

The Blessings of Adoption

Rom 8:14-17

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, 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. NKJV

When the Danish missionaries stationed at Malabar set some of their converts to translate a Catechism, in which it was asserted that believers became the sons of God, one of the translators was so startled that he suddenly laid down his pen, and exclaimed, "It is too much: let me rather render it, 'They shall be permitted to kiss his feet.

(8:15) For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear,

as in bondage to the law

as in bondage to sin

John (8:34) Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin.

as in bondage to Satan

2 Tim (2:26) and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.

but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."

Some translate this as 'adopting Spirit'

An endearing relationship

The Spirit of adoption works in the children of God a filial love to God as a Father, a delight in him, and a dependence upon him, as a Father. A sanctified soul bears the image of God, as the child bears the image of the father. (from Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: New Modern Edition, Electronic Database. Copyright (c) 1991 by Hendrickson Publishers, Inc.)

He uses both words for father

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

It may be because Jesus used these both when He called on the Father in the garden of Gethsemane Mark 14:36 And He said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will. NKJV

(8:16) The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, (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 Sunday school superintendent had two new boys in Sunday school. In order to register them she had to ask their ages and birthdays. The bolder of the two said, "We're both seven. My birthday is April 8, 1976, and my brother's is April 20, 1976." "But that's impossible!" answered the superintendent. "No, it's not," answered the quieter brother. "One of us is adopted." "Which one?" asked the superintendent before she could curb her tongue. The boys looked at each other and smiled, and the bolder one said to the superintendent, "We asked Dad awhile ago, but he just said he loved us both, and he couldn't remember any more which one was adopted."

In Romans 8:17, Paul writes: "Now if we are [God's] children, then we are heirs--heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ..." (NIV) Paul's comparison is to adoption. By our faith in Christ we become his adopted brothers and sisters--adopted sons and daughters of God. As fully adopted and accepted children, we share the same inheritance as the begotten Son, Jesus. No wonder all creation waits eagerly for the full revealing and adoption to happen! --James S. Hewett, Illustrations Unlimited