

The Light - Junior Series
Lesson 47

The Giver of Spiritual Gifts...the Holy Spirit

Spiritual Adoption

More on Suffering

Part 6

Sunday, May 22, 2011

Gal 4:6-7 "Because we are adult sons, God sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying '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

All right...we've had a fantastic journey in the Word of God to see the whole design of adoption. Here again is the definition of Biblical adoption: *Biblical adoption is that grand design of God by which He gives or bestows upon us (Church Age believer only) the rank or the standing of children (more precisely, adult sons and daughters). This happens positionally at the moment of salvation when He recognizes us as an adult son or daughter permanently by His placement.* Now God has a plan for each of you as adopted sons and daughters.

Some day the Rapture is going to happen and we are going to be pulled off the face of the earth in a flash to be with Jesus forever. We're going to get our resurrection bodies immediately and then all Church Age believers will stand before our wonderful Savior to be evaluated on how well we did with what He gave us here on earth to do. Then we will be rewarded for our divine good works accomplished in the power of the Holy Spirit and the plan of God. This will glorify Jesus to the MAX!!! This is your goal as a Christian...to glorify our wonderful Savior. We could NEVER repay Him for what He did for us on the cross but we can worship Him and dedicate ourselves and our lives to Him to show Him how much we appreciate Him. We are so special to Him and He should be special to us...the BEST for sure. He must come first. Why am I repeating all this to you, kids? Jesus made us very special to Him. We are His Royal family, His bride and we will return with Him to end the Tribulation at the Second Advent. He takes complete and total care of His bride, the Church...that's us!!! He will do it perfectly, too.



We're not married to Christ yet but we have the Helper, the Holy Spirit, who is the other member of the Trinity and the same kind of Person as Christ, to train us how to become Jesus' bride, how to live as Royalty, and also the Father is always telling us in the Bible more and more about this great Son, this King of Kings! So as His adopted sons and daughters, we are called to move on everyday to spiritual maturity by studying the Bible, and as we do and as we live the life of royalty, we will also receive the divine blessings, which glorify Him in time. God gives us the grace to do this, kids.

In order to move on to spiritual maturity, we must respond to the leadings of the Spirit. That means we must learn the word of God, make it part of how we think, so that we can do the will of God our Father. From this we come to know the love that God the Father has for us, and we respond to that love by learning how to love Him, and finally, we express our love for Him by being obedient to His commands.

To be a son of God means to have a certain similarity or likeness. A son and a father have similarities, certain things in common. We are to learn how to see things as God sees them. *Matt 5:44-45 "But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you (45) so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous."*

Again, the Greek word for son, *huios* means God's recognizing us in that position as a child come of age, an adult son or daughter...and adopted son or daughter of God. This recognition occurs at the moment we believe in Christ. This will be carried out fully at the Rapture of Christ, when our bodies, redeemed and fashioned anew...resurrection bodies...will be just like Christ's glorious body. Imagine that!!!! You see we are His bride, His family and we will be just like Him.

Meanwhile, because we are already adult sons (*huioi*), God has given us a spirit of adult son-ship! You remember that, right in Gal 4:6-7 "Because we are adult sons, God sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying 'Abba, Father.'" Adoption is something God started in eternity past and will complete at the Rapture when we receive our resurrection bodies (the redemption of the body in Rom 8:23 "...waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons (future - at the Rapture).") God decreed this or made certain in eternity past. It was set in place at the moment of salvation and completed and made sure at the Rapture. You can see these stages in the verbs that the Holy Spirit uses together with the word for son, *huios*: He decreed it in Eph 1:5. "He predestined us to adoption as sons (in the past - eternity past)." It is received at salvation in Gal 4:5. "...that we might receive the adoption as sons (now at salvation)." And in Rom 8:14. "...you have received a spirit of adoption as sons (in time, now looking back at the moment of salvation)." And in the future we will receive our resurrection bodies at the Rapture.

