

God's Wonderful Words of Life Series by D. Lavell Lee

Message Ten

- Adoption
- Ro. 8:14-17, II Cor. 6:17-18, Gal. 3:25-26, Gal. 4:1-7, Eph. 1:5

Rom 8:14-17 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

2Co 6:17-18 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,

18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

Gal 3:25-26 But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.

26 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

Gal 4:1-7 Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all;

2 But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father.

3 Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world:

4 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,

5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

6 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

7 Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

Eph 1:5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

1Jo 3:1-3 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

What a wonderful thing it is to be saved from our sins, to know that we are forgiven of our sins and are no longer under condemnation because of our sins. What a relief it is to know that we are no longer headed to hell but rather, we are headed to be with Jesus Christ. It would be great just to be a servant in God's kingdom. That is how the prodigal son in Luke 15 felt. Luke 15:17-19. He returned to his father with that humble attitude but when he reached home his father received him, not as a servant but as a son. Luke 15:20-22. We are God's children, not just servants. We are brought into God's family as his very own dear children.

FIRST – The meaning of adoption

Greek, Strong's 5206, Huiothesia, hwee oth es ee ah, the placing as a son.

1. The word, and the actual practice underlying this word, is based on Roman law whereby a wealthy person could adopt a child, in most cases a male child, and that child would come into that person's family as a child having full rights in everything the adopter owned. The practice also has Jewish history behind it.

2. Our heavenly Father has reached out into the lost human race to us who were in fact alienated from God and without any hope apart from God and in truth, having no right to anything of God's and we were headed to an eternal destiny of separation from God in hell. But now, God has saved us through our faith in the redeeming work of Jesus Christ and brought us into his own family as his very own dear children and has given us every right to everything that is his, including an eternal relationship with him.

SECOND – The Person who adopted us

Eph 1:6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

God is the one who has adopted us. What a wonderful truth this passage of scripture sets before us. Think about what despair we would have if we had no hope of deliverance from our lost condition and its consequence of eternal separation from God in hell. But God loves us and he has made provision for our rescue from out of sin into his very own family and claims us, as his dear children through the sacrificial death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Our eternal God of the entire universe has claimed us for himself.

THIRD – The assurance of our adoption

Rom 8:16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

Gal 4:4-7 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,

5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

6 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

7 Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

The Holy Spirit himself, who dwells within us, bears testimony with our spirit that we are God's children. In Roman culture, for the adoption to be legal, the presence of several reputable witnesses

were required who could testify if necessary to any legal challenges that might arise, even after the father's death. But this witness within us is first for the benefit of the believer so he or she can know that they belong to God, even when doubts arise within us. Who among us would want our own children to doubt that they belong to us? God, who loves us as his dear children, is so far greater than we are and has far greater love for his own than we do and certainly he wants us to know the we are his.

FOURTH – The evidence of our adoption

Rom 8:15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

**Phi 2:12-13 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.
13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.**

Mat 6:9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

In our **Matt. 6:9** text, Jesus taught us who are saved to call the God of all the universe “**Our Father**”. The Holy Spirit gives us both the certainty and inclination that we can call God our Father and in doing so, we do not feel like we are presuming or infringing upon the dignity or person of God, but rather, we are comfortable in calling God our Father. In our **Philip. 2:12-13** text we are told that God works within us and surely part of his working in us is the giving us the evidence that we belong to him. Part of the evidence that we belong to God is our spiritual growth as a child of God and our ability to understand God's word.

1Co 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned

Another very strong evidence that we belong to God is our ability to serve.

1Co 15:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

2Co 3:5 Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God;

Every one of us who belong to God can say the very same thing. We know for sure that we have not lifted ourselves up by our own boot straps but that the grace of God has changed and enabled us. Yes indeed, when God indwells a person, the evidence will be there. The very true desire within us to serve God and bring him glory in our hearts and through our lives is evidence of God at work within us. Others will also be able to see the evidence through our good works in God's kingdom.

Mat 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

1Pe 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

The term “Abba” is a very tender Aramaic term for Father which conveys intimacy, dependence, and tenderness in our relationship with our heavenly Father. The very fact that we have this compelling desire within us to cry out to our Father in prayer with our deepest need and greatest burdens is evidence of our child relationship to God. Our longing for fellowship and communion with him is sure evidence that we not only belong to him but we long for his loving fellowship with us. When the relationship with our earthly father is as it should be, who of us would not desire a close fellowship with him. It is even more so with our heavenly Father. We never tire of his fellowship and we never will.

Rev 21:3-5 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

FIFTH – The comfort of our adoption

Eph 1:5-6 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

Joh 14:16-18 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

18 I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

Joh 14:25-26 These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you.

