



Portion:

Title:

SCRIPTURES

- Romans 8:1-17
- II Timothy 1:7
- Psalms 68:4-6

HAND-PICKED ORPHANS

- Optional Condemnation
- Orphan Spirit or Spirit of God
- Hand-Picked by God

SEED:

"There is therefore now **no condemnation** to those who are in Christ Jesus, who **do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.**" Romans 8:1 NKJV

"For God has not given us a **spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.**" II Timothy 1:7 NKJV

FRUIT:

"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."" Romans 8:15 NKJV

"...Extol Him ...**By His name Yah**, And rejoice before Him. **A father of the fatherless**, a defender of widows, Is God in His holy habitation." Psalms 68:4-5 NKJV

NARRATIVE FOR TODAY'S SCRIPTURES: ROMANS

Last week in [Shards of History](#) (Romans 7:15-25)...

How can we begin to understand what Paul wishes to convey if we move off the target even one degree? Everything that landed us in this spot must be dragged forward. Paul has already discovered and declared maybe the deepest revelation imaginable. "I died, was buried with, and resurrected as a new creature in Christ. I am no longer a slave to sin, but have become a slave to righteousness. This death released me from my marriage bond to sin and Satan, and I am free to become the Bride of Christ." And this too must be the testimony of every Christian. It is so empowering.

But why would Paul then insert the diary of his struggle, his personal resistance to the outcome of that very revelation, here in the second half of Romans seven? Why is it paramount that you understand the nature of this section, that it is a diary entry? And why is it important for you to understand that it relates to your own personal journey? It's so you don't get confused as if Paul was experiencing these struggles at the time he recorded these words. All that he concluded as a result of his many years of wrestling to understand the transaction that occurs when one becomes a Christian, revelation recorded in the previous chapter and a half, had not been finalized, only to yield a guy buried in constant turmoil to make the right choices. That would not be all that

empowering; don't you agree? In other words, this diary entry midway through chapter seven is not permission to indulge your wrong choices, as if you'd be keeping good company with Paul. As if to say, "If Paul constantly struggled as a Christian, then it's fine for me as well!"

Rather, Paul is giving an account of struggles on his journey from the time of his conversion onward, as he fought to understand the fullness of his transformation. "I really can't comprehend the bad choices I've made along the way. Why did I neglect what I knew to do and why did I participate, at times, in activities and thoughts which I had grown to despise?" He knew that his weakness actually affirmed the goodness of God's commands, as they were meant to expose any remnant of sin that remained. He also reveals the final resolution that he concluded as a result of his journey. What you must decide is if you would rather join him in his turmoil or adopt the solution. Don't mistake what is being said here; walking away from every sinful passion takes total focus and commitment for each one of us, and that is possible only by constant access to God's grace, as we practice our faith. Knowing the solution and walking it out in every area of our lives are two very different things. Yet, don't be deceived, regardless of how difficult it may be at times, we are absolutely called to walk it out, just as Jesus demonstrated!

There has to be a viable explanation for how and why it is possible for someone to have died to sin, been freed from the bondage of Satan, and then united with righteousness, to still struggle by making the wrong choices. The answer lies in understanding what occurred at your born-again moment. And maybe equally important, what did not occur. The moment you surrendered your life to Christ you were given access to the Spirit of God and to His grace. But what didn't happen is a complete disconnect from your access to the spirit of man, with which you were born. It still has the power to animate your flesh, should you choose. And that is the rub; you have to make a choice!

And equally as critical is the understanding of your new identity. Sure you maintain access to your old flesh nature, and nothing good can come of that. But also you must recognize that your old nature is no longer who you are. And when you practice evil contrary the will of your new identity, it is literally not you who performs the dirty deed, but the sin that still dwells in your flesh. The new you is not a sinner, but a saint!

You may not like it and you may wish God had simply removed any access to the old you, but that would contradict the nature of God. God is love and love is a choice. Contrary to your abilities prior to coming to God when you had only one option—sin leading to death, now you have the choice to no longer sin. And

by having a choice we prove our love for God. Volunteer to surrender the option to sin and dive into the whole new world of freedom. True freedom is when you surrender all options except the godly one. That is the freedom for which Christ set you free. “I will no longer sin because God’s way is the only choice for me! Sure sin dwells in me, but that is no longer who I am—I am not the sinner!”

