



## World Christian Fellowship

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### Galatians

#### Lesson 36- Adoption assured by Holy Spirit

**Galatians 4:1-7**, *Now I say that the heir, as long as he is a child, does not differ at all from a slave, though he is master of all,<sup>2</sup> but is under guardians and stewards until the time appointed by the father.<sup>3</sup> Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world.<sup>4</sup> But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law,<sup>5</sup> to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.*

*<sup>6</sup> And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!"<sup>7</sup> Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.*

Every human being is a sinner. Every human being sin, because every human being possesses a corrupt nature.

Beyond that all human beings are rebels against God. They have rebelled against God by the wilful and constant violation of His holy law, which is a reflection of His holy nature.

Consequently, all sinners are under divine judgment for their rebellion and their violation and their inborn corruption. The sentence that comes from God on all mankind is condemnation to eternal punishment in hell.

That is the blunt and shocking and stunning truth of the gospel!

**How do we know that we are all sinners?**

**What is the proof that we are all sinners?**

Everyone dies.

**Ezekiel 34:4**, *“The soul that sins it shall die.”*

**Romans 6:23**, *“The wages of sin is death.”*

If you say you are not a sinner, then you have to explain your death.

If you say you have not sinned, you lie, and you make God who says you are a sinner a liar, and that only compounds your guilt.

**Is there anything that can be done about my condition?**

God loves the world and offers them forgiveness and salvation!

God provides deliverance from

- Sin,
- Judgment,
- Death, and
- Hell

To those who have faith in His Son the Lord Jesus Christ, the only Saviour of the world.

There is eternal life in Him, forgiveness, escape from hell, and entrance into the glories of God's own heaven.

### **How do we know that that good news is true?**

The Bible, obviously, a book written by God, authored by God, lays out the message of God's love and forgiveness through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

The proof of that second affirmation of the Christian gospel is found throughout the pages of Scripture, Old Testament and New Testament. God has the desire to save because He loves sinners, and God has sent a Saviour who provided a sacrifice for sin that granted salvation to those who believe.

The Bible is the proof of that, and the Bible stands on its own internal merit as inerrant and absolutely true!

### **How can I be sure that Christ is able to save anyone?**

How can I be sure that Christ is the Saviour?

Jesus died and rose from the dead. He died a death that essentially was the wrath of God on Him, not for any sins that He had done, for He had done none. But the Father imputed all the sins of all the people who had ever believed through all of human history to Christ and punished Christ all their sins. He

died in the place of believers. His was the death for the sins of all who believe.

### **How do we know that His death satisfied God?**

Because God raised Him from the dead.

God was satisfied, His wrath was propitiated, and God raised Christ from the dead as a divine affirmation of the satisfaction of His own sacrifice.

Those are unambiguous truths.

- ✓ All men are sinners headed to eternal punishment.
- ✓ God loves and will forgive sinners who put their faith in Jesus Christ, and Jesus Christ is able to save.
- ✓ Jesus has offered the sacrifice that satisfied God.
- ✓ God declared that a satisfactory sacrifice by raising Him from the dead.

You are a Christian because you believe that. All these truths are the objective, historical realities about the gospel. All true Christians understand them, embrace them, and believe them!

### **How can I be certain that I have truly believed and received that salvation?**

We believe we are sinners.

We believe God loves us and has provided a way of salvation.

We believe Christ has the power to save, as demonstrated by His sacrifice and His resurrection.

Even though we believe those objective facts of the gospel there are times when we struggle to be assured of our salvation. Lots of people who are lack assurance of salvation.

## **What is it that steals a believer's assurance?**

### **Lack of impact:**

Lack of results in service. Some people look at their life and they don't see any impact. They try to do some things to serve the Lord but don't see much as a result of that. Someone in that kind of situation gets discouraged and wonders whether they actually possess the power, whether they have actually been saved.

### **Disobedience:**

You fail to obey the Word of God.

### **Inconsistency:**

You go to the spiritual high occasionally. You are here today, and your heart is lifted up in worship. You will find yourself a day later in a situation that you shouldn't be in, and you looked at that situation and you see inconsistency in your life.

### **Habitual sin:**

You have been a believer for a while, and you are still struggling with the same exact sins over the years.

**Satan tempts us to doubt:**

You doubt the truth of Scripture. You doubt the glory of God. You doubt the truth concerning Christ. You doubt a lot of things. That is a temptation.

**Neglect of worship:**

You come now and then, and then you wonder why you are not certain of your salvation.

The passage is going to give us the answer that is marvellous to this question:

How can I be sure that Christ has truly saved me?

**Galatians 4:1-7,**

This is the great doctrine of adoption!

Verse 5: "We have received the adoption as sons."

**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, <sup>4</sup> just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, <sup>5</sup> having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.*

God chose us,  
God predestined us to adoption as sons.

Adoption is a choice. Adoption takes place when someone makes a child out of someone born into another family. That is exactly what God does with us.

**John 8:44**, *You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.*

- You are children of disobedience,
- You are children of wrath,
- You are children of Satan.
- That was your family.

