

# SPIRIT OF ADOPTION OUR IDENTITY IN CHRIST

## **Point of Adoption: Salvation = New Birth | John 3:5-6**

5 Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. 6 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.

## **Adoption | Romans 8:15-17**

15 The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” 16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. 17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

## **Father & Child | Galatians 4:4-7**

4 But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. 6 Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “Abba, Father.” 7 So you are no longer a slave, but God’s child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

## **We have an Inheritance | Ephesians 1:13-14**

13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of his glory.

## **Transformed to bear a resemblance | 2 Corinthians 3:18**

18 And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

## **To be influenced by our Father’s thinking, renews our mind | Romans 12:2**

2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

# ADOPTION: THE HOLY SPIRIT SEALED THE DEAL

**Observe Romans 8:15...***The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."*

- **Adoption:** Greek: (huiiothesia) Strong's G5206
  - **Usage:** The term "huiiothesia" refers to the act of placing someone as a son, specifically in the context of adoption. In the New Testament, it is used to describe the spiritual adoption of believers into the family of God, signifying a change in status from being outside of God's family to becoming His children with full rights and privileges.
  - **Cultural and Historical Background:** In the Greco-Roman world, adoption was a common practice, often used to ensure an heir for a family or to continue a family line. An adopted son would receive the same rights and inheritance as a biological son. This cultural understanding provides a rich backdrop for the New Testament writers, who use the concept of adoption to illustrate the believer's new relationship with God through Jesus Christ. The idea of adoption emphasizes the grace and intentionality of God in choosing believers to be His children.

**Observe Galatians 4:6** - *Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father."*

- "Abba" is an Aramaic term for father, expressing intimacy and trust, akin to "Daddy" in English. This cry reflects the believer's new relationship with God, characterized by closeness and confidence. The use of "Abba, Father" echoes Jesus' own prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane (Mark 14:36), highlighting the believer's participation in the same familial relationship with God that Jesus has. This phrase also signifies the Spirit's role in affirming the believer's identity as God's child, as seen in Romans 8:15-16, where the Spirit testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. (Source: BibleHub.com Study Bible)

**Observe Ephesians 1:14** - ...who is a deposit guaranteeing our \_\_\_\_\_ until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

- Inheritance: Heritage, a pre-selected allotment of God's gifts



## CONCORDANCE ACTIVITY

Look up the following words:



**Adoption:** Greek: (huiiothesia) Strong's G5206  
(Found in Romans 8:15)



**Abba:** Aramaic: (Abba) Strong's G5  
(Found in 2 Corinthians 3:18)



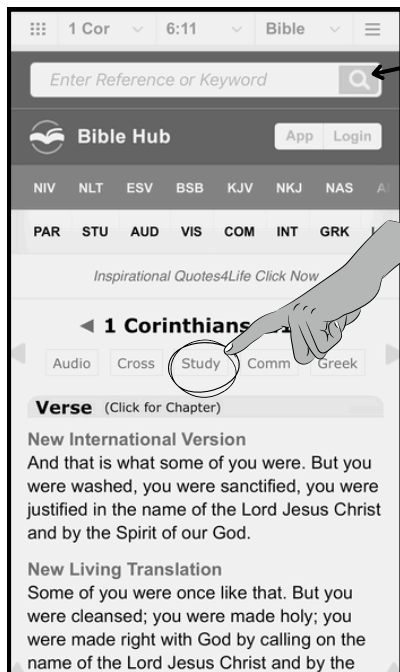
**Heir:** Greek: (kleronomos) Strong's G2818  
(Found in 2 Corinthians 3:18)



**Seal:** Greek: (sphragizo) Strong's G4972  
(Found in 2 Corinthians 3:18)



## ONLINE RESOURCE ACTIVITIES



### Observe 2 Corinthians 3:18

Go to BibleHub.com and do a search for 2 Corinthians 3:18 in the "Enter Reference or Keyword" box and then click on the magnifying glass.

- Once it loads, click on the button titled "Study"
  - Read the **Study Bible** section.

### Do the same for Romans 8:15

- Go to BibleHub.com and do a search for Romans 8:15 in the "Enter Reference or Keyword" box and then click on the magnifying glass.
- Once it loads, click on the button titled "Study"
  - Read the **Study Bible** section.



## LET'S INTERPRET...

- What do you believe all of these verses mean?
- What is God speaking to you personally through this study?
- Read a trusted commentary and compare to your interpretation.



## NOW, LET'S READ THE AFTER-SUMMARY TOGETHER

When you come to Christ, you are not just saved, you are adopted. Our new birth through Christ has us born into the Family of God (John 3:5-6). Romans 8:15-17 makes it clear that we did not receive a spirit that makes us live in fear or act like outsiders. We received the Spirit of adoption, which allows us to cry out, "Abba, Father." That word "Abba" isn't just a formal title, it is intimate, like saying "Dad" or "Papa." This means you are not a distant follower or just part of a religious system. You are now family. God is not just King or Creator, He is your Father. And with that new identity comes a whole new way of living.