It might be valuable to offer another important perspective on these two spirits to which you have access. In your born-again state you were given access to the power of God that raised Christ from the grave. You were also permitted to use that power for good or evil, again so you might demonstrate your authentic love for God. The primary mechanism by which this liberty fuels the wrong choices is when you use God’s power to resurrect your old nature from the dead, that which had previously died to sin. Don’t be so surprised; you are given resurrection power, but you are not restricted on how you will use it. Rather than resurrect your old man, use God’s grace to flee from sin and impart life to those around you.

As a born-again Christian, two spirits dwell within you and each animates its own set of rules. One will animate the evil that remains in you and that sinful nature will enjoy every ounce of debauchery. Let’s call this the law of sin. Then there is the one which desires to be righteous; the born-again inner man that

delights in God's laws. This spirit is aligned with the mind of Christ. As you can see, these two spirits align with two different sets of laws. One spirit is married to the law of God and the other is in a constant battle with it, and remains in bondage to the law of sin and death.

When you recognize how wretched is the old nature in you that loves sin, you will appreciate all the more that you are no longer that person. The resolution already took place that freed the old man from imminent death. The only thing that remains is for you to distinguish the true you that now lives to obey God's commands from the old you that was resolute to satisfy your sinful passions. Maybe the most important detail to acknowledge is that your deliverance has already occurred. "Who will deliver me from the constant battle to do what is right? Praise God, Y'shua already did." Now it is up to you to decide to whom you will obey, your old nature and sinful passions which leads to death, or radical obedience to the law of God leading to a life of righteousness.

This week in Romans 8:1-17... Following his very sobering and humiliating diary entry, chronicling the many difficulties on his path of discovery, which of course culminated with the ultimate solution and resolution, Paul then inserts the quintessential safety net. He knows how men think, and self-condemnation is a disease that can ruin a man. To guard us from falling into that trap, we learn that in

Christ there is no condemnation. With repentance, our sins are separated from us as far as east is from west.

Yet still there remains this stipulation; you must choose to be animated by the Holy Spirit and not inspired by your fleshly desires. That does not mean you must live a mistake-free life, but instead that you are obligated to feel horrified by your sin. If you find yourself bathing in deliberate sin, and violation after violation of God's ways yields no conviction, then you most assuredly are not even in the family of faith. Think of it this way, "God has no difficulty dealing with your sin, as long as you do. If you hate your sin, God will erase your sin. If you don't, He won't! And, if you love your sin long enough, God will eventually turn you over to your own lustful passions and the depravity of your mind will become permanent."

And here we are again with another way of describing the two sets of laws Paul elaborated on in chapter seven. The one to which we are now obligated Paul calls the law of the Spirit of life. His assertion is that this law has set us free from the other, what he now identifies as the law of sin and death.

Then he sets forth a beautiful theological premise. Clearly God's law, that which was codified on Mount Sinai, could never produce righteous subjects. In fact, it was never meant to. Rather, its strength was to define and expose sin. Once plausible deniability was

removed, without excuse all of mankind became condemned for sin. God ultimately sent His son in the same type of human flesh as those who had been condemned, and He came as such not to condemn mankind, but to condemn sin itself. You see, in order to be righteous according to the law, there are stringent requirements for obedience. However, an old life exchanged for a life of “Christ in me,” a life animated by the Holy Spirit, satisfies all the requirements of the law because Y’shua fills in every crack with grace. Every shortcoming in the life of he who lives according to the Spirit and is not walking according to the flesh is erased instantly upon repentance.

It is not difficult to detect, so don’t make this more complicated than it really is. The heart wants what the heart wants. And know this, in eastern cultures, like the Hebrew one in the Middle East, when the mind is mentioned, it is best understood by the western worldview as the heart. When a man’s heart is determined to satisfy his lustful passions, his attitude, priorities, and actions—his entire life puts this on full display. Conversely, when a man is dedicated to a life animated by the Holy Spirit, that too is on full display—no one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket.

In God’s economy, these choices are not without consequence. A heart hell-bent on satisfying every sinful passion is just that; destined for hell. Death is imminent and as such, maybe this is the

mantra of such a man. “I am going to enjoy every ounce of my lewdness, depravity, and lust right now, because this little vapor of time is all I have. An eternity in the presence of the God of peace is off the table for me.” Again the converse is true for the man heaven-bent. The heart filled with and happily submitted to the Holy Spirit enjoys a peace that supersedes logic.