As an adopted child of the King, we never have to be in the dark about life. We can understand God's purpose for our life and know from God's Word that God had provided EVERYTHING we will need in life. God had all the solutions to all the problems of life and the sufferings of life for you already. This was accomplished in eternity past!!! So you see, you have nothing to fear. God took care of it all and at the Rapture we will see clearly all that God has done for us on earth and what He will have for us in Heaven. The Holy Spirit who indwells us wants 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!'" Again adoption frees us from slavery to fear and helps us through the sufferings, troubles or traps of this life. This is one of the most beautiful passages in the book of Romans and verse 15 describes the 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 security in Christ.



Why? Because Jesus Christ is our hero in this regard. He is the one we look up to. He is our role model. So fix your eyes on Jesus. Jesus was ALREADY the perfect Son. He came from heaven where He had been THE SON of God for all eternity. He was sinless. And yet even for Him, suffering had its unique purpose in His life. The Father decreed suffering for Him as part of the course for His life that would bring Him to the cross, and bring Him into the superior life after His resurrection, ascension and session at His right hand. This suffering prepared Jesus in His humanity for living out His calling to be our Savior, our King, our greatest prophet and our High Priest. It will prepare us as well, kids. Heb 2:17-18 "Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren (mankind) in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation (satisfaction) for the sins of the people. (18) For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted (and suffer)."

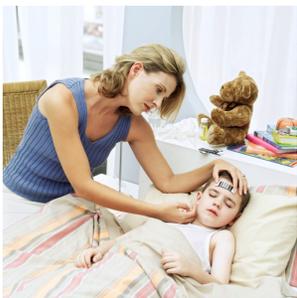
So He could sympathize with what we are going through today. Only a human being who has suffered in the same way can truly understand what another person is experiencing. Jesus learned and experienced what it was like to need something, to lack something, and to rely on God to come through for Him. Apparently this suffering was necessary training even for His humanity in order for Him to step into the role of our great High priest. If He had to suffer so must we but with His help.

And you learned that never more so than on the night before He went to the Cross in the garden of Gethsemane when He knew He would have to undergo spiritual death...separation from His Father. He had to rely on His Father to bring an end to the deaths that He would suffer. This is what Psalm 22 is all about. Let's read it together. This is what He prayed for in the garden.

In the Garden Jesus used the tenderest name to express to His Father the grief He had at the thought of being separated from Him: Mark 14:32-39 "They came to a place named Gethsemane; and He said to His disciples, 'Sit here until I have prayed.' (33) And He took with Him Peter and James and John, and began to be very distressed and troubled. (34) And He said to them, 'My soul is deeply grieved to the point of death; remain here and keep watch.'" (35) And He went a little beyond them, and fell to the ground and began to pray that if it were possible, the hour might pass Him by. (36) And He was saying, '**Abba! Father!** All things are possible for You; remove this cup from Me; yet not what I will, but what You will.'" This is the only place that our Bible records our Lord using this intimate name for His Father. The Aramaic word *Abba* occurs three times in the Bible...just 3...and one is here. The only other two both deal with our adoption! See how close our union with Him is? It is wonderful.



The "cup" in our passage above was not physical death or Jesus' physical torture. The "cup" was not the beatings, or the plucking of His beard, or even the crown of thorns...the cup was the wrath of His Father removing His presence from Jesus as He bore the sins of the world. God's fury would be poured on Him. It was like being in the Lake of Fire for Jesus...being separated from His Father. He had to rely on His Father to end the wrath and bring His Son back into His loving arms. 2 Cor 1:3-11 "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, (4) who comforts us in all our suffering so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any suffering with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. (5) For just as the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance, so also our comfort is abundant through Christ. (6) But if we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; or if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which is effective in the patient enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer; (7) and our hope for you is firmly grounded, knowing that as you are sharers of our sufferings, so also you are sharers of our comfort. (8) For we do not want you to be unaware, brethren, of our affliction which came to us in Asia, that we were burdened excessively, beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life; (9) indeed, we had the sentence of death within ourselves so that we would not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead; (10) who delivered us from so great a peril of death, and will deliver us, He on whom we have set our hope. And He will yet deliver us, (11) you also joining in helping us through your prayers, so that thanks may be given by many persons on our behalf for the favor given to us through the prayers of many."



