

Supplemental images and narrative to
Is Your God Big Enough? Close Enough? You Enough?
Jesus and the Three Faces of God
by Paul Smith

CHAPTER 15
THE MOSES AND ELIJAH PHENOMENON
(pages 339-356)



Jesus said, “There are some here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God has come with power.”

(Matt. 17, Mark 8, Luke 9)

Jesus and Paul did not define the Reign of God. They only talked around it and told what appeared to be veiled sayings about it. However, one time, and only one time Jesus said some would actually see a live picture of the Reign of God. He did not point to himself, to the cross, to his teaching, but rather to a series four event pictures we call the Transfiguration.

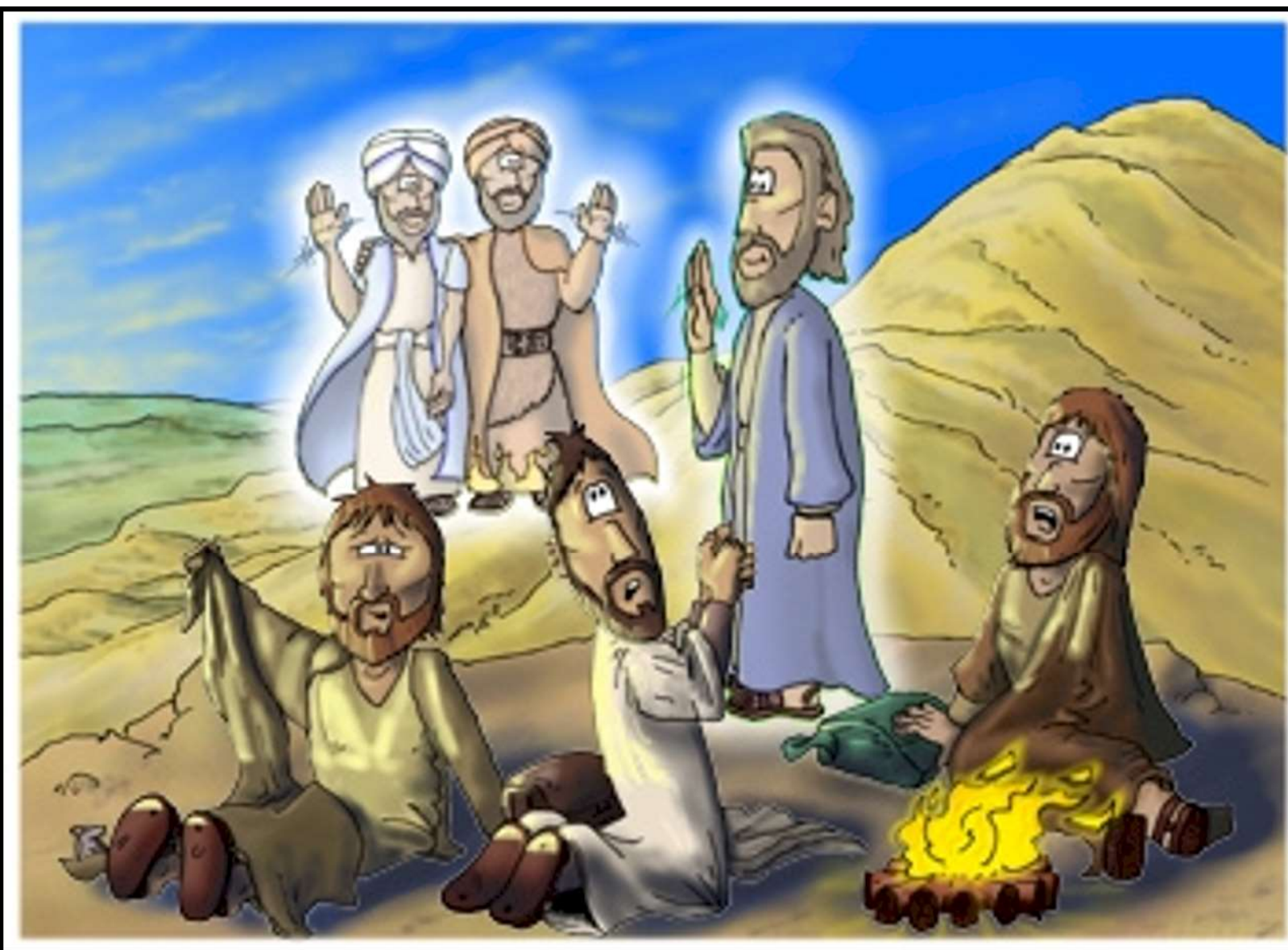


Six days later Jesus took with him Peter, James, and John up the mountain to pray.

