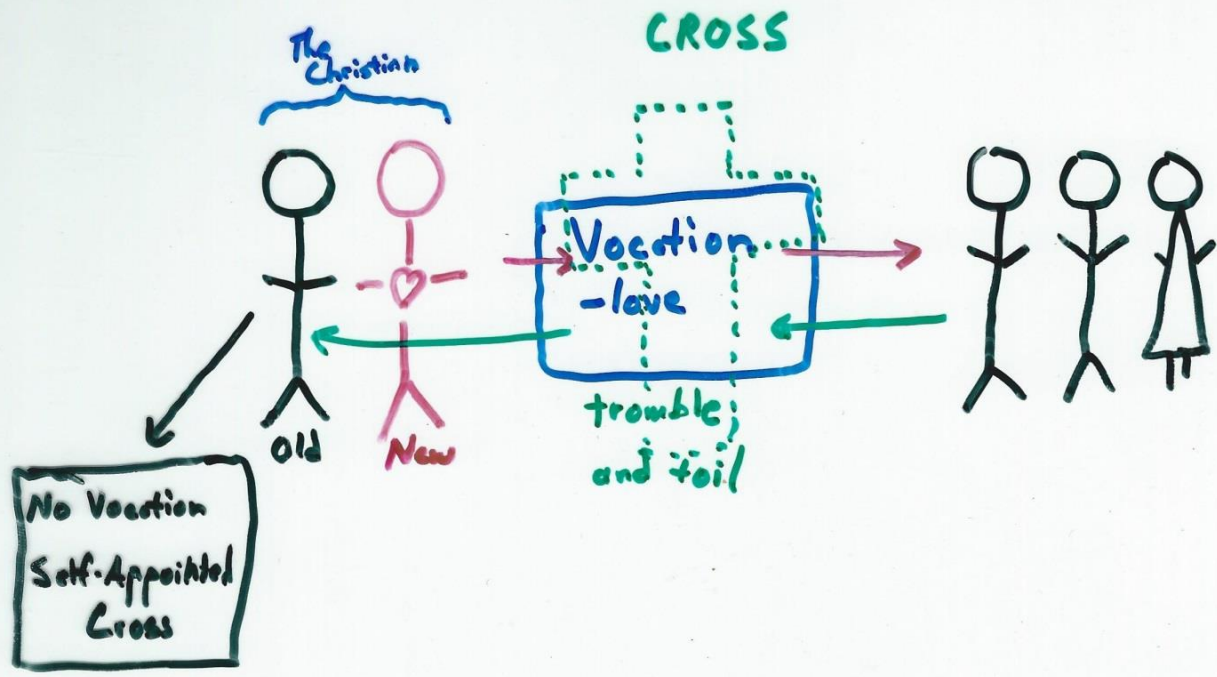
When God hears this cry, he resolves to come to the aid of his precious grace and to enlarge his newborn kingdom. He attacks the arch-knave, the old Adam, with might and main, inflicts all kinds of adversity on him, thwarts all of his plans, and blinds him and foils him on every side. This occurs when God visits all kinds of woe and grief upon us. Slandering tongues and evil, unfaithful men are the means for this. And where such men are not adequate, the devils themselves have to serve this end. All this takes place so that our will shall be throttled with all its evil inclinations and so that God's will may be done in such a way that grace may reign in the kingdom and only God's glory and honor prevail.

Luke 3:7-9, 10-14

Ephesians 4:1-24, 25-32

5:1-21, 22-33; 6:1-4, 5-9

1 Corinthians 7:17-24, 25ff



- tries to escape the death of old man
- removes need for faith.
- attempts to serve God
- attain holiness

Vocation serves neighbor
(not I, nor God)

Cross comes through vocation

On the Cross, the old man is daily crucified.

The cross of vocation leads us to trust in Jesus to pray for help

Gladness, Willing Spirit