Galatians 4:4-7 shows us that this adoption was not random. It was God's plan all along. When the time was just right, God sent His Son to redeem us and give us full rights as sons and daughters. Not servants, not slaves, but heirs. That is massive. It means you are no longer defined by your past, your sin, your mistakes, or even your family name. You now belong to the family of God, and you carry His name, His Spirit, and His promises. The Holy Spirit living in you is what confirms that you are His. That is your identity now...child of God.

Ephesians 1:13-14 takes it a step further and tells us that the Holy Spirit is the seal of this promise. It is like a guarantee that everything God promised you through Jesus is legit and yours. You are not working toward approval but are now living from a place of being already accepted and deeply loved. The Spirit seals the adoption papers. You do not need to strive to belong anymore. In a world where everyone is trying to prove their worth or build their brand, the Spirit reminds you that your worth has already been settled at the cross.

As children of God, we are not only accepted, we are transformed. 2 Corinthians 3:18 says we are being transformed into the image of Christ with ever increasing glory, which comes from the Lord who is the Spirit. That means your adoption comes with a purpose. You are not here just to survive or blend in. You are meant to become a living reflection of Jesus. God's inheritance is not just about blessings or heaven but about becoming a legacy of His love and His truth here and now. Through you, others should be able to see glimpses of the Father.

Romans 12:2 challenges us to no longer conform to the patterns of this world but be transformed by the renewing of our minds. As adopted sons and daughters, we no longer think the way the world thinks. We are not trying to fit in with what culture says is valuable or successful. Instead, we are being trained to think, speak, and live like Jesus. That means our priorities shift, our relationships change, and our goals become eternal. The Spirit is constantly renewing our minds so we live like people who belong to a different kingdom.

Your inheritance as a child of God includes peace, purpose, grace, spiritual gifts, and the hope of eternity. But more than that, it includes a calling. You were not adopted just to sit on the sidelines. You were adopted to carry on the family mission...to bring God's love and truth into the world. You are a living legacy, a reflection of your Father, and the Holy Spirit is the One empowering you every step of the way. The heritage you received is the Word of God, and belonging to an established Church, the Body of Christ which is eternal and does not need redefining. We have the honor of carrying it on to the next generation. What a privilege!

So if you ever feel like you do not belong, if you struggle with who you are or where your life is going remember this: You are not an orphan. You are not forgotten. You are not just a Christian in name. You are a child of God, adopted through Jesus Christ, sealed by the Holy Spirit, and chosen to carry His image into the world. That is your true identity. What an honor! Consider yourself commissioned...commissioned to live with Kingdom Authority.



## APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- **Applying Romans 8:15-17:** Are you living like a fully adopted child of God, or are you still approaching God with fear, shame, or striving for approval?
- **Applying Galatians 4:4-7:** If you truly believed you were a full heir of God's promises, how would it change the way you carry yourself, make decisions, or respond to challenges?
- **Applying Ephesians 1:13-14:** Do you find peace in knowing your identity and future are secure in Christ, or are you still questioning your place in God's family?
- **Applying 2 Corinthians 3:18:** In what area of your life is the Holy Spirit currently transforming you to look more like Jesus?
  - Are you cooperating with that process?
- **Applying Romans 12:2:** What patterns of the world still shape your thinking?
  - How can you let the Holy Spirit renew your mind to align with your identity as a child of God?

## CLOSING PRAYER

Father, thank You for the incredible gift of adoption through Jesus Christ. We praise You that we are no longer strangers or slaves, but sons and daughters who are fully loved, fully accepted, and given the right to call You "Abba." Thank You for giving us the Holy Spirit as the seal of that adoption, the One who reminds us daily that we belong to You. Help us to stop living from a place of fear or insecurity, and instead, stand in the truth of who we are in Christ. Let our identity be rooted in Your love, not in our past or in the opinions of others.



Holy Spirit, continue Your work of transformation in us. Teach us to walk boldly as children of God, reflecting the image of Jesus in our character, choices, and purpose. Renew our minds, shape our hearts, and show us how to live as living legacies of the Kingdom. When we forget who we are, gently remind us. When we feel lost, guide us back to our Father's voice. Let our lives bring You glory as we walk in the freedom, authority, and love that comes with being fully adopted into Your family. In Jesus name we pray, amen.

### *Homework*

If you have not experienced the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, begin to ask Him for it in prayer.

### *Next Week*

We will study Baptism of the Holy Spirit: A Distinct Experience.