Event picture #1. Jesus with his three close friends.

The Reign of God has to do with connections—the deeper the better.

Who are you close friends that you share your journey with like Jesus did with Peter, James, and John?



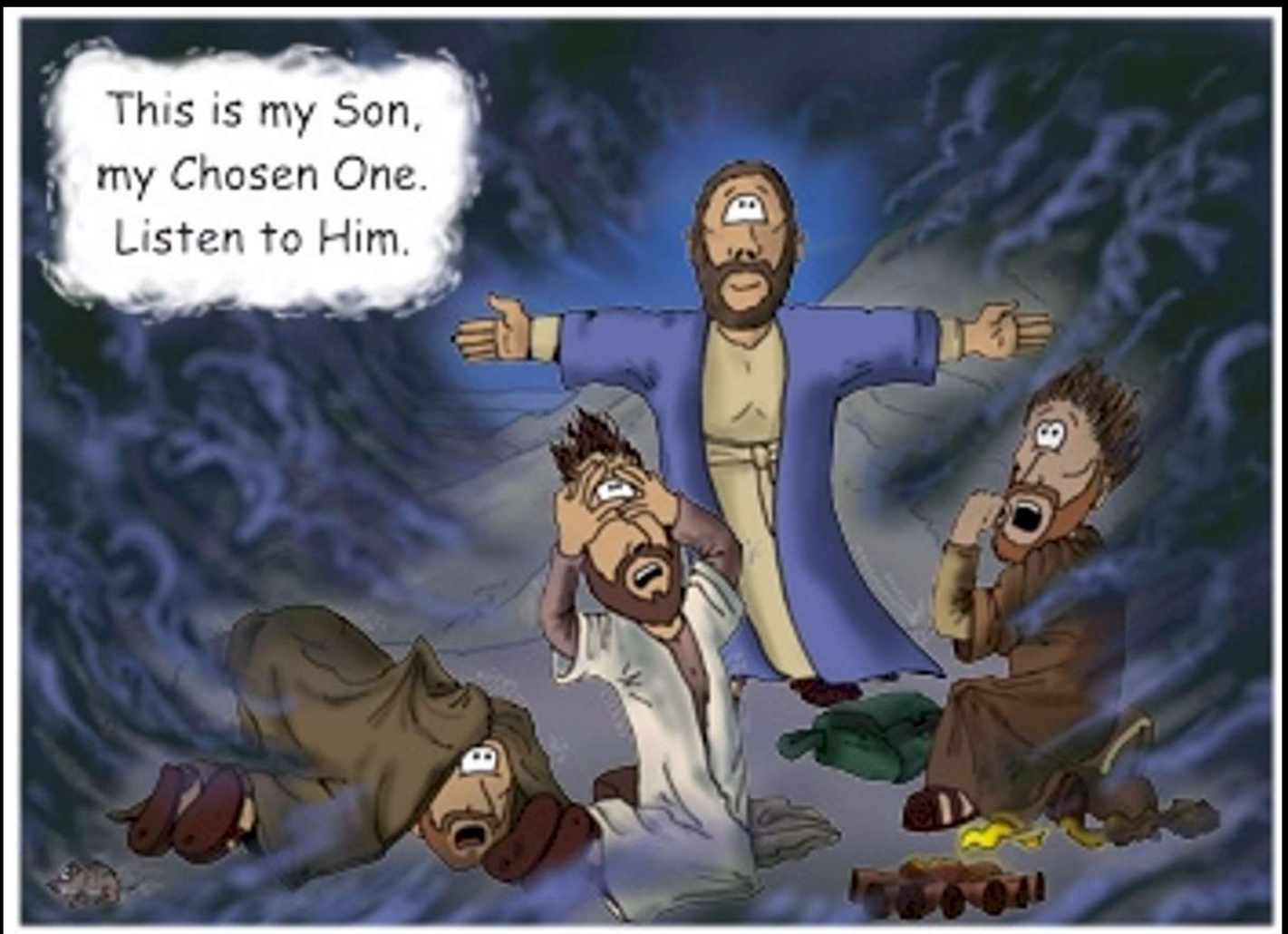
**While he was praying, suddenly
Moses and Elijah appeared . . .**

Event picture #2. Two friends from the other side.