There’s one more thing that must be duly noted about the man fixated on his carnal desires. He literally hates God. He will not subject himself to God’s rule of law because he literally can’t! And as such it is impossible for him to ever be pleasing in God’s sight.

Let’s get personal. What about you? Are you the type who desires to enjoy every ounce of lewdness, depravity, and lust right now? Of course not. If the Spirit of God dwells in you that is simply not possible. When you were born again, the Holy Spirit took up residence in your heart, which means that if the Spirit is not present, then you are simply not a Christian. And if you are a Christian, then the old you who was infected with sin and death is dead, and the new you is filled with Christ’s righteousness, a life empowered by grace, truth and the Holy Spirit!

Let’s rewind for a moment and what is most notable here is that you already know the answer. Paul says “if,” but you know the Holy Spirit is in you. What you may not realize is all the benefits that come along with it. It’s like a new piece of technology or a new car

with so many features you never quite learn to access—all the immense capabilities you have at your fingertips, and yet over the useful life of such an asset, you never tap its full potential.

The power of Holy Spirit that raised Christ from the grave is in you! Let's call this resurrection power. It is accessible to you via a supernatural feature called grace. And here's the kicker. It's not meant simply to secure your eternity. Yes, that's the guarantee; you will literally die one day and resurrect into a permanent-glorified-incorruptible-eternal-immortal body. But wait! There's more! That same resurrection power that dwells in you right now, accessible via God's grace, is also animating your current temporary body, so you can live the most abundant, fruitful, effective and pleasing life in Christ at this very moment—and for every day until your dying breath!

Does this not make you realize the magnitude of debt you ought to feel toward Christ for what He sacrificed? He surrendered His human life for you. But wait! There's more! The greater sacrifice was much earlier, when He surrendered Himself from heaven and became a man—lowered Himself to become a bondservant to humanity. For such you should feel happily obligated to no longer seek to satisfy your past lustful desires.

The chasm is so wide and so deep that you can't see one edge from the other—and the pit is bottomless. Permanent death is

imminent for those who have nothing other than this life. It's already been clearly established what that looks like—they live solely for the satisfaction of their carnal lusts and passions. But a life transformed by an encounter with the Holy Spirit murders that old life and embraces a new life, which is both permanent from an eternal perspective, and becomes glorifying to God, via every thought and action in this life, from this moment forward!

And once again Paul makes a turn, each time seemingly to either introduce or reiterate a critical doctrinal premise. Might you be reminded that Paul is responsible for the majority of established Christian theological beliefs and practices. And although a pandemic of detachment from Paul's Hebrew Roots has propagated the uprising of thousands of denominations over the past twenty centuries, fueled by a combination of ignorance and antisemitism, this narrative aims to restore a connection.

The idea of sonship is not original to Christianity. The concept is paramount for God's chosen people, Israel, and the practice of their given faith. To understand this idea is not just beneficial but essential; on the already born-again side of the coin, understanding sonship is as critical as is how to get saved on the non-believer side of the coin. Only those who are animated by the Holy Spirit are true firstborn sons of God. And when we revisit what that meant for Israel, which is the root of your faith as a Christian, we can

recognize that the entirety of God's plan for humanity is to separate sons from sons. God makes the life-defining distinction between three types of sons: firstborn sons of God, firstborn sons not of God, and non-firstborn sons!

Paul ties together what was already clearly elaborated—you gained access to a new Spirit when Christ came into your life, separate and distinct from the human spirit with which you were born. Here, he says that human spirit is actually a spirit of bondage because it has no allegiance to anything other than its sinful passions, nor has it the ability to choose God. It is an orphan spirit!

However, in this passage Paul shares another subtle nuance about the Holy Spirit's character, not formerly mentioned. It is the element of adoption; the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of adoption. That is mesmerizing for a few reasons. It negates the need to be born of a certain bloodline to be considered a firstborn son of God—what a relief! And utterly beautiful is this thought. Adoption is a choice which requires a selection process, and God searched the pool of orphans in which you were swimming and He chose you!

