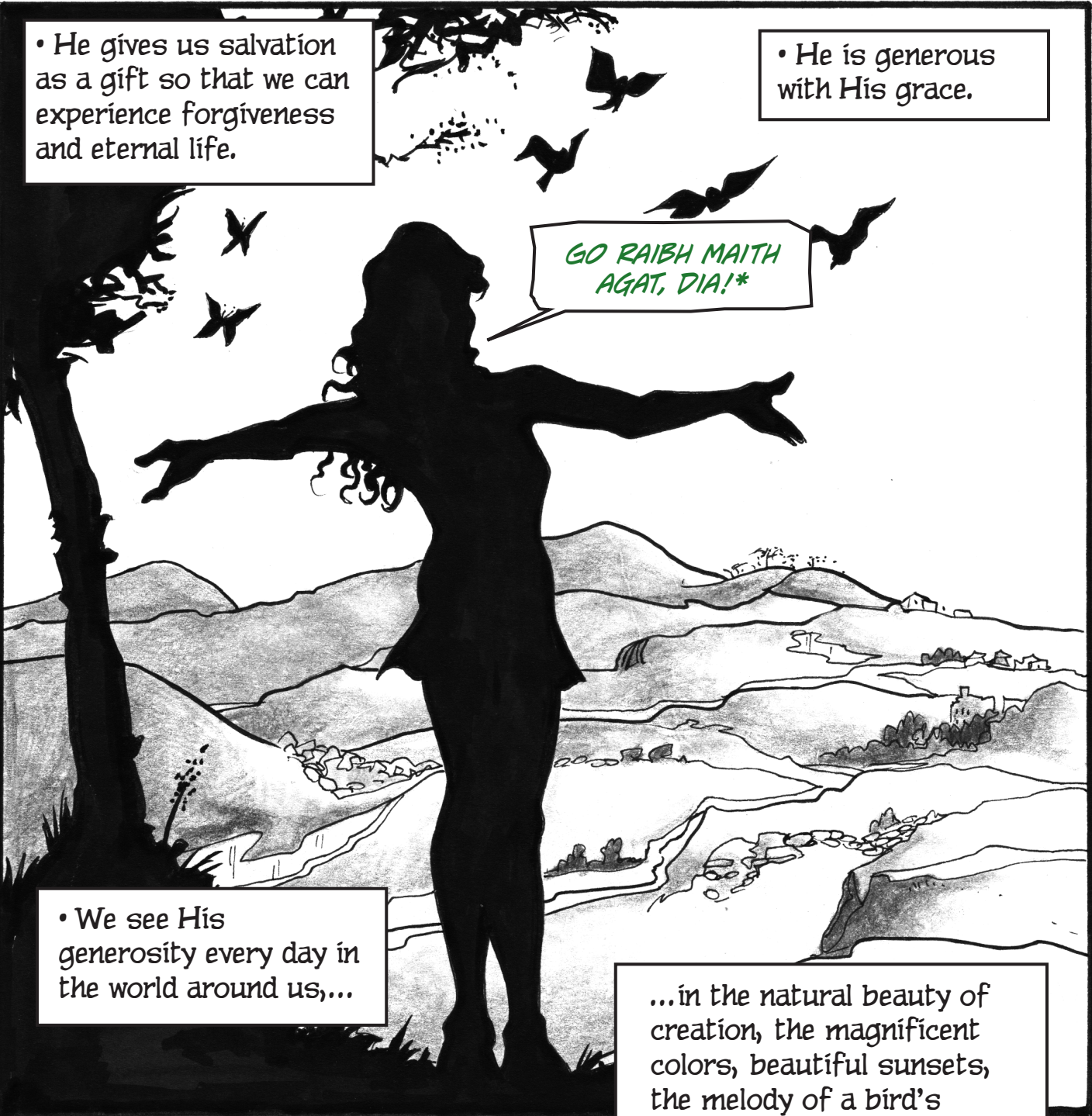


THE GRATITUDE-GENEROSITY CONNECTION

Gratitude is a mindset that enables us to see our circumstances through the lens of our thankfulness to God and to act in a manner that reflects our gratitude. When we think of God in the context of generosity, we realize just how extravagant His giving is.



• He gives us salvation as a gift so that we can experience forgiveness and eternal life.

• He is generous with His grace.

GO RAIBH MAITH AGAT, DIA!*

• We see His generosity every day in the world around us,...

...in the natural beauty of creation, the magnificent colors, beautiful sunsets, the melody of a bird's chirping, and so much more.

* Irish for "Thank You, God."