This is connecting to the spiritual reality of other beings who are accessible for our help and guidance. For Jesus, it was his Abba Daddy and Moses and Elijah. For us it is Abba Daddy - Momma, Jesus himself, and any other guides we are drawn to.



They appeared in glory and were talking about his departure. Meanwhile his disciples grew sleepy.

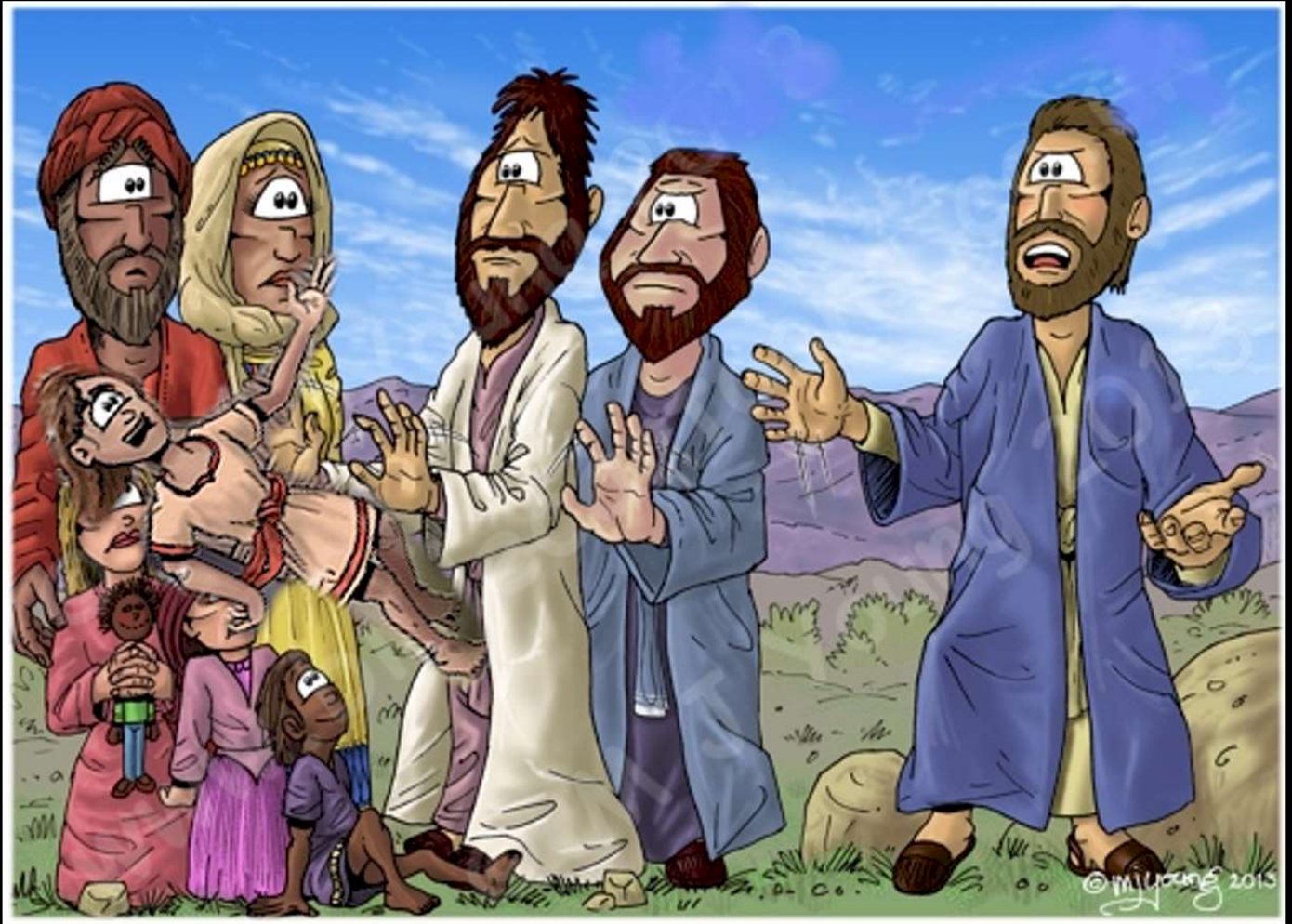


They were terrified when a voice from a cloud said, "This is my son, my Chosen One, Listen to him."

