

The Light - Junior Series
Lesson 45

The Giver of Spiritual Gifts...the Holy Spirit

Spiritual Adoption
&
Suffering

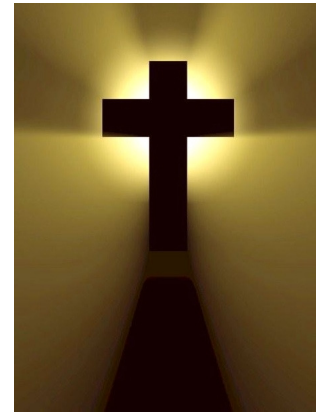
Part 4

Sunday, May 8, 2011

Rom 8:16 "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."

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



We are still studying about adoption Roman style. If you remember we saw two very important things that make our adoption by God as adult sons and daughters very special and different. Also please notice that we are recognized as adult sons and daughters by the fact of our union with Christ through the Baptism of God the Holy Spirit. Christ is the beloved Son. He is the mature one...the unique One in every way. Hopefully and through the Spirit we will become like Him in time.

Second, please notice that God the Father takes us who lacked the qualifications and gives us the qualifications that are needed to be His adopted adult sons and daughters. God the Father selects an unable person (the believer) and changes him into an able person.

We are made His heir by means of His grace through His pre-designed plan. Adoption is the fulfillment of the Father's plan to make us a legal adult son or daughter by His grace. Believers at the moment of salvation become legally adopted sons or daughters of God. This is an absolutely PERMANENT relationship with God. Your relationship as a child of God results from your new spiritual birth.

Your relationship as an adult son or daughter of God is positionally made by adoption, and is for Church Age believers only. This is another great mystery of the Church Age. Your relationship as an adult son or daughter of God becomes fulfilled in time when by the power of the Word of God and the filling of the Holy Spirit you grow up spiritually to maturity. You complete your race and your call from God.

I can't say this enough, kids...you have been given tremendous privileges and resources. Now, in time, you have the opportunity to gain wonderful things from those privileges and resources by growing to spiritual maturity and living like the adult son or daughter of the living God. God the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit love this. This glorifies them.

Adoption emphasizes God's ability and your desire to do this...NOT your own ability. This is great news because no matter how many times you have failed, no matter what your handicaps are from physical birth, and no matter what environmental or bad decisions you made...all that was set aside when you were adopted at salvation.



Your reasons or actions come into the picture however; because if your volition is negative (you don't want to live in the plan of God) you will not enjoy the benefits of your adoption in time, during your life here on earth. In other words if you say "no" to the plan of God for your life, you will not benefit from your adoption. Gal 4:1-7 "Now I say, as long as the heir is a child, he does not differ 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 bondage under the principles of this world (the devil's cosmic world). (4) But when the fullness of the

time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the (Mosaic) Law, (5) so that He might redeem those who were under the (Mosaic) Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. (6) Because you are sons, God has sent forth the (Holy) Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' (7) Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God." So we can see that God makes the announcement and gives us the position as His adult son or daughter at the moment of salvation.

Again, in the Greek, it means God is recognizing us in that position as a child come of age, an adult son. This recognition occurs at the moment we believe in Christ. Then God sent the Holy Spirit crying "Abba! Father!" This is proof; this is 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 now call God your Father. This is awesome!!!! How close we are to God.



Paul uses the word adoption as sons, the placing as an adult son or daughter, to remind us that we are spiritual nobility, the Royal Family of God, and to remind us that what we were before is not an issue in our spiritual life. We are now in the plan of God our Father, and by the way we are different even from other believers in other dispensations. No Old Testament saint had these great privileges. You all know that the Church Age is the greatest dispensation because God has given us so many privileges and gifts because of the unspeakable work of Jesus Christ.

In our past lessons we've seen adoption in eternity past (Eph 1:5) and adoption at the moment of faith in Christ (Gal 4:5 above). Now to see the rest of the design, we go to Romans where we get a peek of our glorious future as adopted sons and daughters of God. Rom 8:14 "For all who are being led by the (Holy) Spirit of God, these are sons of God." The Greek word here for "sons" is *huios* and it means an adult or mature son. All believers are being led by the Holy Spirit of God, but not all believers are following that lead!! As a child of the King, we NEVER have to be in the dark about life. We can understand God's purpose for our life. The Holy Spirit who indwells us desires to use God's Word to direct us toward God's will. Rom 8:15 "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!'" Adoption frees us from slavery to the cosmic system and world of Satan in this life on earth.

