



5) The Assurance of the Spirit (Rom 8:14-17)

Section I: Christian Beginnings Handout

The Holy Spirit takes a special part in assuring the believer of his or her salvation for He Himself develops this confidence that we belong to God's spiritual family. Every saved person has been brought into the family of God and enjoys all the rights and privileges of natural born children. Belonging to God's family has many important ramifications of our ongoing spiritual life.

A) The Delight of Our Adoption (Rom 8:14-15)

14 "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!" (Rom 8:14-15)

- V. 14. A New Family: When we place our trust in Jesus and give our lives to Him, we instantly became the "sons of God" and immediately welcomed into the family of God. We became His children. 1 John 3:1-3 (assures us that one day we will be just like our heavenly Father)
- God actively operates in the lives of humans for His own purposes. If a person is saved, they will start to develop traits that are like the Father's family. The primary trait being that they will be led by the Spirit of God.
- Rom 8:9, the Spirit is residing inside the believer and He will make His presence known. He will change the life He inhabits.
- V. 15 tells us that we have been delivered from the bondage of fear (death, judgment, lack of protection) and that we have a new Father.
- In ancient Rome, to be adopted was a great privilege. The word "adoption" (huiiothesia) means to place as a son. Adoption was a serious matter sometimes to ensure that a family would not become extinct by not having any male children. Whenever a child was adopted, 3 steps were taken.
 - The adopted son was adopted permanently. He cannot be adopted today and disinherited tomorrow.
 - The adopted son immediately had all the rights of a legitimate son in the new family.
 - The adopted son lost all rights in the old family. He is looked upon as a new person—so that any old debts and obligations connected with his old family were cancelled out and abolished as if they never existed.
- New freedom to call God our "Abba" or "Daddy".

Summary: As children of God, we have been delivered from the power and influence of the flesh. We are no longer led by Satan and our flesh but rather led by the Spirit of God. We are bought into a close relationship with our new Heavenly Father that we are allowed to address Him as our "Abba Father".

B) The Delight of Our Assurance (Rom 8:16)

16 The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God. (Rom 8:16)

- Our Communion with the Spirit: The child of God has a special relationship with the Holy Spirit (John 14:16-18; John 16:7-15). The Spirit of God spends time with us, leads us, and teaches us all we need to know about how to live for the glory of God in this world.
- Our Confidence in the Spirit: The Spirit of God gives confidence to those who are saved by grace and are born again. He will speak to your heart. He will tell you things. He will guide you. He will warn you. He will lead you. He will feed you. He will comfort you. He will teach you the truth.

Summary: As believers, the Spirit of God will speak to your heart and cause you to examine yourself. These convictions are ways to know that indeed you are born again.

C) The Delight of Our Affluence (Rom 8:16-17)

16 The Spirit Himself bears witness 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 in order that we may also be glorified with Him. (Rom 8:16-17)

- Our Privilege: We are heirs of God. (Psalm 50:10-12, Phil 4:19) He is able to meet our needs no matter how great they may appear. What He has belongs to us right now. (Luke 12:32)
- Our Portion: We have been made joint heirs with Jesus. Under Roman Law, all sons were treated equally. We are made to be like Him in the Father's eyes.
- Our Promise: Even though we will go through difficult times and face many trials in this world, God has not forsaken us. We are "pilgrims and strangers" in this present world. The fullness of our inheritance will not be realized until we arrive at home in our Father's house.

Summary: There is no comparison between what we have now in the Spirit and what we endured in the flesh. Christ will share with us all His riches and gives us an assurance that even in suffering we share our hope with Christ. Assurance of belonging brings assurance of hope in life eternal where we will be glorified with Him.

Discussion Questions:

- What does being adopted into God's family mean to you? Share one special privilege of being a part of God's family?
- Have you ever felt rejected by God whenever you struggle with sin in your life?