Event picture #3. The Ultimate Friend, Abba God.

Connecting personally and closely with God is transforming. Jesus needed to hear God had chosen him and his friends needed to hear that also. It was a reassuring message given at a difficult time when they were all faced with the death of Jesus himself.

You may not hear God's voice in this way, but we can all sense God's presence and inwardly listen for words, thoughts, and/or intuitions that come as God's voice to us.

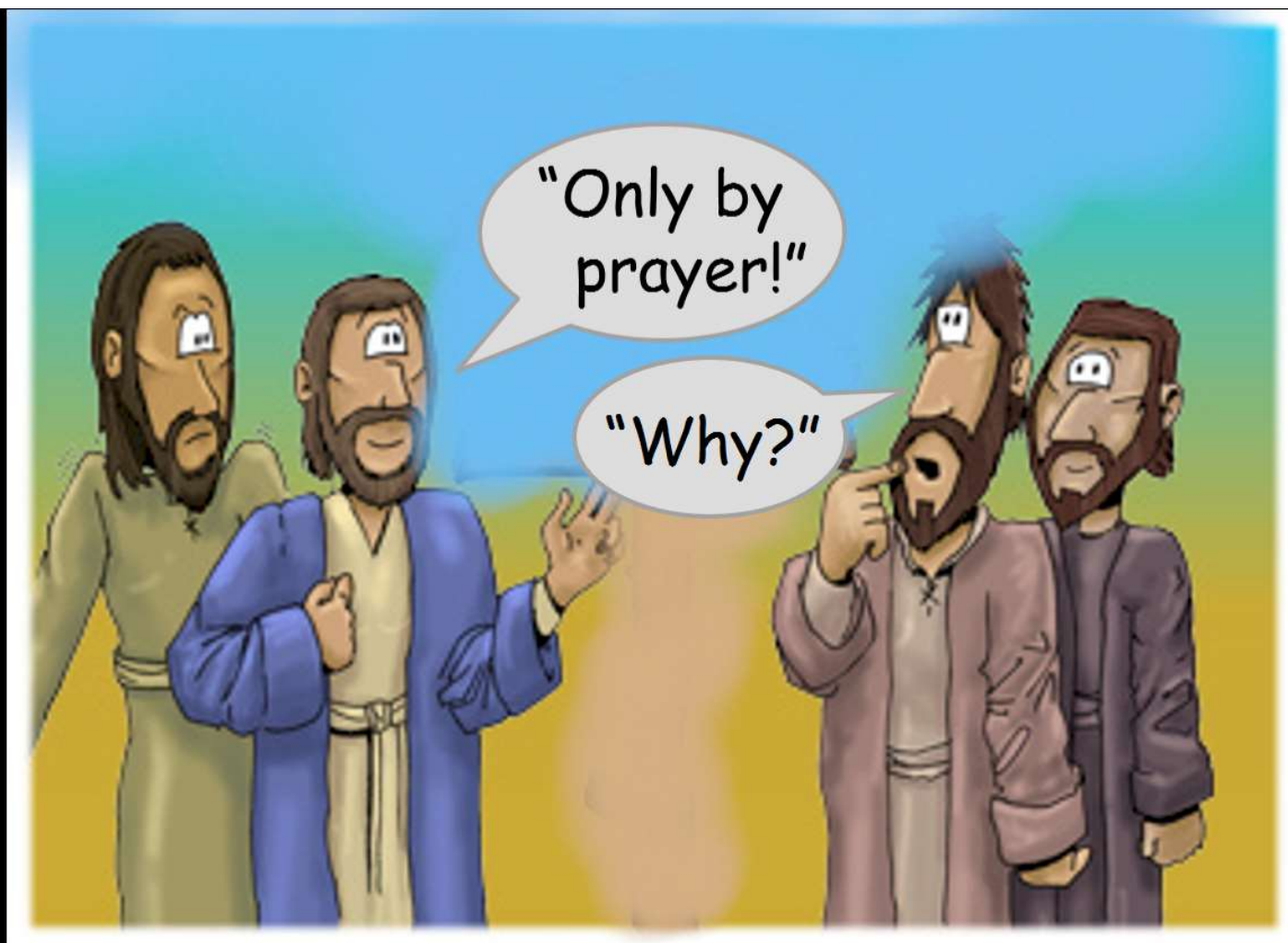


When they came down the mountain the other disciples were trying to heal a boy but could not.

Event picture # 4. A neighbor/friend in need.

Here Jesus demonstrates connecting with the fearful and oppressed of the world that we are to be with in some fashion. It is there that we use our love and spiritual gifts to release more healing into a broken world.

What situations are you the channel for God's healing with your gifts? You may not have a gift of healing, but one can use gifts of service, administration, compassion, friendship, creative arts, writing, and all other abilities in a loving way that brings healing to the world.



Then the disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" He said to them, "This kind can come out only through prayer."

Whad da ya mean
by prayer?
We've been praying
for hours!





Jesus meant this kind of praying!

Jesus meant the kind of deep, altered state, non-ordinary consciousness praying that took place on the mountain top and any other quiet place one can move into an awakened, transcendent, or Oneness state of mind and heart.

Here is Raphael's painting of the Transfiguration. He was the only Renaissance painter who got it right by including the healing scene at the bottom of the mountain. Notice that the sick boy is the only one looking up at Jesus on the mountain.

Assuming God's voice (picture #3) is somewhere in the background, reflect on all four of the pictures that this painting illustrates as the Reign of God – Oneness Consciousness.





My transfiguring experience in prayer



Explanation of previous picture

In my regular times of sitting with Jesus, I have something of a powered down experience that Peter, James, and John had with Jesus, Moses, and Elijah.

It is not a visual experience as was theirs, but a strong sense of presence and the felt sense of being physically touched.