This is one of the most beautiful passages in the book of Romans. Here we see a most fantastic development. We go from the reality of having the Holy Spirit living in our bodies to the proof that He causes our son-ship in God. After this we will see that since we are Gods sons and daughters, we are in fact heirs of all that God has promised. But verse 15 above describes the Holy Spirit's ministry in giving adult son-ship to the believer, and we have this beautiful response, this expression of the believer's joy and eternal security... "Abba, Father!" You can see all of this in a big picture in Romans 8 and in Romans chapters 5, 6, and 7, which tells us of our eternal security. Here we see that we as believers, justified by faith, we are no longer afraid of the fear of judgment to the Lake of Fire that we had before we became Christians...or at least some of us had. You as children might not have even known about that before you believed in Jesus!! THERE IS NO CONDEMNATION FOR THOSE WHO ARE IN CHRIST JESUS! The dread of God as judge has been removed, and replaced with the peace and security we have in God who is our heavenly Father.

And you can be SURE of this because the Holy Spirit makes you sure of it. It is part of the meaning of this Greek word, *huiothesia*, which again means "the placing as an adult son." We now possess all the rights and privileges that are part of what the natural child automatically receives. You know, kids, this is meant to give you great confidence and peace in our souls with regard to how you stand with God our Father, and our ability to handle the problems and difficulties that we will all face in this life. Having complete confidence in your relationship with the Lord is an important part of having happiness in life. Rom 8:16 "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." Remember, if you desire to glorify your Father as an adopted son, you must follow the lead of



your older Brother Christ and learn how to handle suffering for the cause of Christ. This is part of our military training as soldiers and warriors of Christ, preparing us to be heirs and royalty.

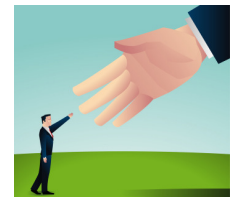
This verse 16 is an in-between verse that connects Paul's description of the adoption as sons and daughters that believers enjoy at the present time (verse 14-16) with his powerful picture of the glory that awaits the believer in the future when the believer gets his full inheritance at the Evaluation or Judgment Seat of Christ.

But there is a road for the believer to travel, and it is the same one that Christ traveled. Before you can receive an inheritance, you must pass through periods of suffering. The glorious inheritance is obtained only through suffering. Because we are in union with Christ, we are his fellow heirs, assured of being glorified with Him. Yet, by the fact of this same oneness with Christ, we must walk as He walked, meaning that we must suffer with Him.



Oh boy, this doesn't sound too good, right? It points to worries, tensions, and persecutions that result from being followers of the One who was rejected by the world. As Christ suffered and entered into His glory (1Pet 1:11), so fellow heirs with Christ suffer during this present time (1Pet 2:21, Phi 1:29) in order to join Christ in glory. Let's see what the Bible says about it. 1 Peter 1:11 "...trying to find out the time and the circumstances to which the (Holy) Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow." 1 Peter 2:21 "For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps..." Phil 1:29-30 "For to you it has been granted (given by grace) for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, (30) experiencing the same struggle which you saw in me, and now that I still have." We see this again in 2 Tim 2:11-13. "For if we died with Him (and we did), we will also live with Him; (12) if we endure, we will also rule with Him; if we deny Him, He also will deny us (rewards); (13) if we are faithless, He remains faithful (eternal security), for He cannot deny Himself (because He lives in us)." And again in Rom 8:18. "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."

So are you going to get upset about this fact that we must suffer for Christ in this life? Yes, you will, BUT DON'T because with the suffering God offers a way of escape that you can bear the suffering through Him and His Grace!!! 1 Cor 10:13 "No trial (suffering) has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; He will not let you suffer beyond what you can bear. But when you are suffering, He will also provide a way out (escape) so that you can stand up under it." See I told you, God gets you through it AND makes it all better!!!!!!! This glorifies Christ!!!! Let's be at peace about it and trust God who IS faithful.



Close in prayer

Prepared from Pastor John Farley's lesson on December 5, 2010
Lighthouse Bible Church

