



Romans 8:14-17

Sons, Heirs, Joint Heirs

- *Rom 8:14 – NKJV “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.”*
 - ‘sons’ – *huios*
 - *adult sons* – come of age
 - In the highest sense - Jesus Christ is God's Son
 - *Rom 8:3 - ‘For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending **His own Son** in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh.’*
 - But in the broadest sense all men are "the offspring" (*genov*) of God
 - *Acts 17:28 – ‘For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.’*



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- But in context - what does it mean to be *‘led by the Spirit of God’*?
 - To lead - ago {ag'-o} – here, passive present indicative
 - According to Thayer – interpreted here in a most extreme manner – **impelled** in forces and influences affecting the mind
 - » See *Gal 5:18*
 - Directed to the saved – 2nd birth, both Jews and Gentiles
 - » *Gal 3:7 ‘Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.’*
 - **In context, being led is not service or guidance, but it’s who we are!**
- This relationship is confirmed elsewhere
 - *1 John 3:1 ‘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.’*
 - **And why does the world know us not?**



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- *Rom 8:15* – NASB “*For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father! "*”
 - *have not received* – active, aorist, indicative
 - *the spirit* – πνεῦμα, pneuma
 - relates to the Holy Spirit, but this is not what He is or represents
 - *slavery or bondage*
 - ‘used as a slavish sense of fear, devoid alike of buoyancy of spirit and trust in God, such as is produced by the thought of death (*Heb 2:15*) as well as by the Mosaic law and its votaries’ – Thayer
 - *fear (phobos)* – is this dread/terror or reverence here?



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- *1 Cor 2:12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.*
- *2 Tim 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.*
- *Heb 2:15 And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.*
- *adoption* – what comes to mind?
 - Used 5 times in the Bible and all relate to the relationship of God to His church
 - » *Rom 8:15, 8:23, 9:4, Gal 4:5, Eph 1:5*
 - Compare this to earthly adoption
- *whereby we cry, Abba, Father*
 - *cry* - present active indicative
 - » JFB – ‘expressing the spontaneousness, the strength, and the exuberance of the final emotions’



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– *Abba = Father*

- » ‘customary title used of God in prayer. Whenever it occurs in the New Testament it has the Greek interpretation joined to it, that is apparently to be explained by the fact that the Chaldee "ABBA" through frequent use in prayer, gradually acquired the nature of a most sacred proper name, to which the Greek speaking Jews added the name from their own tongue.’ – Strong – also *Mark 14:36, Gal 4:6*
- » Let’s look at *Gal 4:5-7* together
- » **A very special relationship we have for sure!**

• *Rom 8:16* – Darby “*The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit, that we are children of God.*”

– ‘*Itself*’ confirmed by other translations, e.g. ILG

- *autos* - without gender – simply refers to self



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- ‘*Spirit*’ – *pneuma* is neuter, but the Greek used also the natural gender as we do exclusively as in *John 16:13 ekeinon* (masculine {he}).
 - *John 16:13* ‘Howbeit when He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth: for He shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever He shall hear, that shall He speak: and He will show you things to come.’
 - According to Robertson – ‘It is a grave mistake to use the neuter "it" or "itself" when referring to the Holy Spirit.’
 - » ‘it’ is appropriate for the human spirit
- ‘*bears witness*’ or ‘*testifies*’ - implies jointly
 - present active indicative – it’s happening right now
 - **and not to the intellect of His saints, but to their consciousness**
 - » *II Pet 1:4*



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- ‘*we are the children of God*’
 - *are* – present indicative – **no voice!**
 - Blue Letter Bible – ‘In almost all of these cases, one can assume that the tense is Present and the voice is Active, especially when the sense is that of a command (Imperative).’
 - **Could it be that this is ‘such a done deal’ and reflects our oneness to the extent that no voice is necessary?**
 - *Children* here is *teknon*, not *huios* – *adult sons*
 - In the human perspective - ‘the name transferred to that intimate and reciprocal relationship formed between men by the bonds of love, friendship, trust, just as between parents and *younger* children’ – Thayer
 - **How is this act of the Spirit carried out?**
 - *I John 4:13* (knowledge), *Heb 2:15* (words), *Gal 5:22-23* (fruit),



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Rom 8:5 (attention), or is it more than this?

– Let's ponder on *I John 5:10* – ‘*He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.*’

» What is that witness?

- Rom 8:17 – NKJV “*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.*”

– *heir* – one who receives his allotted possession by right of son-ship

– *joint-heirs with Christ* –

- What is Christ heir of? – *Heb 1:2* – ‘*Hath in these last days*



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spoken unto us by [his] Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

- *if indeed we suffer with Him* – present active indicative
 - Conditional? *ei per {i per}* - if indeed, since, if after all
- What’s all this suffering about anyway?
 - *Rom 6:3-6, Phil 3:10, Luke 9:23* – is this by choice?
- *we may be glorified together*
 - *or jointly approved* – aorist passive subjunctive
 - Only Biblical use
 - when will this occur?
 - *John 17:24* ‘Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou loved me before the foundation of



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the world.'

- *1 Cor 2:9 'But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.'*

Notice progression from 8:14 to 8:17

**† Can you think of
anything more exceptional?**

*John 17:10 "And all Mine are Yours, and
Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them."*

