

The Light - Junior Series
Lesson 42

The Giver of Spiritual Gifts...the Holy Spirit

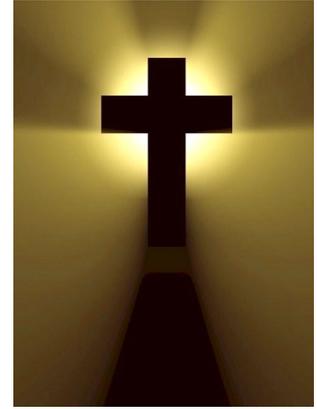
Spiritual Adoption

Part 2

Sunday, April 17, 2011

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

If YOU have never believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior, you have the opportunity to do so right NOW. Simply tell God the Father that you believe in His Son, Jesus Christ, who loved us so much that He came down from heaven and became a man to take our place and pay for the penalty for all the sin of all mankind. Jesus, the Savior died on the Cross for your sins and the sins of the whole world. Then Jesus was buried but He rose again and He is alive today seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven. When you make the decision to believe in Jesus in simple faith based on His work on the Cross, you are now a believer and will always be a child of God. When you die, you will spend eternity with Him in Heaven. *(Acts 16:31) "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved."* *(John 3:16) "God loved the world so much that He gave us One and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."*



Lesson

Hi kids. We are still learning the "Doctrine of Adoption." So let's look at the scriptures that speak of "adoption" and of being the "children of God" and the "sons of God." We covered a lot of the information about Roman adoption in our last lesson and if you remember, it's NOTHING like American adoption. In Roman adoption if the oldest blood son of a family wasn't responsible or reliable, the father of that family looked for an heir from another family...a boy or young man that was capable of running the family business or property and carry out the will of the father and it was a great honor for that boy or young man to be chosen as an heir.



One of the things about Biblical adoption is that while it shows up and is given at the moment of our salvation, it also was in God's thoughts in eternity past, and then it comes up again at the Rapture when you receive the inheritance from God as His adopted sons and daughters.

So as we look at the scriptures today about our adoption, we'll look and learn about them in a particular order, one that starts with salvation and ends at the Rapture...starts with the beginning and ends with the end.

So let's begin in [Ephesians 1:3-6](#). "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, (4) just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love (5) He predestined us (in eternity past) to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, (6) to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely gave on us in the Beloved (Jesus)." This begins at our salvation.



"Adoption" is something that God started in eternity past, [Eph 1:5](#). He made a decision concerning believers in Christ. He chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world. Remember this is election, God's expression of His will for us, granting us His highest and best as members of the Body of Christ. This doesn't mean that we had no part in this election. It means that we used our volition or free will to believe in Jesus and God knew through His omniscience that we would believe and He elected us to receive His highest and best blessings because of Christ!!

He also predestined us in eternity past. This is predestination: God's provision related to His will for us...His plan for our lives. So you can see right here that this adoption was started under what we call the divine decree. You are familiar with the decree because we've studied this already but very briefly. God thought about us in eternity past, and decreed or decided or

made certain the fact that He would make us His adult sons and daughters one day because we chose to believe in His Son, Jesus Christ.

Now before we continue I want to give you the Greek word for "adoption." The word translated "adoption" in our Bibles turns out to be a poor translation of this word because as you will see, every time the word "adoption" shows up in the English translation of our Bibles, it is joined by two other words and is always found in the phrase "adoption as sons". You saw it in [Eph 1:5](#) above in our passage. That is because the three English words "adoption as sons" that appear in each verse are actually translated from a single Greek word...*huiiothesia* (hwee-oth-es-ee'-ah), which means Christian son-ship in respect to God. This term was borrowed by Paul and the Holy Spirit to make it clear to us. In the New Testament it is used to represent:

1. That relationship which God was pleased to make between himself and the Israelites in preference to all other nations. [Rom 9:4](#) says, "They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises."
2. The nature and condition of true Disciples of Christ, who by receiving the Spirit of God into their souls become the "sons of God." [Rom 8:15](#) "For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the (Holy) Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" This brings us very close to God and wants us to feel this closeness and He wants us to lean on Him and call on Him as your Dad. [Gal 4:5](#) "...to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And in [Eph 1:5](#) above. It also includes the blessed state looked for in the future life after the visible return of Christ from heaven in the Rapture. [Rom 8:23](#) "And not only the creation, but we ourselves (believers), who have the first fruits of the (Holy) Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies (at the Rapture)." Compare that to [Rom 8:19](#) "For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God (at the Rapture)." Even the earth can't wait until it is renewed and restored to perfection.



