



## **“The Spirit of Adoption”** (Romans 8:13–25)(6.19.22)

Romans 8:13–25 (ESV)

**13** For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. **14** For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. **15** For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” **16** The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, **17** and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

**18** For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. **19** For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. **20** For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope **21** that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. **22** For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. **23** And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. **24** For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees?

**25** But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

THE word of God for the People of God.

LET US PRAY

## **“The Spirit of Adoption”**

INTRODUCTION:

Twentieth century English philosopher and lay theologian, G. K. Chesterton said, “This triangle of truisms, of father, mother, and child, cannot be destroyed; it can only destroy those civilizations which disregard it.”

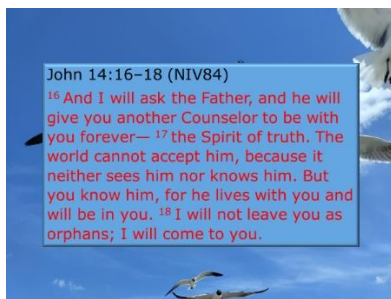


An Adoption Story

An Adoption Story – Mia Kendrick video

Did you catch that Mia was born with a heart ailment, but that very day, God was preparing this little girl for her forever family? She came with the spirit of an orphan, fearful and panicked. But, when she was received in her adoptive family, they all loved her and she blossomed. Her heart ailment was healed.

BODY:

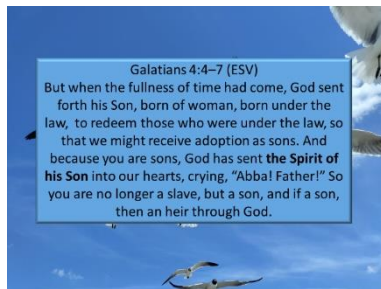


Before Jesus was crucified, He was preparing His disciples. John 14:16–18 (NIV84)

**16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever— 17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him.**

But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. <sup>18</sup> I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

Of course, Jesus is talking about the Holy Spirit. Depending on the translation of verse 16, Counselor is also Helper, Advocate, and Comforter. In each translation, Spirit of Truth is always used. By sending the Holy Spirit, Jesus is saying the Father will be sending Jesus Himself, "I will come to you." That seems a little confusing.



We gain some insight from another critical passage about our adoption into God's family. Galatians 4:4-7 (ESV)

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent **the Spirit of his Son** into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

Not only does this passage proclaim the message of adoption, it testifies to the mystery of the Trinity. God in three persons dwelling within us, the adoptive sons and daughters of Father God. Jesus comes to us by the indwelling Holy Spirit.

Notice that both of these passages declare the same effect. The indwelling Spirit of Adoption, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" The Spirit of Jesus cries, "Abba! Father!"

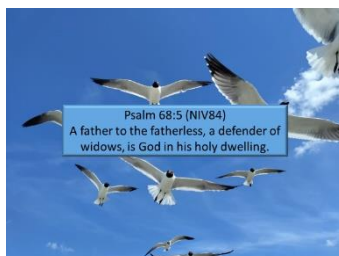
You have often heard it said that this is a term of endearment, Daddy! Father! But it is much more – it is a confidence in the relationship and in the person to which it is addressed, God Almighty. It is done in earnest.

During the Children’s Chat, you heard me share that just before I turned nine years old, along with my brother and sister, we were adopted by my step-father. My biological father was often away for many months at a time while he served in the US Air Force. When he was home, he was still absent because he was an alcoholic.

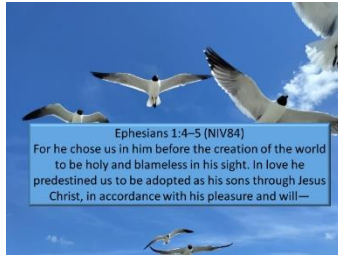
It takes a special man to marry a woman with three children. Mac, his nickname, loved us and we felt it. While he often worked two jobs, somehow there was often special family time.

I have always referred to Mac as Dad. I did not refer to Don, my biological father, as Dad. Even as an adult after we had reconciled, I did not call him Dad. I felt like he did not deserve this special title, and that Mac had earned the love and affection it implied.

No, we are not intended to be orphans. In today’s passage from Romans, there are three references to God’s sons and three references to God’s children. The Galatian’s passage was quite similar. No, we are not intended to be orphans but to be filled with the Spirit of Adoption.

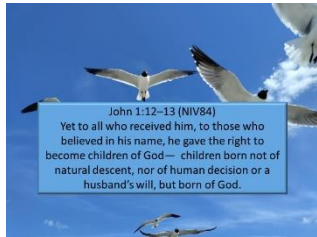


Psalm 68:5 (NIV84) A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling.