We can close out this section with an exclamatory remark affirming that both spirits are available in us as Christians. The Holy Spirit witnesses to the spirit of man that remains in us. But what it witnesses is yet another mind-altering doctrinal truth-bomb. They just keep coming, and at a pace that might make you feel you just

can't catch your breath. Words can hardly express the scale of the spiritual explosion in Paul's premise. And may we not limit the magnitude of measurement to one analogy. It's the kilotons of a nuclear weapon; it's the Richter Scale an earthquake, it's the Saffir-Simpson Wind Scale of a hurricane, it's the Enhanced Fujita Scale of a tornado, and it's the DART System of a tsunami, all wrapped up into one formula and multiplied to the power of infinity.

It's quite frankly an extinction level event because every human involved puts his old nature up for extinction! How do we measure such a spiritual extinction event? You were not just adopted by God as His son, which makes you an heir to His kingdom; you became a joint heir with Christ. And here is where the immeasurable scale comes in. Your inheritance in God is the exact same inheritance as God's only begotten Son! And that means God considers you exactly like Y'shua—a firstborn son. And that is who you really are! Your born-again encounter served as the legal paperwork for your adoption; human orphans are hand-picked and invited into the family of God. It is the perfect demonstration of God's furious and astonishing love. And, our capacity to love God comes only because He first loved us. Measure that if you can.

A final stipulation is reiterated and we saw the legal details of such earlier. You have to suffer and die with Christ, if you also want the inheritance. Paul has certainly made the case that when you do

the cost benefit analysis, there is just no comparison. We will pick it up next time but the transition makes it obvious. "I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."

"Think in Bible." DJH

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S MESSAGE:

Everyone wants to be part of a family. In fact, God created the human family as the perfect representation of the Divine family. Quite literally, the human family is the image of God in the earth. Yet, in practice, in this fallen world, family dynamics don't always play out as planned. As humanity careens towards the end-of-days, the assault on the family has intensified. It makes sense when you think about it; God's plan is for the family to represent His image in the earth. And the enemy's chief strategy is to ruin that image—hence the wholesale destruction of the family unit and family values.

There is an epidemic of un-parented and under-parented children in the world, but none of it surprises God. Satan's assault on the family runs deep, destroying marriage and even the desire for marriage; gender and even the idea of gender; and children and even the birth of children. Again, no surprise to God. From the

beginning God had a plan; He is the Father to the fatherless! And He institutes His plan by way of adoption. The magnificence of adoption is that it negates the need to be born of a certain bloodline to be considered a child of God. Your born-again encounter served as the legal paperwork for your adoption; human orphans are hand-picked and invited into the family of God. It is the perfect demonstration of God's furious and astonishing love. And, our capacity to love God comes only because He first loved us.

And finally something else emerges which staggers the mind. You were not just adopted by God as His child, which makes you an heir to His kingdom; you became a joint heir with Christ. Your inheritance in God is an equal inheritance as promised to His only begotten Son! And that means God has placed you in the firstborn position along with Y'shua. That is who you really are! So, the next time you feel like an orphan, alone and unwanted, meditate on this utterly beautiful thought. Adoption is a choice which requires a selection process, and God searched the pool of orphans in which you were swimming and He chose you!

OPTIONAL CONDEMNATION

1. By Flesh or By Spirit

A. Condemnation is up to you!

(1) Your Walk Matters

(a) The quintessential safety net...

1. "There is therefore now **no condemnation** to those who are in Christ Jesus, who **do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.**" Romans 8:1 NKJV

2. Self-condemnation is a disease that can ruin a man.

a) To guard us from falling into this trap, we learn that in Christ there is no condemnation.

b) With repentance, God bypasses punishing us for our sins, and instead separates us from our sins (and their eternal consequences) as far as east is from west. The concept here is that you can travel east indefinitely and never turn west (the distance is infinite). This is in contrast to traveling north, which is finite, as you will eventually turn south.

