

Life in the Spirit, Part 3

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Romans 8:14-16.
- B. Romans 8 speaks to the topic of believer's adoption by God.

II. Adoption.

- A. This is a legal action whereby a person is taken into a family not biologically related to that family.
- B. God chooses those outside of perfection. (Exodus 2, Ester 2, 2 Samuel 9)
- C. God takes those as sons who were formerly enemies. (2 Corinthians 6:17-18, Romans 9:4, Ephesians 1:5)

III. We who are saved have received the Spirit of adoption.

- A. Believers have a no-condemnation status.
- B. The Spirit transfers us into God's family and confirms in our hearts that we are related to God.
- C. An adopted son in the Roman system is one who is chosen to bear the estate not merely one who is scooped up out of need. The same is true for a believer.
 - 1. The adopted one's ties were cut with the old family.
 - 2. The adopted person shared the same rights as children.
 - 3. The adopted person's debts were completely wiped out.
 - 4. The adopted person literally and absolutely the son of the new father under the law.
- D. Regeneration happens also alongside adoption.

IV. The Spirit confirms our adoption.

- A. We are led by the Spirit.
 - 1. If we are killing the deeds of the flesh, it is evidence we are being led by the Spirit of God.
 - 2. The Spirit leads by bending and changing our will.
 - 3. We are dependent upon God's leading. (Proverbs 3:5-6; Psalm 25:4; 143:10; Isaiah 30:1; 48:16-17; Jeremiah 10:23)

4. The Spirit leads by illumination through the Bible. (Ephesians 1:15; 3; Colossians 1:8; 3:16; 1 Corinthians 2:14)

5. The Spirit leads through sanctification. (Psalm 119:35, 33; Galatians 5:16, 25)

B. We are freed by the Spirit.

1. There is no fear in love. (Hebrews 2:15; Romans 4:15)

2. The Spirit of God produces confidence in us.

C. We are told by the Spirit. The Spirit comes alongside our spirit and tells us that we are children of God. (Isaiah 7)

V. We can enjoy the security of the Spirit by depending upon him for fruit and living out the truth. (2 Peter 1, 1 John 3:18)

Application Questions:

1. What is spiritual adoption?

2. Why is it important to have confirmation of our adoption by God?

3. How can we know that we have been adopted as God's children? Explain.
