

Paul's Letter to the
Romans



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1 CORINTHIANS 2:9

“Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and which have not entered the heart of man, all that God has prepared for those who love Him.”

Paul's Letter to the
Romans



ROMANS 8:14-17

New Status—Abundant Blessings.

1. The Spirit leads you. (v. 14)
2. You are adopted as sons. (v. 15)
3. You can cry out “Abba Father.” (v. 15)
4. The Spirit testifies on your behalf. (v. 16)
5. You are a child of God and heir (v. 17)
6. Suffering is all part of it! (v. 17)
 - ❖ The Cross, then the Crown

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ROMANS 8:14-17

- 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!"
- 16 The Spirit Himself testifies 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 so that we may also be glorified with Him.



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QUESTION

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



- 1) Is the Spirit testifying WITH my spirit that we are children of God?
 - ✓ "With" being in the sense of "Along with"
 - ✓ Both the Spirit AND we testify that we are children of God.
 - ✓ Here the Spirit stands in witness of our sonship to God.
- 2) OR, is this telling us that the Spirit of God testifies TO our spirit that we are children of God?
 - ✓ In the sense of ministering to us in confirming our status.
 - ✓ "Yes, you are a child of God."

According to **Jewish Law**, in Deut. 19:15, you needed two or three witnesses to confirm a matter.

- “A single witness shall not rise up against a man on account of any iniquity or any sin which he has committed; on the evidence of two or three witnesses a matter shall be confirmed.”
- According to **Roman law**, several witnesses needed to be present at an adoption.



“TESTIFIES”



Romans 8:16 “The The Spirit Himself [speaks out in witness] with our spirit that we are children of God.

If view 1 is to be adopted what Paul is saying is reminiscent of Matthew 10:32

- “Therefore everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven.”

ROMANS 8:16

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



- The more likely view.
- God, in His grace, comes alongside the believer and confirms to them as they go through the trials of life, as they wrestle with the flesh, sometimes falling, sometimes failing, the Spirit of God Himself comes alongside us and graciously provides us with the assurance we need to persevere.

GALATIANS 4:4-7

“But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.....

“Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God.”.



SECURE IN HIM

“God’s children are secure in Him even when they are not as responsible and obedient to His leading as they ought to be. But that is not to say that a child of God will always FEEL secure.”

“The Christian who neglects study of Scripture, who neglects God in prayer, who neglects fellowship with God’s people, and who is careless about His obedience to God will invariably have doubts about his salvation, because he is indifferent to God and the things of God. Even for the obedient child of God, doubts about his relationship to God can easily slip into the mind during times of pain, sorrow, failure, or disappointment. Satan, the great accuser of God’s people is always ready to take advantage of such circumstances to plant seeds of uncertainty...But our heavenly father wants His children to be certain at all times that they belong to Him and are secure in Him....when we begin to understand biblical truths that have long puzzled us, when we experience God’s convicting our consciences, when we grieve for the Lord’s sake when we sin—we have the divine assurance that we are sons of God, because only the indwelling Spirit of God can instill such understanding, conviction and godly sorrow.”

MacArthur Bible Commentary



WORD OF CAUTION

"It must be understood that no spiritual experience is valid in itself. Every experience can be counterfeited and therefore, no experience is valid that is not solidly based in correct theology.



It is disastrous to build ones theology upon some experience; it is always necessary to explain our experience by the Word of God. In the course of the past centuries of church history abundant evidence has been accumulated to show that it is possible to mistake the voice of Satan for the voice of God, and that it is even more possible to mistake the voice of self for the voice of God. That is why we must always be willing to turn to the Word of God, why we must repudiate any voice that speaks contrary tot eh Word of God, and avoid any experience that is an end in itself."

Donald Barnhouse

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HEIRS OF A KINGDOM



Matthew 25:31-34 ““But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne.

“All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left. “Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed of My Father, *inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.*”

GOD HIMSELF IS OUR GREATEST INHERITANCE

Psalm 73:25-26 "Whom have I in heaven but You?
And besides You, I desire nothing on earth. My flesh
and my heart may fail, But God is the strength of my
heart and my portion forever."

Psalm 16:2 "I said to the LORD, "You are my Lord; I have no good
besides You."

Lamentations 3:24 ""The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "Therefore
I have hope in Him.""

Phil 3:8 "More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the
surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have
suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may
gain Christ,"



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“And if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.

- Suffering?
- Indeed! (next week)