So after all that, we can say that the correct translation of the Greek word *huiiothesia* is from *huios*, which means "a son come of age" and *thesia*, which means "a placing, or setting a person or thing in its place." So adoption in our Bible means "the placing of a son". It came to mean the transfer from one family to another and the placing of the one who has been so transferred as a son or daughter in the new second family. And even further we can say it means to place a son in the home who would carry on the family business, the family estate. Therefore it meant being recognized as an adult son. Also the word "sons" means both men and women as subjects of divine adoption. This is a great honor, kids.

Now let's look at another word in the Greek in our Bibles used in the phrase for believers. It is "children of God." You know that we are God's children and are born of God, born of the Spirit, and now you know we are called in the Greek, *tekna* or "born ones." This is different from what we just saw in the word used for adoption. Look at [John 1:12-13](#). "But as many as received Him (Jesus), to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, (13) who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God." This happens at the moment we believe and is a part of our regeneration of being "born again." So adoption is not the same thing as regeneration. God's children are born of God, and so they are directly related to God, and participate in the divine nature now on earth...the new man or nature that cannot sin or be a slave to sin. [2 Pet 1:4](#) "Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil

desires." All God's children, whether in the Old Testament times or in the Church Age, are born of God. But the word *huios* that is used for adoption, means a child come of age; no longer deprived of the full use of his privileges and responsibilities and not considered a slave anymore. Gal 4:7 "So you are no longer a slave but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir (adoption)." And *huiotesia* means God's recognizing them in that position as a child come of age, an adult son. Gal 3:23-29 "But before faith came, we were kept in custody under the law, being shut up to the faith which was later to be revealed. (24) Therefore the Law (Ten Commandments taught us that we are sinners) has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith. (25) But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor (the Law). (26) For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. (27) For all of you who were baptized into Christ (Baptism of the Holy Spirit) have clothed yourselves with Christ. (28) There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all ONE in Christ Jesus. (29) And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs (adopted sons and daughters) according to promise."

Son-ship in Christ. Gal 4:1-7 "Now I say, as long as the heir is a child, he is no different at all from a slave although he is owner of everything, (2) but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by the father. (3) So also we, while we were children, were held in slavery under the basic things of the world. (4) But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, (5) so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. (6) Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father (a very close relationship with the Father)!" (7) Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir (as adult sons) through God."



So we can see that God makes the declaration and gives us the status as His adult son or daughter at the moment of salvation. Again, *huiotesia* means God's recognizing them in that position as a child who has come of age, an adult son." This identification happens at the moment we believe in Christ. God has sent the Holy Spirit crying "Abba! Father!" This is proof the fact that the Holy Spirit as the agent of the Father has delivered the proof, the goods, as it were that you have officially been placed as an adult son or daughter into God's family. You can call God your Father now. You can call Him, Dad, Daddy, Poppa, or whatever you like that shows how close we are with Him. And you will inherit all He has for you at the Rapture in your resurrection bodies. Rom 8:14-23 "For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. (15) For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!" (16) The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, (17) and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him. (18) For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. (19) For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. (20) For the creation was subjected to uselessness, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope (21) that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. (22) For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. (23) And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body (at the Rapture)."

This adoption as sons and daughters of God will be carried out fully at the coming of Christ at the Rapture, when our bodies, redeemed and fashioned anew, shall be conformed to Christ's glorious resurrection body. We have a great day of Christ to look forward to, don't we? How blessed we are no matter what happens here on earth, we can look forward to total and complete happiness with God for all of eternity in our wonderful decorated resurrection bodies just like our Savior.

March on, young soldiers.



Close in prayer

Prepared from Pastor John Farley's lesson on November 28, 2010
Lighthouse Bible Church