Ephesians 1:4-5 (NIV84)  
For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—

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John 1:12-13 (NIV84)  
Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

In the opening chapter of the Gospel of John, the apostle tells us that Jesus came so that we could become part of the heavenly family. John 1:12-13 (NIV84) Yet to all who received him, to those who

believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

Preacher Jimmy Evans while preaching on the Spirit of Adoption contrasted it with an Orphan Spirit. He said, "They are opposites and that abandonment is the worst fear of every orphan." The Orphan spirit overlaps with the spirit of slavery that results in fear.

The Spirit of Adoption tells us metaphorically that there is always a place for us in Daddy's lap. The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God. One commentator called this a "penetrating ministry - the impregnating of the human spirit with the realization of all that is involved in being "children of God." "It is the cooperative activity of both Holy and human spirit." The Spirit of Adoption tells us that God is in control and we can have confidence in our heavenly Father.

Our passage in Romans, after giving us this great promise of adoption, goes on to address the reality of suffering. I have preached before about the connection between suffering for Christ, suffering because of our faith, and the glory that comes to us. We obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We have a sustaining hope. The fulfillment of our adoption as children of God is the redemption of our bodies. This refers to our heavenly glorified bodies in the culmination of the Kingdom of God.



In the book, *Ministering to Twenty-First Century Families* by Dennis Rainey, there is an Appendix for The Family Manifesto. Here are two excerpts from that manifesto:

## **Fathers**

We believe God has charged a father to execute the responsibilities of a family leader. He is accountable before God to lead his family by sacrificially loving his wife and children and by providing for their physical, spiritual, and emotional needs. We believe the greatest way a father can love his children is to love their mother. We believe children gain much of their concept of God from their fathers. We believe a father should teach his children, by instruction and example, truth from the Bible and how to apply it practically in daily life. Therefore, a father should spend a quantity of time, as well as quality time, with each child.

We believe a father should demonstrate godly character revealed in humility, tenderness, and patience toward his children. We believe a father should demonstrate love by practicing consistent discipline with each child. Therefore, we are committed to turning the hearts of fathers back to their children by emphasizing the importance of their role as "father." We are committed to exhorting every father to model a love for God and His Word, to model love for his wife, and to love his children.

### **God—The Creator of the Family: *Father***

We believe in the Fatherhood of God. The title "Father" implies that God is a relational being. The Bible reveals God has four primary relationships as Father: He is the Father of creation, of the nations, of the Lord Jesus Christ, and of all believers. We believe the Bible presents the title "Father" as one of the primary names Christians should use in addressing and relating to God. In doing so, Christians identify themselves as children who belong to the family of God. We are committed to proclaiming and demonstrating this truth about who God is and who we are, so that God will be glorified, and that He might use us to bring others into His family through a personal relationship with His Son.

We know that God is without gender, so why does the Bible emphasize the Fatherhood of God? Think about the relationship between mother and child. The mother carries the baby within her for 40 weeks. The mother gives birth to the child. Almost immediately after birth, the baby is placed in the arms of the mother. The mother nurtures and nurses the child at her breast. The bond is



natural and visibly evident. Love flows and grows through that connection. Because we know that God is Love, there is less need to emphasize the motherly character of God. We have seen it ourselves. Maybe the emphasis on God as Father is because of the shortcomings in human fathers.

## CONCLUSION:



"I read of two boys from the New England states who were drafted into the service in World War One. One of these sons came from a very rich family; the other son came from a

family where the father was dead and the widowed mother was barely able to eke out a living. These boys from the New England states met on the battlefields in France. They became close friends, buddies.

One day, news came that the widowed mother from the poor family died. The rich boy tried to console his friend and talked with him about it. But then as the war went on, the rich boy was mortally wounded on the battlefield. These two were fighting side by side, and it so happened that the boy who now had no parents at all cradled the head of the dying rich boy in his hands.

This boy who was dying said to his friend, "Friend, you have no mother. You have no dad. I'm an only son and heir to my parents, and I'm going to die. I want you to take my personal effects, my ring, my watch. I want you to take this very bloody shirt from my body, and I want you to go to my father's house if you live through this war and I want you to tell him of our friendship. I want



you to tell him that I want them to receive you as their son and to give you the inheritance that rightfully should be mine.

When the war ended, this boy from a very poor background made his way to a stately mansion and knocked on the door. The servant came to the door and said the master of the house is seeing no one. Since his son has been killed, he has been in seclusion. But the young boy, holding these articles in his hand, explained briefly why he was there, and before long, that father was there, conversing, trying to get news of his son's last words.

Then he held in his hand those personal effects and a blood-stained shirt and told that story. When he told that story, this father opened his arms and said, "Come, my son. My wife and I will love you because our son loved you. We receive you now into our home and into our family on his behalf.""

What does the Spirit of Adoption accomplish? We have demonstrated that you get your Heavenly Father. You get a family – all those brothers and sisters who share your Father. You get freedom, glory, and hope. You get an inheritance, a future.

Amen and amen. Let us Pray.