

# The Benefits of Salvation Series

## Message: Adoption and Sonship

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We begin today by considering the noun *'uios* ("son"), pronounced "whee-os".

2 Corinthians 6: 17, 18: <sup>17</sup>"Therefore come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you." <sup>18</sup>And: "I will be a Father to you, and you will be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."  
BSB

Galatians 3:26: You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 4:6, 7: And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ. NKJV

Hebrews 2:10 For it became Him, for whom (*διὰ*, with accusative) are all things, and through whom (*διὰ* with genitive) are all things (i.e. God), in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the Captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. KJV

Hebrews 12:5-8 And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? "My son, [son of Me] do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. <sup>6</sup> For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives." <sup>7</sup>It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? <sup>8</sup>If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. ESV

Revelation 21:7 The one overcoming will inherit all things, and I will be his God, and he will be My son. (Greek to English Interlinear)

This word along with *teknon* and *paidion* indicates the filial relationship which the believer sustains to God the Father by virtue of the Father's adoptive act. God predestinates in love, God sends (sent) forth His Son, the believer receives the Spirit of adoption, and the believer waits for the adoption, even the redemption of our body.

Coming into the position of full and mature sonship is the goal. **Ephesians 4:14, 15:**

*That we henceforth be no more children\*, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; but speaking the truth in love, may grow up Into Him in all things, which is the head, even Christ.*

\*(*nhpios*; nay-pee-os; not speaking, an infant/minor; fig. a simple-minded person, an immature believer; babe, child)

We are to grow beyond the point of infancy and of being a small child, beyond the point of being a minor, and even beyond the point of being the servant son, to full sonship. This is the cry of God's covenant, the cry of His heart: **I will be your God and you will be My son. ('uios).** It is at this point that we have received such a work of grace that the cry of our own heart is: henceforth to do Your will, O God; and a body You have prepared for me.

**Hebrews 10:5ff:** *Wherefore when He comes into the world, He says, Sacrifice and offering You would not, but a body have You prepared me...*

This was the essence of Jesus' desire to obey His Father in all things. He had come to do the Father's will in a perfect, personal, perpetual obedience. **Hebrews 10:9, 10:**

*Then said He, Lo, I come to do Your will, O God. He takes away the first that He may establish the second. By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all [time].*

It is this that the Father desires to see in us, i.e., the spirit of true sonship.

In the New Covenant we see the glory of the ministration of the Spirit. In the New Covenant the Spirit of God's Son is given into the heart of the believer. All is by the Spirit, who works in the believer the spirit of a son. Thus Paul writes in **Romans 8:12-17:**

*Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. 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. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. 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." The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs— heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.*

As the children of God we can neglect and grieve the Holy Spirit or we can trust and yield to Him. We are to honor Him by expecting and accepting all that He desires to do in us. He is the great promise of the New Covenant, God's gift proceeding from the Father and the Son. He is the teacher dwelling in the believer's heart. He is the Spirit of faith, enabling belief. He is the Spirit of grace and supplications, supplying the power for obedience and fellowship with God. He is the one who transforms the heart of rebellion into the spirit of a son.

The transition takes place by a death. In Christ we die to sin, to the Law, to the "self." The soul that sins must surely die. All self-effort, self-righteousness, self-aggrandizement, etc. must die.

*Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ. (Hebrews 13:20, 21)*

As God raised Jesus so also God redeems believers and frees them from the power of sin to make them partakers of Christ's resurrection life. God works all. Sin demanded Blood, the Blood of Jesus, surety of the New Covenant. Jesus mediated this covenant to obtain for the believer peace with God, purity from sin, and power over every enemy of God. In the New Covenant the outpouring of the Blood prepares the way for the outpouring of the Spirit, who ministers the Blood in power. The Blood was shed for our redemption and sprinkled to cleanse the heart from an evil conscience. (**Hebrews 9:14, 10:22; Rev. 1:5; Ezekiel 37:23, 26**)