26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

The feeling of rejection is something very painful for anyone to have to endure. Think how deeply hurt you would feel if you felt rejected by your own earthly father. It would be hard to bear for anyone. But not one of God's children ever have to feel rejected because we are “Accepted in the Beloved”. What wonderful comfort! In Luke 15:11-24, we have the account of an ungrateful son who, having received his inheritance portion from his father, left home and eventually lost everything and found himself far from home in a lonely and destitute condition. With an humble repenting heart, he headed home, hoping to be only a servant in his father's estate. But when he arrived home. He found anything but rejection. His father accepted him with open arms and restored him to all family blessings and favors. That picture is intended to show us just how compassionate and loving our heavenly Father is to us. Yes, what assuring comfort, we are accepted in the Beloved by our heavenly Father. Thank you loving heavenly Father! We do love you dearly.

SIXTH – The calming of our adoption

Rom 8:15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

1Jo 4:15-19 Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.

16 And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.

17 Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.

18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

19 We love him, because he first loved us.

The feeling of fear is another painful emotion. In fact, fear can actually cause emotional paralysis. Sin in our lives brings the bondage of fear. But when we know we are forgiven, we are released and relieved from the paralysis of fear because we are also delivered from the consequence of our sins. God the Holy Spirit gives us the sense that we are forgiven of our sins just like God's word says. If we sin, we are told that if we confess those sins, then God is faithful and just forgive our sins and cleans us from all unrighteousness.

1Jo 1:8-10 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

When we do as he tells us and trust him to do as he says he will, the fear of the consequences of sin will leave us and his own peace will indwell us and his love will perfect us as it is shed abroad in our hearts.

Rom 5:5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

SEVENTH – The pathway of the adopted

Rom 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

Col 2:6-7 As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:

7 Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving

1Jo 2:6 He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.

God does not only comfort and calm his dear children in the midst of this troublesome world world, he also gives us clear guidance by God the Holy Spirit who indwells us. We simply do not have the ability within ourselves as a source to safely direct our lives in this world and thankfully, we do not have to rely on our feeble abilities to show us God's way of life, we are led by God the Holy Spirit. In the Old

Testament, God provided his presence to direct Israel in the wilderness. His presence was expressed by a cloudy pillar during the day and a fiery pillar during the night. They moved only when the pillar moved and only in the direction the pillar moved. God the Holy Spirit indwells us and acts within us to direct our lives. The verb “led” is Ago, ag o, in the Greek and means to lead, to bring, to drive, and to induce. As we contemplate these terms, we are immediately reminded of Philip. 2:13.

Phi 2:13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

Inducement, yes, God wants us to follow him so he constantly works in us. The very word “worketh” is energeo, en erg eh o, in the Greek means, to be active, efficient, effectual, be mighty in, shew forth self. This is indeed very powerful for it is God in his own mighty power working in our inner being, our mind, inducing us and causing us to have a willing mind to follow his leadership. When we properly understand this, it is great comfort and encouragement in our everyday life here on this earth. It is another great assurance that we belong to God, that we are his own dear children. Our Father supernaturally reshapes and directs our will into humble voluntary conformity to his will and way.

Pro 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

Isa 30:21 And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.

Yes, God's dear children do not have to just wander aimlessly through life, but are constantly led in the paths of righteousness.

Pro 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. 6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

Psa 25:4-5 Shew me thy ways, O LORD; teach me thy paths.

5 Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day.

Psa 37:23-24 The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way. 24 Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand.

Jer 10:23 O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his step

EIGHTH – The riches of the adopted

Rom 8:17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together

Since we are in fact God's children, we then are heirs of that which is his.

Luk 12:32 Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

Col 3:23-24 And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;

24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.

Luk 15:31-32 And he said unto him, Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine.

32 It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found.

1. Our heir right comes directly from God himself. The term “if” here in **Ro. 8:17** does not carry the idea of our adoption being in question, but, rather carries the idea of “since” we are children.

2. We are joint heirs with Jesus Christ. God's resources are limitless, therefore, our spiritual inheritance is limitless.

Eph 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

Eph 1:11-12 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

12 That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.

Heb 1:1-2 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

We are joint heirs with Jesus Christ whom God has appointed heir of all things and God is not about to disinherit his Son. Earthly treasures will soon fade away, but the things that God has waiting for his own will never fade away or diminish.

1Pe 1:3-5 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,

5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

3. Our God is clothed and invested with his own inherent glory.

Psa 19:1 <To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David.> The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.

Because we are God's children, we also share in his glory and will be finally glorified with him.

Joh 17:22 And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:

Rom 8:30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he

also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

NINETH – The consummation of our adoption

Rom 8:23 And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

Phi 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

Yes, praise the Lord, God himself has started a good work in our lives and without fail, he will see it through to eternal completion and continuation. Thank you Lord!

Sinner, will you turn from your sins and come to Jesus Christ and be saved right now?

Rom 10:13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.