



We Are Children of God



How does God accomplish this?
We become a child of God by being born again!

John 3:3 "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is **born again** he cannot see the kingdom of God."

How does this happen?

born from above!

1 Peter 1:23 for you have been **born again** not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, *that is*, through "the living" and "enduring" **word of God**.

1 Peter 2:2 like newborn babies, **long for the pure milk of "the word,"** so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation

Word of God

Born again

Pure milk of the Word

Overview of Rom 8:14 to 8:17*



- :14 The Holy Spirit's leading us as **sons**
- :15 The Holy Spirit's adopting us as **sons**
- :15 The believer's intimacy as **sons** – Abba Father
- :16 The Holy Spirit's witness to us as **children** of God
- :17 The believer's heirship since we are **children**
- :17 The believer's suffering and glorification with Christ
 - **leading as sons and assuring us as children!**

^{15b} but **you** have received a spirit of adoption as sons
by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!"



From last week!!

We have a wonderful result of our adoption as sons!

by which – this refers back to the the Spirit (Holy Spirit)

we cry out – *krazō* - loud proclamation of fact with emotion
(present tense)

- The indwelling Holy Spirit is the reason we can cry out to God in this way **krazo**
- an onomatopoeia word – sounds like what it is !
- It is used of an inarticulate cry [our verse], cries from fear, cries from proclamation etc. edited Vine
- Matt 9:27b two blind men followed Him [Jesus], **crying out [krazo]**, "Have mercy on us, Son of David!"
- John 7:37b Jesus stood and **cried out**, saying, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink."

^{15b} but **you** have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!"



- **Now we have the believer's cry [loud proclamation of fact with emotion] to God - Abba! Father!**
- **Abba** is an Aramaic word for Father
- **Father** is *pater* in the Greek language
- Paul used the Aramaic as well as the Greek term to highlight the intimate relationship we have*
- Christ used **Abba Father** in His prayer in Gethsemane:
- Mark 14:36 And He was saying, "**Abba! Father!** All things are possible for You; remove this cup from Me; yet not what I will, but what You will."
- **Two paraphrases** of **Abba! Father!**: "Father, my Father" and "My Father, my own dear Father" * Constable

Today's verses Rom 8:16-17



16 The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God,

17 and if [since] children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs **with** Christ, if [since] indeed we suffer **with** *Him* so that we may also be glorified **with** *Him*.



¹⁶ The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God,

the subject

the Spirit – a particular/unique spirit

- not just any spirit
- many times will be followed by “of God”
- 1 Cor 3:16 Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that **the Spirit of God** dwells in you?
- “the Spirit” refers to God the Holy Spirit

Himself – *auto* - he himself and no other

- *auto* tell us the Holy Spirit is a person
- Rom 8:26b but **the Spirit Himself** **intercedes** for us with groanings too deep for words.

- He can be grieved
- He loves us
- He guides us

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main verb



testifies with - *summartyreō* - to **witness with** another

- joint witness with some other person
- to corroborate with evidence [at the same time] Strong
- continuous action is involved on the part of the Holy Spirit who is performing the action
- **human example**: in a court room where a witness corroborates your testimony before a judge
- Rev 22:18 I **testify** to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues which are written in this book.

16 The Spirit Himself **testifies with** our spirit that we are children of God,



testifies with our [the believer's] **spirit**

- so we are told that the Holy Spirit is continually expressing Himself in and through **your** spirit
- and that this expression is about **the fact** that **we** are children of God

Merryman

fact: we are children of God - present tense continuous action

- a permanent relationship maintained by God based upon our faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ on the cross
- The term "**children**" identifies our family relationship based on **being "born again"** whereas "**sons**" stresses our legal standing based on adoption.
- Just one of many of the Holy Spirit's ministries "**to believers**"

edited Constable

Ministry of the Holy Spirit in the Believer*



1. The Spirit **dwells** in believers.
2. The Spirit **gives believers access** to the Father.
3. The Spirit **has fellowship with** believers.
4. The Spirit **teaches** believers.
5. The Spirit **reveals** the glory of Christ to believers.
6. The Spirit **transforms** believers.
7. The Spirit **manifests** his fruit through believers.
8. The Spirit **gifts** every believer for ministry.
9. The Spirit **empowers** believers.
10. The Spirit **fills** believers.
13. The Spirit **frees** believers.
14. The Spirit **guides** believers.