I don't glow, but I have been known to fall asleep as a good disciple does upon occasion in the Gospels when something good is going on. I experience five different healing presences in my sacred circle. Here is a brief history of their evolution.

1. Fifteen years ago I asked John the beloved disciple, as recounted in my book, if he would be a spiritual guide for me. I sensed he said yes and felt him behind me placing his hand on my right shoulder.
2. Some time later I realized a presence that I had felt, sometimes seen in visions, and conversed with was also there, standing off in the distance on my right side. This turned out to be the leader of a third century monastery named Michael.
3. One day as I was "sitting with Jesus" and sensed Jesus in front of me, I asked him to come closer. He zoomed up to within an inch of my face. I said, "That's too close!" I then sensed he moved to my right side and I felt him place his hand on my arm. He asked, "Is this okay?" I said, "Oh, yes!"
4. Several years ago I began calling God "Daddy." Whenever I do that I am immediately surrounded and engulfed with Abba father-love. It is tremendously powerful and healing. My own father was emotionally and physically abusive and seldom nurturing. Now God was filling this void in my life. In my sacred circle I sense this Daddy-Abba-father-love radiating from a place in front of me to my left.
5. Most recently I began to feel a need for a distinctly feminine presence in my sacred circle. I admired Jesus' mother Mary and her increasing presence in visionary experiences around the world. I also admired Mary Magdalene as a close friend of Jesus and very likely a leader in the early church. Both the feminine presences seemed to blend together into one "Mary" and stood immediately to my right and I could feel her holding my right hand.

Here is the image again, this time with labels.

My sacred circle of Transforming Presence

I do not see these spiritual beings when praying but rather sense and physically feel their presence. This is a picture of what I imagine they might look like if I could see this circle in a vision.



It is difficult to put into words how life-changing this circle is in my life and regular prayer times. I usually just absorb the healing energy and love, sometimes conversing, often with Jesus, sometimes with the others. I tune in inwardly to the different kinds of energy and presence coming from each of these divine beings and guides.