

The Book of Romans

The Gospel of God

Romans 8:1-39

The Assurance of the Christian

“the Spirit is both the certain evidence that the future has dawned, and the absolute guarantee of its final consummation.” (Gordon D. Fee)

¹² So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— ¹³ for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

¹⁴ For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you have not received the Spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received the 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*.

(Romans 8:12-17)

The Spirit of Adoption

- The Holy Spirit both *confers* and *confirms* our status as children of God

The Spirit of Adoption

1. Sonship

- being led by the Spirit is a distinguishing mark of being a son of God
- we are no longer slaves subject to fear but have been transferred, transformed and confirmed as sons by the Spirit (“adoption”)

“Adoption”

- *huiiothesia* (Gr.) – to place as a son
 - the legal act by which an adopted son was chosen by his adopted father to perpetuate his name and inherit his estate
 - the Spirit-produced placement in and perfect solidarity with the Son (“sons in the Son”)

The Spirit of Adoption

1. Sonship

- being led by the Spirit is a distinguishing mark of being a son of God
- we are no longer slaves subject to fear but have been transferred, transformed and confirmed as sons by the Spirit (“adoption”)
- the Spirit attests to and produces in us a relationship to God as our Father (“cry out Abba, Father”)

The Spirit of Adoption

2. Heirs

- we will share in the resurrection glory of Christ, our Elder Brother, as resurrected sons
- our present suffering like the Son guarantees our future glorification with the Son