

*The Light - Junior Series*  
*Lesson 44*

*The Giver of Spiritual Gifts...the Holy Spirit*

**Spiritual Adoption**  
**Son-ship**  
**Part 3**

*Sunday, May 1, 2011*

*Rom 8:15 "For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, 'Abba, Father!'"*

## 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

Our last lesson left us going up in the Rapture to receive our beautiful new resurrection bodies just like Jesus'. Remember that's when we receive our inheritance as adopted sons and daughters.

Meanwhile, because we are already adult sons (huios), God has given us a spirit of adult son-ship! *Gal 4:6-7 "Because we are adult sons, God sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying 'Abba, Father.'"* This gives us a really close relationship with our Father in Heaven. Adoption is something God started in eternity past and will complete at the Rapture when we receive our resurrection bodies, which is the redemption of the body in *Rom 8:23. "And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies."* This was decreed or made certain in eternity past. It was set in place at the moment of salvation and will be completed and made real at the Rapture. In other words we'll see it when we get our resurrection bodies. The Spirit of adoption gives us the privilege to call God our Father.



The Old Testament does not speak about individual saints or believers being adopted by God the Father. No Jew called God "Father" or "Abba", but rather "Jehovah". Only the nation of Israel as God's chosen client/nation is spoken of in terms of adoption. Although Christ was elected, He was not adopted, having always been the Son who shared the Father's perfect nature and carried out the Father's will. Jesus was perfect and carried out God's will perfectly so there was no need of adoption Roman style. *Luke 3:21-22 "Now when all the people were baptized, Jesus was also baptized, and while He was praying, heaven was opened, (22) and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came out of heaven, 'You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased.'"*

We see the nation of Israel in terms of adoption in *Rom 9:4. "They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises."* So adoption can be used in a general sense of the NATION of Israel. God has a special interest in the nation of Israel. But the special use of "adoption" is spiritual, and is our first concern: God adopting certain people to become His sons in a spiritual way...that's us...believers in the Church Age.

It is important also to understand the relationship of our son-ship to our Lord's Son-ship. In becoming the children of God, we do not become identical with the Lord Jesus Christ. That's why He said what He did after He rose from the dead in [John 20:17](#). "Jesus said to her, 'Stop clinging to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brethren (the apostles) and say to them, 'I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.'" He wasn't just repeating Himself or being poetic in this verse but He was saying that there was a difference between our son-ship and His Son-ship. He is the uniquely born Son of God (deity) by being humanly born a descendent or relative of David, and by nature He is the God/Man forever...unique. We are sons of God by adoption. This is a very important and a very different and we must understand this.

Paul is writing to the Romans and instructing them to examine the strong Roman law concerning "adoption" of those not born in the family: the one chosen to be an heir of the father in a family became entitled not only to his new father's property but also to the burdens as well as the rights of the man adopting him (the adopter). This adoption made him become his other self or one with him, his adopter. We have just a little hint of an idea about all of this but with the assurance that the adopted son of God becomes, in a very unusual way and in an intimate sense...ONE with the heavenly Father."



Under Roman law, the reason for adoption was to continue a family name and its property. The one adopted received a new status, privilege, and property that would not have been available under his old father. The adoption brought great gains to the one being adopted. And so, the saints were under the tyrant...the devil who was their slave master and who brought destruction to their lives. In contrast, the saints have a new Father who is unselfish, loving, caring, and GIVING and wants the very best for His sons and daughters, the believers.

Although believers are adopted into God's family, the full realization for the believers will be enjoyed at the time of their resurrection when their old father, the devil will no longer tempt them to return to him. [Rom 8:23](#) "And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies."

What are the RESULTS of our adoption?

1. If we have the Spirit of adoption, we have lost the spirit of slavery again to fear. [Rom 8:15](#) "For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, 'Abba! Father!'"
2. We have been given a spirit of freedom. We are no longer afraid of condemnation under the law of sin. We are no longer afraid of death. We are enjoying something of the glorious freedom as the children of God.
3. We receive this spirit of adoption through the indwelling Holy Spirit.
4. Because we have been adopted into God's family, we are entitled to bear His name. We can say that we are members of the household of God. [1 Peter 2:9-10](#) "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a Holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; (10) or you once were not a people (unbelievers), but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy."
5. We can enjoy the present protection and consolation which God alone can give, and the provision He makes for His children: [Luke 12:7](#) "Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered." Nothing can happen to us apart from Him knowing about it,

allowing it, and taking care of it. There are so many gracious and glorious promises which are given to the children and which prove to be true in experience: protection, support, and the fact that He provides perfectly for all our needs. [Heb 13:5](#) "...for He Himself has said, **"I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU..."**"