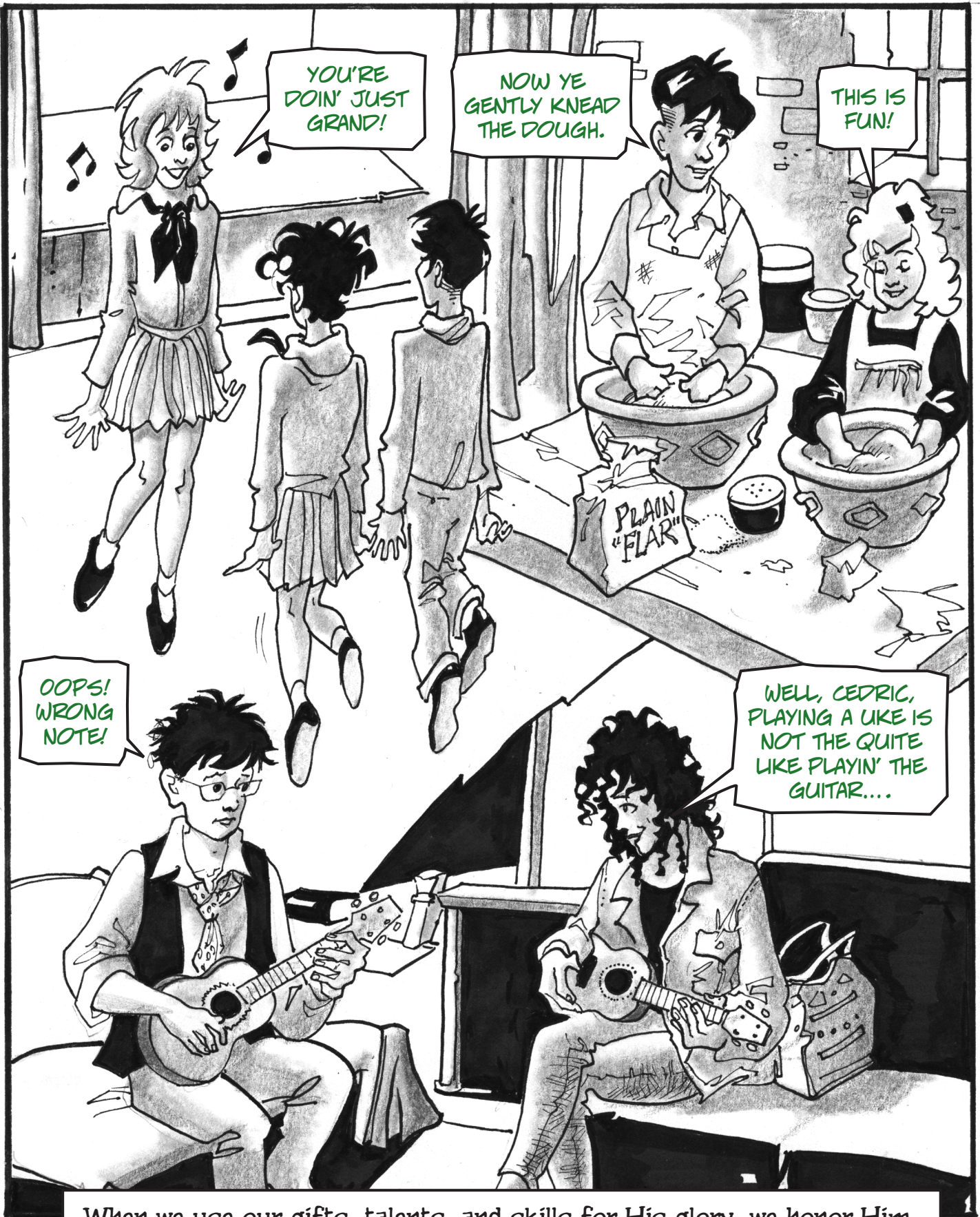
GENEROSITY IS IN PART AN OUTGROWTH OF CONTENTMENT.

When we understand that God is generous by nature, that all He has given us is both valuable and undeserved, then in our desire to be like Him, we too should be generous with others.