But God has chosen you, predestined you to adoption as sons, according to the kind intention of His own will

This only happens in Christ.

**Ephesians 1:3**, in His Son. “We are blessed with all spiritual blessings in the heavenlies in Christ.”

**Verse 4**, “He chose us in Him.”

**Verse 5**, “Predestined to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself,”

**Verse 6**, “in the beloved,”

**Verse 7**, “in Him,”

**Verse 9,** “in Him,”

**Verse 10,** “in Him,”

**Verse 12,** “in Christ”

**Verse 13,** “in Him, in Him.”

God only has one Son, and it is the Lord Jesus Christ. We are placed into Christ, and therefore we become heirs of God and joint heirs with Jesus Christ.

This is the great doctrine of adoption.

**John 8:35,** *And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever.*

God loves those who are in the Son because they are one with the Son. This is the marvellous reality of salvation.

**1 John 3:1,** *Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.*

He loves us enough, to save us from our sins which is on the negative.

On the positive He adopt us into His own family, into His one eternal Son, to share His full inheritance.

God's astounding love is the motive, the drive behind our adoption. He loves the Son, He places us in the Son, and He loves us the way He loves the Son.

We see that laid out so magnificently in John 17, where our Lord prays and binds those for whom He prays, all believers together with Himself and with the Father, in this bond of love.

- ✓ We are loved by the Father because Christ is loved.
- ✓ We are blessed by the Father because Christ is blessed.
- ✓ We inherit all that Christ inherits because we are in Christ.

This is how we are to understand our adoption. We have been placed into His true Son, and therefore are heirs of everything God possesses. This is adoption. God graciously places justified, regenerated, sanctified believers into His own family by placing into union with His beloved Son, so that in Him they become sons of God.

**How do I know that I am really in Christ and have been adopted?**

Confirmation of that comes in verse 6.

*"Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!'"*

You are sons, and because you are, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our heart. That is the Holy Spirit.

The Spirit of His Son is the same as the Spirit of Christ, The Spirit of God, the Holy Spirit all are same. God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts because we are sons.

**Ephesians 1:13-14**, *“In Him, you also, after listening to the message of the truth, the gospel of your salvation you believed also, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God’s own possession, to the praise of His glory.”*

When you were justified you were sealed with the Spirit of promise. The Spirit of promise took up residence in your heart. The Spirit was given to you as a pledge of our inheritance, which is coming later at the redemption of our bodies when we enter into the presence of the Lord.

You have a future inheritance.

You have an inheritance that the Lord has prepared for you because you are a true believer.

That inheritance is laid up for you in heaven.

**1 Peter 1:4**, *to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,*

This is so great!

Jesus said in **John 14:2-3**, *In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.*

We have a place. We have a full inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, unfading, and reserved for only us in heaven.

**1 Peter 1:5**, *who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*

So now we have this future inheritance!

We have a present protection!

That protection is the power of God!

This is none other than the Holy Spirit!

The Holy Spirit in us is the protecting power of God that secures us until we receive our inheritance. We are protected by the power of God, and that power is the Holy Spirit.

**2 Peter 1:4**, *by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*

The very nature of God is part of you. You are partaking in the nature of God. This is a reference to the indwelling Holy Spirit who provides for us this divine life and transformation.

If you are a true son of God, you possess the Holy Spirit.

**V 6**, *“God sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts.”*

This is very personal!

**1 Corinthians 6:19-20**, *Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? <sup>20</sup> For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.*

**Romans 8:9**, *If any man does not have the Spirit of Christ, he’s not of His.*

You are His, and so you have the Holy Spirit.

**Ezekiel 36:27**, *I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.*

**1 Corinthians 12:13**, *For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.*

**John 7:37-39**, *On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to*

*Me and drink. <sup>38</sup> He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” <sup>39</sup> But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.*

The Spirit is a flood of living waters in us.

The Holy Spirit takes up residence in every believer’s life, this is the evidence that you are saved!

You possess the Holy Spirit.

## **Adoption and being born into the Family of God.**

The Bible say we are born into the family of God.

Here it says we are adopted into the Family of God.

So, which is right?

**John 3:5**, *Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.*

**1 Peter 1:23**, *having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,*

- ✓ We are regenerated.
- ✓ We have been given new live.
- ✓ We are new creations.

It is true that we are born into the family of God.

We are both born and adopted.

**That's not possible in the normal human world.**

But we're talking about two distinctly different analogies or metaphors.

Bible does have quite a few metaphors like,  
Church as a kingdom  
As a vineyard, a flock, a body, a family, a bride etc.

We are both born into the family of God by regeneration and adopted into the family of God.

Both are essential pictures to have us understand the riches of salvation.

Being born again into the family of God determines your nature. You have died to your old life and by being born again you have the new nature. This is born again with a new nature.

In adoption bible talks about the inheritance which we are going to receive. The Lord has chosen to give us the inheritance.

