



The Spirit of Adoption in the Children of God

Sunday, June 6/21

Romans 8:12 - 17

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, 'Abba! Father!'. The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God. – Rom. 8:14-16

*The real question is: Have they the life of the Lord within? For I tell you that life can say to them: 'Your voice is too loud', or, 'That laughter was not right', or, 'Your motive in passing that remark was wrong'. In a thousand details the Spirit of life can tell them how to act, so producing in them a true refinement.
Watchman Nee, The Normal Christian Life*

Introduction:

The big idea Paul teaches in Romans 8:12 – 17 is that the presence of the Holy Spirit bears witness that we are children of God. But how? How does the Holy Spirit bear witness with our spirit that we are children of God? (vs. 16). The answer is: He leads us. Verse 14 - *For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons (children) of God.* But how does the Spirit of God lead us?

1. He leads us to put sin to death in our bodies (8:13 – 14)
2. He leads us out of slavery and fear to cry 'Abba, Father' (8:15 – 16)
3. He leads us to willingly suffer with Christ that we may be glorified with Him (vs. 17)



Study and Discussion Questions – The Spirit of Adoption in the Children of God

Romans 8:12 - 17

Open It

1. What impact can a good father or a bad father have on a person's life?

Explore It

2. What kind of obligation do Christians have? (8:12-14)
3. What happens to the person who lives according to the flesh? (8:13)
4. By what means can a person find life? (8:13)
5. What is true of people who are led by God's Spirit? (8:14)
6. What kind of spirit do God's children have? (8:15)
7. What are the benefits of being a child of God? (8:15-17)
8. What have you seen the Spirit of God do in a person's life?
9. How do you experience being led by the Holy Spirit?

Get It

10. What does unchecked sin and selfishness produce in a person's life?
11. How does seeing and experiencing God as a loving Father change your understanding of what it means to live as a Christian?
12. What benefits does God give to His children?

Apply It

13. What changes have you been resisting in your life that you are now willing to allow your loving heavenly Father to complete?
14. How do you think you share in the sufferings of Christ, and how do you think you will share in His glory? (8:17 – 18)
15. What is the primary basis of your assurance that you belong to God as His child?