



Week 3: Family Benefits

February 20-26, 2022

Romans 8:14-17 | Chapters 6 & 7

The verses below are all about how the Holy Spirit works in the life of a believer. He guides you out of the spirit of slavery to sin and into a spirit of adoption.

ROMANS 8:14-17

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, "Abba, Father." For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children. And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering.

Paul taught that the Holy Spirit keeps us from falling back into slavery to sin and flesh, and He allows us to cry out to God as Father. He bears witness that we are children of God, and He helps us see our inheritance in Christ. Before we were spiritual orphans, held captive to the desires of our flesh. The Spirit arrives at the moment of salvation and never departs. On the cross, there was a legal transaction made by Jesus Christ, signed in His blood. Once we are joined to Christ, NOTHING can ever separate us from His love.

When we became God's children, we didn't just become children - members of the family - we became heirs. Being heirs means we are heirs of God's blessings and of all He has promised. Being heirs of God means we are heirs of God Himself, that God Himself is our portion. Life won't be easy; we're guaranteed struggles as children of God. But we can bear the sufferings we face because of the hope we have in our future glory: eternity in God's presence, void of sorrow, sickness, death and sin.

Look at verse 17. What does it mean to be an heir of something? If we're coheirs with Christ, what do we inherit?

What part of your inheritance excites you the most? Why?

The Spirit leads us to address as "Abba, Father!" Abba is only used three times in the New Testament ([Mark 14:36](#); [Romans 8:15](#); [Galatians 4:6](#)). It's an intimate and familiar way of referring to a father. So when Jesus called God *Abba*, He was communicating that God is a particular kind of Father. He's not distant and unknowable. He's close and intimate with us. Jesus eliminated any separation between us and God. We cry "Abba, Father!" because we are God's children.

What does it mean that the Holy Spirit “bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God” (v. 16)? When have you felt this confirmation?

What does a believer being God’s child teach us about the love that God has for us?

In verse 16, the first Spirit is capitalized, but the second is not. Paul was referring to the relationship between the Holy Spirit and the internal spirit of a believer. We can call God Father, because the Spirit continually affirms we are His children. This status isn’t based on what we have or haven’t done. We are fully known, and unconditionally loved. When we follow the Spirit, He reminds us that we are part of God’s family, and we have an inheritance in Christ.

Pause for a moment and consider all Abba has done for us. How can you remind yourself of these truths the next time you feel unloved?

Why is it important that you have confidence in your relationship with Jesus? When you are confident in Him, what do you feel motivated and empowered to do?

PRAYER

As you close your group time in prayer, thank God for the “blessed assurance” He gives us so we can be confident in who we are in Christ. Thank Him for sending His Son that we may have eternal life. Thank Him for answering our prayers and revealing His will to us. Challenge your group members to prayerfully assess their confidence and assurance levels in our Abba Father this week.

COMMENTARY

Romans 8:14-17

8:14-15. The Spirit’s leadership is continuous and on going. Those who are led in this way are God’s sons. This family analogy is important. Just as children bear physical resemblance to their parents, they also will mimic much of their parent’s behavior. Though Paul had used the analogy of slavery favorably to describe our obligation as Christians, here he portrayed it negatively. To have a spirit of slavery is to submit to the life of the flesh that Paul described earlier.

8:16-17. We have a new relationship with God through Christ. The Holy Spirit shares this reassurance together with our spirit. Adoption in first- century Rome ensured the adopted

child had full inheritance rights. So it is with our adoption by God into His family. The term co-heirs with Christ emphasizes the reality of this great privilege. The description emphasizes our closeness to God and His genuine love for us as His children.