6. And as adopted sons and daughters we are under the training of fatherly discipline. This at first does not feel good but in the long run we learn from it and gain spiritually and physically. In other words, we learn from it and it's for our own good. This is the whole argument of the first half of Hebrews chapter 12. We'll just look at part of it. [Heb 12:4-11](#) "You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood in your struggle against sin; (5) and you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons, **'MY SON, DO NOT REGARD LIGHTLY THE DISCIPLINE OF THE LORD, OR FAINT WHEN YOU ARE PUNISHED BY HIM; (6) FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE DISCIPLINES, AND HE SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES.'** (7) it is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? (8) But if you are without discipline, of which all have become sharers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. (9) Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live? (10) For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our good, so that we may share His holiness. (11) All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness (good behavior)." If we are not receiving discipline, than we are not His children; we are illegitimate children. Because we are His children, He disciplines us for our own good. This is a result of our adoption. IF we are children of God, He is determined to bring us to glory and if we will not listen to His leading and teaching, He will discipline us because He loves us and because we are His sons. Because He has set His love and affection upon us, He is going to bring us through it.
7. There is heir ship. We are heirs of God and fellow-heirs with Christ. [Rom 8:16-17](#) "The Spirit himself is constantly bearing joint-testimony with our (human) spirit that we are God's children, (17) and since children, also heirs; on the one hand, heirs of God, on the other, joint-heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with Him in order that we also may be glorified with Him." Since God our Father has predestined us to placement as His adult sons and daughters, and since He has declared us to be in that position and committed to raising us to be (spiritually) mature sons, we are members of His family, then we are heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ. Our inheritance is certain.
8. We have the certainty and security of it all. [1 Peter 1:3-6](#) "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, (4) to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, (5) who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." As Paul teaches us: [Rom 8:38-39](#) "For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, (39) nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." If God has adopted you into His family, your destiny is secure. It is a guarantee. If God has taken me into His family, I am not only a child, I am an heir, and nothing and no one can ever rob me of the inheritance. This is a most comforting and encouraging doctrine. We are not just forgiven. We are not just declared righteous. We are not just given the new nature. We are also, above and beyond all that glorious good news, we are declared to be the sons of God, the heirs of God, joint heirs with the only begotten Son of God. This is awesome, kids.



God predestined us to adoption as sons and daughters in His perfect plan for our lives. We receive this adoption as sons and daughters. We receive the Spirit of adoption as sons and daughters and we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons and daughters.

Son-ship means we are heirs. Son-ship includes the idea of being taught to manage the household and affairs of the Father. Son-ship carries with it the training and discipline of the Father as we saw in Heb 12:4-11 above. We receive love and special care as sons and daughters and He has a special plan for each of us...a job to do here on earth. It doesn't get any better than this, kids.

Adoption is related to our election and predestination as you can see. It is for the purpose of glorifying the Lord Jesus Christ by bringing many sons to glory. Heb 2:10 "For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering." Rom 8:28-30 "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. (29) For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. (30) And those whom He predestined, He also called, and those whom He called, He also justified, and those whom He justified, He also glorified."

Our adoption as sons and daughters is accomplished through our union with Christ and therefore is a result not only of regeneration but also of our next subject, the baptism by the Spirit which places the new believer into a permanent union with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Adoption is God's grand design where He makes children of the devil into His own adult sons and daughters. I know this makes you really happy, kids. It makes me happy, too. He can't make you do anything anymore!

God is saying that He wants to adopt these people so my Son the Lord Jesus Christ will have brothers and sisters who will also be co-heirs with Him.

Adoption is the whole plan from start to finish. In everyday life, if you want to adopt a baby, there is a lot more to it than showing up in court and signing some papers. There is a lot of preparation and then there is a lot of responsibility that goes along with it.

So God says here are all the things I have to accomplish in order to make these children of wrath into my adult sons and daughters:

- I have to redeem them
- Pay the penalty for their guilt
- Propitiate or satisfy my character and integrity
- Reconcile or make peace with them
- Get the gospel to them
- Make their faith effective for salvation
- Credit them with My righteousness (+R)
- Declare that I see them as perfectly righteous
- Regenerate them or (make them born again spiritually)
- Place them permanently in my Son (Baptism of the Holy Spirit)
- Declare them legally to be my children.



Then He will take over as their new Father. He will provide them with everything they'll need for time and eternity...Blessings...Discipline. He will live that intimate role as their Dad. He will encourage them, train, and discipline them. He will rescue them and restore them when they stray away Him or His plan.

And finally He will make them complete and provide them a resurrection body, which they will receive at the coming of Jesus to get them at the Rapture...this completes the job.  
AMEN!!!!!!!

Close in prayer

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