The spirit of a son comes to the believer as Jesus mediates the New Covenant (**Hebrews 8:6, 9:15, 12:24**), is surety for it (**Hebrews 7:22**), is its messenger (**Malachi 3:1**), and is Himself called a Covenant (**Isaiah 42:6, 49: 8**). Jesus came to establish and proclaim, to guarantee and safeguard the terms of the New Covenant. Christ is all. With a sense of sin comes a longing for liberty in the believer. Then, in the struggle to surrender, all hope of pleasing God dies as the Holy Spirit reveals the iniquity of the human heart. Only as the faith of Jesus interceding as our High Priest comes before the Father, as Jesus stands in advocacy in our behalf, do we find Jesus proving His dominion, moving in divine power, undertaking all that God requires and all that we need. The Holy Spirit works in the heart, Spirit to spirit, deepening the consciousness of Christ's righteousness as our only plea. To Jesus goes all the glory and praise as even our faith proves finite and limited before an infinitely holy God whose love is unlimited.

Jesus transmits from God to us the gifts and powers of the heavenly sphere. Trusting Jesus becomes the believer's way of life as he or she embraces the following assurances:

1. The Love of God, an infinite love, a covenant love, a pure love, a holy love, a bonded love, a sovereign love, a transcendent love.
2. The sufficiency of Christ's redemption, based upon His finished work.
3. The Holy Spirit dwelling in the heart as Lord.

What Christ has undertaken, He will perform. God is faithful, and He also will bring it to pass. God gives the grace that we might obey through faith working by love. The spirit of a son is one which desires to live in full and unbroken obedience and communion with the Father in Christ. As the Old Covenant taught the absolute necessity of obedience for a life of blessing and God's favor, so it also taught the failure of man to obey and keep it. Jesus as mediator of the New Covenant secures the necessary obedience sufficiently by giving a heart that delights in obedience and which has the power for it.

The spirit of a son delights to obey and keep the commandments of God. The spirit of a son understands that in everything the surety of the New Covenant gives power to maintain the obedience, that such obedience is possible. The spirit of a son says with Jesus, "I have come to do Your will, O God." The spirit of a son hears God saying, "I will be Your God, and you will be My son." The spirit of a son understands success to be obedience to the command of God, not out of slavish fear or slavish bondage, but out of loving relationship, out of kinship. This obedience is by faith which works by love. In its very nature, it is blessedness and joy. It is a delight, a "may," not a "must." This obedience comes by grace. (**1 Peter 1:2**) The spirit of a son trusts in the grace of God.

*"His grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all; yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me." (1 Corinthians 15:10)*

We can be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus (2 Timothy 2:1).

As grace pardons, so also grace powers.

The spirit of a son stewards the Word of God, the grace of God, the blessings of God, the love of God. With the right of free and full access to God, and with the duty and privilege of intercession, sonship involves dispensing the blessings of God's grace and peace, being zealous for God, honoring God, standing on the Lord's side. The spirit of a son claims and receives the anointing of the Holy Spirit, the inbreathing from Christ of His own Spirit and life.

The spirit of a son glorifies and honors Christ as it is indwelt and filled by the Holy Spirit. The spirit of a son lives in personal fellowship with the Father, honors Him, and honors the Holy Spirit who works all within. The spirit of a son desires holiness because the Spirit of holiness has been given to bring holiness. (John 17:17, 19; Romans 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 1 Thessalonians 3:13) The spirit of a son desires to have, maintain, and express the thoughts and intents of a holy heart.

Will you embrace this New Covenant wholeheartedly and enter into the spirit of a son of God? You can, as you humbly ask God to give you by His Holy Spirit grace to obey through faith working by love. Ask God to give you the vision of the heavenly life of wholehearted love and obedience in Christ. Ask God to reveal all that the Father desires you to be and all that He has provided for your being. And then offer yourself to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, without reservation, to be loved, to be sanctified, to be made whole, to be made holy unto the Lord. Believe for a vision of the glorious liberty of the sons of God. Cease striving in your own strength, serving in bondage. Surrender to Christ anew, confessing a willingness, by God's grace, to giving up all that is of self and sin, of iniquity and soulish. Accept and be willing to experience what grace will do by the Holy Spirit, whatever the cost to the old.

Let the Holy Spirit love you.

*Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited and redeemed His people...that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us, to perform the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember His holy covenant, the oath which He swore to our father Abraham: to grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve Him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our life." (Luke 1:68-75)*

*Mary Craig, D. Min.*

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