

TITLE AND NUMBER: 186. Adopted as a son of God

REFERENCE AND KEY VERSE(S): Romans 8:14-16

For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, 'Abba, Father.' The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.



LOOKING FURTHER: Isaiah 62:1-4; Ephesians 1:5-14; 1 Peter 1:4-7

What does this Bible passage tell us?

At first glance, this passage does not appear inclusive because it talks specifically about being adopted to sonship. What about those who are not male?

When this was written, it was the son who inherited the wealth of his father. Paul is emphasising here that everyone who receives Jesus into their life in the person of the Holy Spirit, receives everything that God has for us.

Adoption is a choice. Parents make a deliberate choice that they want a child and then that they want that particular child. We are forgiven through 'the riches of God's grace which he lavished on us' (Ephesians 1:7-8). Having looked at us and seen what we were like, God chose to make us His children. He sees our potential and wants us to fulfil it.

A friend who adopted a child tells me that they had to give a binding guarantee not to disinherit their adopted child. In the same way, we have the lasting promise of the riches of God's grace. The Holy Spirit is 'a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance' (Ephesians 1:14).

As children of God, we have a new identity. An adopted child drops the surname of their birth parent and takes on the name of their adoptive parent. In Isaiah 62:2, God promises us 'a new name that the mouth of the Lord will bestow.' We are freed from our ties with the past and given a new life.

Be encouraged that God has chosen to welcome everyone who calls on the Name of the Lord Jesus. And He blesses us with that lasting inheritance that He will be with us in this life and we will be with Him in the next.

Reflections:

- What does it mean to you that you are adopted into God's family? Pray thanking Him for what He has done for you.
- In prayer, sit quietly with your palms open and invite God to give you more of the 'riches of God's grace' (Ephesians 1:7).
- When Isaiah 62:1-4 talks about us receiving a new name, this may mean that other people start to notice something different about us. How can you reflect what God has done for you in the way you live?

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for? It's okay to talk to God about this.