There are times when, as members of the Family, we go through things so that later on we can be there for someone else in the family when they are going through the same thing. This sort of thing helps form permanent bonds of love and trust between members of the family. This is what makes us stick together like glue. 1 Cor 12:24-26 "But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to that member which lacked, (25) so that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. (26) And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it." This sort of thing – shared experiences of suffering...helps form permanent bonds of love and trust between members of the family.

You can see this between husband and wife. This is also why there are such strong bonds between soldiers who have been in battle together. The other thing I want to point out in passing is that this proves that there is more than one kind of knowing. After all, as the Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ possessed omniscience, all knowledge, for all of eternity. Yet here we see that He becomes human, and has to learn what it means to be human. And He has to learn this by EXPERIENCING it...living it!

You see, sometimes we get the wrong idea even about suffering for blessing. We think that God is saying, "You go through this suffering and if you are willing to hurt for me then you get your reward." You know like if it doesn't hurt we won't get rewarded. That misses what is perhaps the most important thing about suffering in the plan of God for His children. To suffer is to LEARN!! To suffer together, or on behalf of another, or to have another suffer on your behalf, is to form stronger bonds of love between them.

To die is profit. This isn't only talking about physical death. Paul was very bold in saying that rejoicing in our sufferings is THE SAME THING as rejoicing in the hope of the glory of God. Rom 5: 3-6 "And not only this, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering brings about determination; (4) and determination, proven character; and proven character, hope; (5) and hope does not disappoint, because the

love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us. (6) For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly."

As we learn to love God, He teaches us to stop running away from suffering. He reveals suffering to be His wild gift to us. Don't be afraid of it. He gets us through it all!!! Believe me when I tell you this. He is almighty and He makes us able to stand it. When we trust Him enough to remain in the fire of suffering with Him, the fire reveals the treasure that lives inside our suffering. He unwraps these treasures for us, kids. We will even be able to see His love behind it all. We see His hope shining instead of our upset. We find His faith remaining even after our bitterness about suffering is removed. This happens when we learn to not be afraid of our own suffering. And when we learn to help others through their suffering when God brings them to us. 1 Peter 4: 12-14 "Beloved, do not be surprised at the suffering among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; (13) but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation (happiness). (14) If you are hated for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you."

The Holy Spirit uses our situations of suffering to produce the virtues of Christ's character in us. Remember we must learn to be more like Christ everyday. 1 Pet 5:6-11 "Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, (7) casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you. (8) Be of serious spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. (9) But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world (you are not alone). (10) After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you. (11) To Him be dominion forever and ever. Amen." 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."



We lay down our lower earthly self-life and happily look forward to that superior resurrection life that our suffering leads to, both for ourselves and for others. Dealing with this same subject, suffering for the cause of Christ, Paul would explain it this way in 2 Cor 4:15-18. "For all things are for your sakes, so that the grace which is spreading to more and more people may cause the giving of thanks to abound to the glory of God. (16) Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. (17) For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, 18 while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are of time, but the things which are not seen are eternal."

Adoption anticipates great blessings and responsibility from the integrity of God. Our Father's plan for us in time is that we move on to spiritual maturity, suffer for the Lord through His power, receive those blessings held in escrow, and glorify God in time and on to eternity. Adoption demands responsibility, purpose, authority, a planned life and yes, even suffering. It means being given the rights, power and authority belonging to someone who is truly great and has all the power...GOD!!! You can do this in the power of the Holy Spirit, kids.

Close in prayer

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

