

Romans 8:10–16

¹⁰ And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

¹¹ But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

¹² Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.

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 as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.”

¹⁶ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

What the Holy Spirit Does, Part 2 ***Romans 8:15–16***

INTRO:

The last time we were here we listened as Paul described what the Holy Spirit of God does in us. We learned **(1)** the Holy Spirit will resurrect us from the dead. **(2)** He will also give us help in killing our sin. **(3)** Finally, if we will follow the Spirit’s lead, (ie. We seek to obey Him in the Word), He will give us victory and assurance of our salvation. To this list the Apostle adds two more things the Spirit of God does in us.

I. He Makes Us a Member of God’s Family (Verse 15)

II. He Gives Us Great Assurance that We Are His (verse 16-17)

I. He Makes Us a Member of God’s Family (Verse 15)

Romans 8:15 ***“For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, ‘Abba, Father.’”***

A. The Spirit we received is not a spirit which leads us to fear again. The word ***“again”*** is key. There was a time before the Lord found us and we put our faith in

Him in which we could only fear. We lived in an uncertain world without God. We had no guarantee that everything would turn out all right. We were in the place Paul described in **Ephesians 2:2**.

“You once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience.”

B. The Holy Spirit we received is not the spirit of slavery and fear, but the **“Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, ‘Abba, Father.’”** He brings us into a full relationship with God the Father. We can call Him **“Our God.”** We find a parallel idea in **Galatians 4:6**

“And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, ‘Abba, Father!’”

The word translated, **“cry,”** is to cry out. This is not normally a word for prayer as much as a loud cry of recognition. We recognize because of the work of the Holy Spirit of God that we are adopted in the family of God.

C. Who is our Father? Who is the One who lets us call Him Father? It is one thing for God to own us. He owns us because He made us and bought us back. It is a blessing beyond description that He lets us claim Him. **Psalm 46** says,

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, Even though the earth be removed, And though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; though its waters roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with its swelling. Selah.”

Do you remember David’s great description of the LORD in **Psalm 18**? Notice the **“my’s.”**

“I will love You, O LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my refuge, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.”

This is our Father.

II. He Gives Us Great Assurance that We Are His (verse 16)

“The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,”

A. This verse poses an important question. How does the Holy Spirit bear witness with our spirits that we are the Sons of God? It seems to me that they are the children of God? This is partially answered in our text.

B. In **verse 14** we were told

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.”

So, one way the Spirit of God shows we belong to the Lord is by helping us in our struggle against sin. When we follow the Spirit we do not do the works of the flesh.

B. Another way the Spirit of God shows us we belong to Christ is through His putting us into God's family. He causes us to cry out that God is our Father.

C. **Verse 15** fits with **verse 16** in that the testimony of our being God's come from our Spirit and His Spirit together. While we like to make it an objective witness, there is an experiential side to this assurance. Do you remember what the Lord Jesus said in **John 10:4-5**?

“And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.”

Do we often hear our Father's voice in His Word? If we do, you understand the statement of **verse 17**.

Do we know what Paul is talking about here? To know we are a part of God's family we must first have trusted Christ as our Savior.

Second, we need to keep the Lord Jesus as our God and King in our lives.

Hymn #204 ***Rock of Ages***