* Hal Molloy

17 and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him* so that we may also be glorified with *Him*.



and

If
[since]
children

[you are]

heirs
also
1st

- since every believer is now a child of God
- being an heir is just a logical extension*
- all children who are “born again” are heirs
- also “you received the Spirit who places you as adult sons”
Wuest :v15b
- twofold reason for being an heir of God
- Roman law said even an adopted child was an heir*

* McCalley

17 and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him* so that we may also be glorified with *Him*.



heirs of God *on one hand* and fellow heirs *on the other hand*

17 and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him* so that we may also be glorified with *Him*.



On one hand...



17 and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him* so that we may also be glorified with *Him*.



On one hand...



[you are]
**heirs of
God**

2nd

* McCalley

- we arrive in this world as a child of Adam
- but when we are “born again” we are now a child of God
- but for heirship to be in effect there must be a death*
- since Christ died on the cross believers have already received their inheritance
- **heirship** is defined as a partnership by the words “joint”, “fellow” and “with”*

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On the other hand...



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- **fellow heir** - a joint-heir, or co-inheritor
- heir vs joint heir*
 - heir – a division among all
 - joint heir – all get the whole inheritance
- **we are joint-heirs with Christ:***
 - where He is **we will be**
 - what He **has we will have**
 - what He does is **ours**

On the other hand...



*McCalley

17 and **if** children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, **if indeed** we suffer with *Him* so that we may also be glorified with *Him*.



if indeed - *eiper* – intensified form *ei* – a fulfilled condition*

- *lit:* since indeed or inasmuch as - very strong statement of fact!*
- not a condition but an accepted fact*

we suffer with *Him* – present tense continuous action

suffer with – *sunpaschō* - to suffer with or co-suffers

- John 16:33b In the world you have **tribulation**, but take courage; I [Jesus] have overcome the world.
- 2 Tim 3:12 Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be **persecuted**.
- Acts 9:16 for I [Jesus] will show him [Paul] how much he must **suffer** for My name's sake.

* edited Merryman

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so that – *hina* - with a purpose that

we may also be glorified with *Him* – subjunctive mood

- this construction shows us God’s design: present suffering resulting in future glory*
- suffering with Christ is a necessary prelude for our being glorified with Christ* *Merryman

glorified with – *sundoxázō* - to glorify together or co-glorified

- an event that God will perform
- glorifying [*doxazo*] of God – to ascribing honor to Him, acknowledging Him as to His being, attributes and acts
- this verse begins the discussion of the believer’s “glorification”

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What does this mean for you as a believer?

- suffering qualifies the believer for being glorified with Christ – God’s will for all believers
- 1 Peter 4:13 but to the degree that **you share the sufferings** of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation.
- 1 Peter 4:16 but if anyone **suffers** as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name.
- 1 Peter 4:19 Therefore, those also who **suffer** according to the will of God shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.

Final Thoughts*



- The **purpose of a will is** to specify the heirs that may receive their benefit without fail.
- None would contend that there is a danger that all that God the Father bequeathed to Christ will not be delivered.
- Nor should it be intimated that a "**joint-heir**" will fail to get his portion.
- The revealed truth that God bequeaths His riches to His "**joint-heirs with Christ**" means that they are to receive this benefit, otherwise God has failed.

* edited Chafer

Final Thoughts*



- As Christ said, “Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am.” [John 17:24]
- In like manner the Father has willed to His heirs [believers] all His riches in glory.
- And to claim that they [believers] will not receive their portion is to assume that God is defeated.
- **Impossible !!** – praise God!