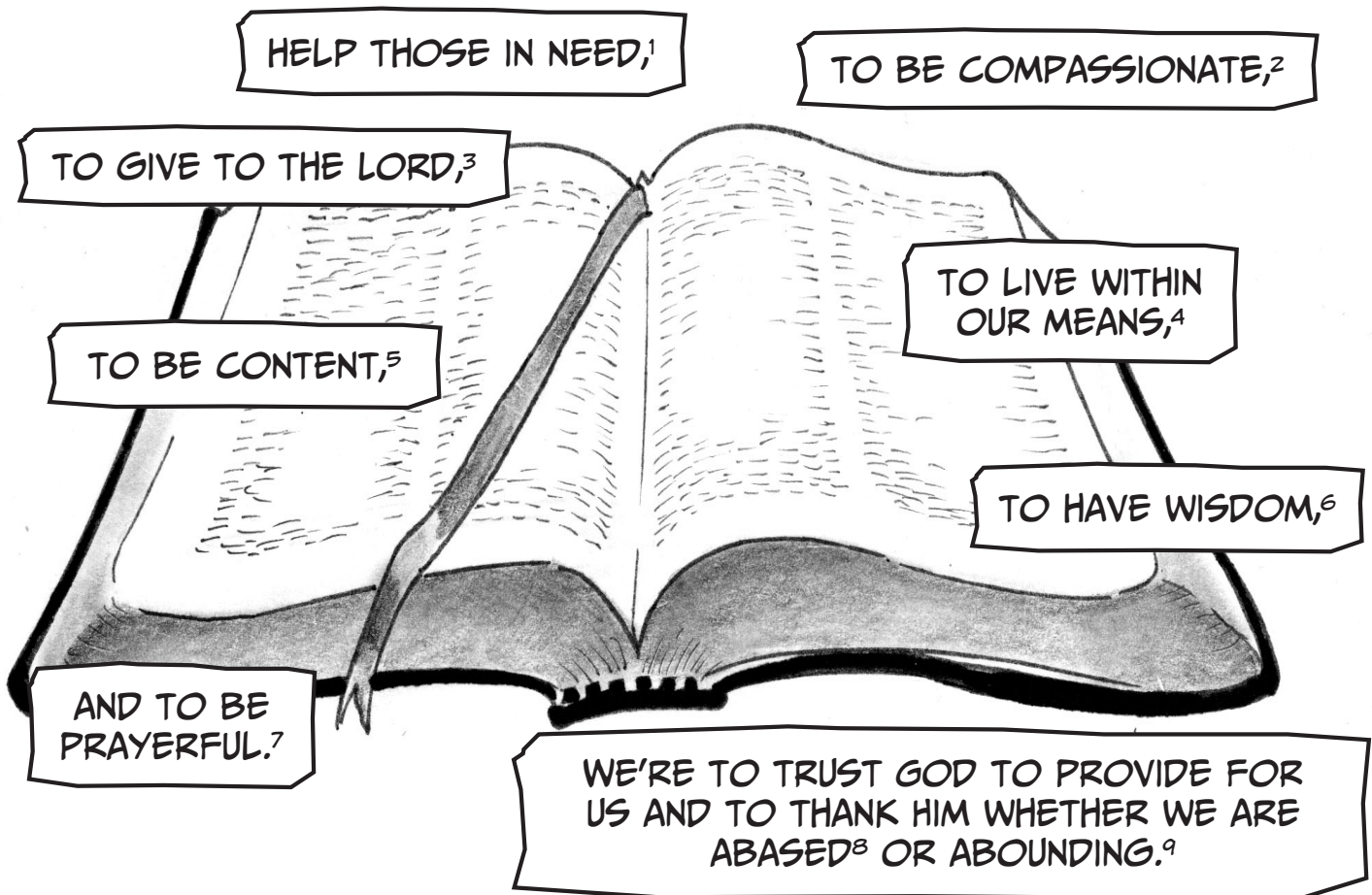
GIVING ISN'T LIMITED TO MONEY OR ITEMS ALONE.

We each have some God-given gifts, talents, and abilities to offer, so we might consider using them to help others in some way.



When we use our gifts, talents, and skills for His glory, we honor Him.

Developing generosity calls us to believe that we are stewards of our material belongings, too, and that we are expected to be good stewards of what is entrusted into our care. We know we are to do what we can to:



When we are thankful to the Lord, it shows Him that we recognize His goodness and faithfulness to provide and care for us. It tells Him that we know that we are totally dependent on Him, and that all we have comes from His hand.

Of course, developing gratitude, like any other godly character trait, takes effort; but we become more aware of the abundance of God's blessings in our lives by recognizing them, and thanking Him for them; "giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."¹⁰

Footnotes:

¹ Deuteronomy 15:11; Ephesians 4:28; Hebrews 13:16; Matthew 5:42; Proverbs 3:27; Romans 12:13.

² Matthew 9:36; Colossians 3:12.

³ Proverbs 3:9; Deuteronomy 14:22; 2 Chronicles 31:6.

⁴ Proverbs 22:7, 26–27.

⁵ Hebrews 13:5; 1 Timothy 6:6.

⁶ Proverbs 2:1–15; Psalm 111:10.

⁷ 1 Thessalonians 5:17; Psalm 105:4.

⁸ **abased:** brought low; humbled.

⁹ Philippians 4:12.

¹⁰ Ephesians 5:20.