The reason that might be important to know is that there are plenty of sons who have been disinherited. Father will never do

that. We are both born into the family and will receive the full inheritance of an adopted son.

Adoption connects with election.

Adoption connects with predestination.

### **How do we know that we have the Holy Spirit?**

**Romans 8:11**, *But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.*

**Romans 8:14**, *For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.*

**1 John 3:24**, *Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.*

**Romans 5:5**, *Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.*

The Holy Spirit is given to us. He is in us, in our hearts inside of us.

We will know by the ministry the Holy Spirit conducts in every believer. There are several ministries the Holy Spirit conducts.

## **He teaches us.**

**1 Corinthians 2:12**, *Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.*

The Holy Spirit shows us all the blessings that God has given us.

**1 John 2:27**, *But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.*

All experienced the instructing work of the Holy Spirit.

You have tasted of the instructing of the Holy Spirit. You have had a Luke 24 experience.

**Luke 24:32**, *And they said to one another, "Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?"*

Your hearts have burned under the glory of the Word of God, His own inherent glory.

## **Holy Spirit leads us.**

You have been led by the Holy Spirit. You don't know it when it's happening, you can't feel anything, but you certainly know it.

## **He comforts us.**

**John 14:16-18**, *And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— <sup>17</sup>the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. <sup>18</sup>I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.*

The trials of life and the difficulties of life, you have found peace and comfort. It is a peace that passes understanding, and people don't know how you can be so calm and so joyful in the middle of all that's going on.

You have experienced the comforting work of the Holy Spirit in your heart.

## **Conclusion:**

*V6, And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!"*

The Holy Spirit in you is crying.

The verb here means a loud, urgent cry from

- someone in profound suffering,
- someone in fear,
- someone terrified,

- someone in pain,
- someone in loss,
- someone who is deeply needy

What the Word of God is telling us here is that, “You know you are saved when you get to the point of suffering, and your instant response is to cry out, “Abba,” which means that you are saying, “Papa.” That’s the Aramaic.

You are saying, “Daddy.” This is the evidence that you are a true son of God!

You run to your Father and to embrace the Father’s arms.  
You know He loves you, you know He’s your Father, you know He has all the resources.

Unbelievers don’t do that.

An unbeliever might say, “Oh, God,” but not, “Abba.”

An unbeliever might get mad at whatever god he thinks exists.

But in the deepest and darkest experiences of believers, they cry out to God.

When you look back at some dramatic things in your life, what was your response?

You just ran to Him!

**Romans 8:15**, *For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading us to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry, 'Abba! Father!'"*

Who's crying, "Abba, Father," in Galatians?

The Holy Spirit.

Who's crying, "Abba, Father," here in Romans 8:15?

We are.

The Holy Spirit is crying, "Abba, Father," in Galatians.

We are crying, "Abba, Father," in Romans 8:15.

The Holy Spirit is operating through our faith! Hallelujah!!

The Holy Spirit crying inside of us. It's the Holy Spirit crying, "Abba, Father," Galatians. It's us crying, "Abba, Father," Romans.

The Holy Spirit connected to our redeemed Spirit, and together the Spirit is empowering us to cry out to God. That's where that boldness to go to the throne of grace comes from.

**Romans 10:9**, *"If you confess Jesus as Lord, you will be saved."*

Obviously includes believing God raised Him from the dead.

**1 Corinthians 12:3**, *"No one, no one can say, 'Jesus is Lord,' except by the Holy Spirit."*

So, it's you are saying, "Jesus is Lord," in Romans 10?

It's the Holy Spirit saying, "Jesus is Lord," in 1 Corinthians 12?

It is the Holy Spirit empowering our faith. It's like all other acts of faith, all other acts of faith.

It's not something we do alone, it's a partnership with the Holy Spirit, it's an inexplicable one.

You don't live your Christian life, the Holy Spirit lives it in and through you, and yet it's not apart from you.

**Mark 14:35-36**, *He went a little farther, and fell on the ground, and prayed that if it were possible, the hour might pass from Him. <sup>36</sup>And He said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will."*

They're in Gethsemane.

This is the darkest hour in the entire life of Christ up to this point. This is the deepest, darkest hour in His life.

Anticipating the bearing of the sins of all who would ever believe through human history, experiencing the fury and the wrath of God.

In anticipation of the horrors of that, sweating, as it were, great drops of blood.

In the hour of His deepest agony, what does Jesus say?

He was saying over and over, “Abba! Father! Abba! Father!”

This is the only time recorded in the New Testament that Jesus ever said, “Abba,” to His Father. It’s because it’s connected to the deepest, darkest sorrows of life.

Even Jesus in that horrendous situation ran to His Father.

You are a son, because the Spirit is in you.

You know the Spirit is in you!

Because He leads you, He teaches you, He comforts you!

You know He’s in you, because in your stress and disappointment and sorrow and pain, you run to the Father, and you say, “Papa! Daddy!”

- You say it without fear.
- You say it with love.
- You say it out of the desperation of your need.

All fear is removed, and you run into the arms of your true Father.