

## The Spirit of Adoption

There are many “spirits” mentioned in the Bible, and most of them are negative spirits or those that should be avoided. Here are three...

1. There is the **spirit of slumber (Romans 11:8)**, a punishment given by God to unbelieving Israel. Israel refused the Saviour, preferring instead to work their way into Heaven through the precepts and customs of the Mosaic Law. God’s people have many who probably accompany them in this slumber, many who believe themselves to be “good” even though the Bible resolutely declares there are none righteous, no, not one (Romans 3:10). There are many who slumber today among the modern churches, ignoring the message of faith.
1. In another place we find the **spirit of the world (1 Corinthians 2:12)**, a spirit that capitalises on unbelief and sin. Satan came to Jesus in the wilderness and offered Him this spirit. *“I will give You all the kingdoms of the world, all of their glory and power if You but fall down and worship me (Matthew 4:9)”*. The spirit of the world says that the things of this life are what should be pursued above all else. It whispers, *“he who dies with the most toys wins.”* Though the Word of Christ plaintively warns: *“For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? (Matthew 16:26)”* The spirit of the world still tricks millions into chasing ‘nothing’ - while losing everything. *“That God would open the eyes of their hearts... The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, and what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints” (Ephesians 1:18)*.
1. There is the **spirit of fear (2 Timothy 1:7)**. How terrible this spirit is, and how destructive is its force! The job function of the spirit of fear is to paralyse Christians emotionally and spiritually, so that the work of Christ in and through their lives will cease. One could ask, “Why is it that so many Christians have visions and dreams, yet never fulfil them?” One of the reasons that Christians do not embrace their call from God is because the “spirit of fear” and intimidation harasses them until they give up. But God frees His people from the spirit of fear, and replaces this useless thing with His power, His love, and soundness of mind. It’s the love of Christ that constrains us (**2 Corinthians 5:14**), the love of Christ that protects us (Romans 8:35), the love of Christ which passes all knowledge (**Ephesians 3:19**). Fear has no place in our walk with the Lord. We have not been given the spirit of fear.

**Romans 8:15** says, *“For you have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but you have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.”* We have received the Spirit of adoption! If you have believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, you are adopted into His family.

It is commonly thought that God is the universal Father of all. This, indeed, is the **spirit of error (1 John 4:6)** and not the **Spirit of truth**. The Bible is very clear in its assessment of mankind. There are none righteous. There are none “good” but God (**Matthew 19:17**). Our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, God Incarnate, rejected the title “good” when He was regarded by the sayer as no more than a mere teacher. The **Spirit of truth** declares that we are all orphaned from God because of Adam's failure. Man refused to obey God in the Garden of Eden,

and was orphaned from God – not because God died (as Voltaire and many other atheistic fools have believed), but because man died.

When we fill our hands with the forbidden, God cannot put the best into them. We must empty our hands and come to Him on bended knee, recognising that He alone is good, He alone is our Saviour - Jesus alone is the Christ - the Son of the Living God (**Matthew 16:16**). Orphaned by sin we all need the Saviour. God requires that all who would be in His family repent, calling upon the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ (**Romans 10:13**). The genuine believer is someone who has seen themselves as orphaned (alone in this world without God).

The genuine believer realises that he needs to be received into God's family by Grace. The genuine believer looks upon the Cross of Calvary with a heavy heart, knowing the price that Jesus Christ paid for him. The genuine believer has thrown himself on God's mercy – and has not been ashamed. On the day that you believed, you received the **Spirit of adoption**. God the Holy Spirit came to live within you the day you called upon the name of Jesus! He now lives in you, just as Jesus had promised (**John 14:17**).

Remember this... The **Spirit of Adoption** (God's Holy Spirit) empowers you toward intimacy with God. Intimacy is what was lost in the garden. Intimacy is what the Holy Spirit in us is crying out to God for - on your behalf! **Galatians 4:5-6** says, *“That we might receive the adoption of sons. And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.”* It is about intimacy!

**Romans 8:16**, *“The Spirit (Himself) bears witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.”* There is a ‘knowing’ in every Christian's heart because the Spirit bears witness with our spirit. God speaks to the heart of every believer reminding us, *“You are mine. I bought you with a great price. So now I want an intimate relationship with you.”*

**Romans 8:16-17**, *“The Spirit (Himself) bears witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And; if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ. If it so be that we suffer with Him, that we may be also glorified together.”* I want you to notice two phrases in this text, **“heirs of God”** and **“joint-heirs with Christ.”** Let's look at this last phrase first - *“heirs of God.”* You are a joint-heir with Christ. You are an ‘heir’ alongside of Christ. You are bound to Jesus in all things. This goes both ways. If you are an heir alongside of Jesus, then Jesus is an heir alongside you. Though He be God's only Begotten Son (**John 3:16**), and though He is the image of the invisible God, the Lord Jesus does not receive the greater portion and you the lesser. You are a joint-heir with Christ! Your interests are bound together, now and into eternity.

What a joyous statement this is. We are joint-heirs with Christ. This is our current state! It is not that we will be joint-heirs, but we are (right now). Unlike Jacob we do not have to deceive God, nor should we try. We are not covered with the skin of goats, and we do not stand before a blind God wanting a double portion. We are covered with something much greater than the skin of a goat, and our inheritance is not the pittance of Isaac. No, we are covered by the righteousness of Christ (clothed in Christ). We are joint-heirs with Him!

When trials come, we are still joint-heirs with Jesus. Joint-heirship means a sharing. The devil tempted Jesus, so he will try to tempt us. When we go through a trial, the “joint-heir” goes through it with us. Put your trust in Him who goes

with you! **Romans 8:17** ... *“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.”* Our way of life is Christ's way of life. We suffer with Him - He suffers with us. We inherit with Him -He inherits with us. He stands victorious - we stand victorious!

As Christians we are “heirs” of God. The ancient Levite Priest had no inheritance with God's Israel. The priest's inheritance was God Himself. We belong to God, and God belongs to us. He is, to us, “Abba, Father.” Note, the Lord your God is your fortress, the place you should hide. Nothing comes into your life that has not come under His review. If the Lord is your portion, your inheritance, your focus, then no matter what may come your way, you will endure. You are the ‘heir’ of the Infinite, the ‘heir’ of the Omnipotent, the ‘heir’ of the Omniscient, the ‘heir’ of the Creator of all that you see. By Faith, step forward and take possession of what is rightfully yours.

Remember, if we are joint-heirs with Christ, then we must ...

1. **Be loving toward one another.** We are heirs together with Him.
2. **Forgive one another.** Unforgiveness can steal our inheritance.
3. **Be gracious, not grumbly.** Remember, the first generation of Israel died complaining. Don't let this happen to us!
4. **Be students of God's Word.** Read the Word, study it, pray over it. Remember, Jesus defeated the devil with the Word. We are joint-heirs with Him – we can do no less.
5. **Be frequent in prayer.** The Spirit of God guides us as we pray – but we must pray.
6. **Be sure we are a joint-heirs with Him.** Does the Spirit of God whisper in your heart that we are heirs of God and a joint-heirs with Christ?

*“And all things that are Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine; and I have been glorified in them” (John 17:10).* Jesus is glorified in the things we share with Him!