1) *"He has not dealt with us **according to our sins**, Nor punished us **according to our iniquities**. For as the heavens are high above the earth, So great is **His mercy toward those who fear Him**;*

*As far **as the east is from the west**, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.” Psalms 103:10-12 NKJV*

- c) Those who choose the flesh are not living with reverence for God! Therefore, to avoid condemnation there is a stipulation.
 - 1) You must choose to be animated by the Holy Spirit and not inspired by your fleshly desires.
- d) That does not mean you must live a mistake-free life (*as per Romans 5:20), but instead that you are obligated to feel horrified by your sin—AND TO REPENT!
 - 1) [Sin + a Contrite Heart + Repentance = an exponential effect on Grace]: *“Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. **But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more,**”* Romans 5:20 NKJV
 - 2) *“**Have mercy** upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, **Blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions,** And my sin is*

*always before me. **Against You, You only, have I sinned**, And done this evil in Your sight— That You may be found just when You speak, And blameless when You judge.” Psalms 51:1-4 NKJV*

3) *“**Hide Your face from my sins, And blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, And **do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.** Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And uphold me by Your generous Spirit. **Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, And sinners shall be converted to You.**” Psalms 51:9-13 NKJV***

4) *“**The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart— These, O God, You will not despise.**” Psalms 51:17 NKJV*

e) If you find yourself bathing in deliberate sin, and violation after violation of God’s ways yields no conviction, then you most assuredly ARE NOT in the family of faith. Why? Because it is impossible to be enlightened (repent, receive the gift of faith, and be filled with the Holy Spirit), only then to

reject it and hope to cycle back around to repentance, as if you can start all over (lose salvation and then be born-again-again). NO! THAT IS NOT POSSIBLE!

1) *“For **it is impossible** for those who were **once enlightened**, and have **tasted the heavenly gift**, and have **become partakers of the Holy Spirit**, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, **if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance**, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame.”* Hebrews 6:4-6 NKJV

f) There is simply no sacrifice (not even the shed blood of Christ) that can save someone who believes such blasphemy. It would be like treating the blood of Christ like a temporary animal sacrifice, which can just be repeated over and over again. If that is your approach, then you will become guilty of the unpardonable sin, blasphemy of the Holy Spirit. (Read [The Sin that Leads to Death](#) for an in depth study.)

1) *“For if **we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth**, there **no longer remains a sacrifice for sins**, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. Anyone who has rejected Moses’ law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. Of **how much worse punishment**, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has **trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?**”* Hebrews 10:26-29 NKJV

g) Think of it this way, “God has no difficulty dealing with your sin, as long as you do. If you hate your sin, God will erase your sin. If you don’t, He won’t! And, if you love your sin long enough, God will eventually turn you over to your own lustful passions and the depravity of your mind will become permanent.”

1) *“And even as **they did not like to retain God in their knowledge**, God gave them over to a*

***debased mind**, to do those things which are not fitting;” Romans 1:28 NKJV*

h) Run from sin and practice righteousness. God’s people don’t sin! How is that possible? Sin was originated by Satan and Y’shua destroyed the strategy of Satan.

1) *“Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and **sin is lawlessness**. And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and **in Him there is no sin**. **Whoever abides in Him does not sin**. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him. Little children, let no one deceive you. **He who practices righteousness is righteous**, just as He is righteous. **He who sins is of the devil**, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. **For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil**. Whoever has been born of God **does not sin**, for His seed remains in him; and he **cannot sin**, because he has been born of God.” I John 3:4-9 NKJV*

i) If you are still confused because you, at times, find yourself sinning, remember what you learned in [Shards of History](#). The one sinning is NOT YOU!

1) *"But now, **it is no longer I** who do it, but sin that dwells in me. Now if I do what I will not to do, **it is no longer I** who do it, but sin that dwells in me."* Romans 7:17, 20 NKJV

(2) Two Sets of Laws

(a) Another way of describing the two sets of laws...

1. "For **the law of the Spirit of life** in Christ Jesus has made me **free from the law of sin and death.**"

Romans 8:2 NKJV

2. The law to which we are now obligated and its opposition! (Also Romans 7:22-25)

a) The Obligation: **The law of the Spirit of life.** This law has set us free from the other. AKA...

1) The law of God

2) The law of my mind

b) The Opposition: **The law of sin and death.** AKA...

1) The law in my members

2) The law of sin

c) The Law of Sin

1) Animates the evil that remains in you.

- 2) The sinful nature enjoys debauchery.
- d) The Law of God
 - 1) The one which desires to be righteous.
 - 2) The inner man that delights in God's laws.
 - 3) This Spirit aligns with the mind of Christ.
- (3) A groundbreaking theological premise...
 - (a) God's law codified on Mount Sinai could never produce righteous subjects.
 - 1. "For what **the law** could not do in that it was **weak through the flesh**, God did by sending His own Son **in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin**: He **condemned sin in the flesh**, that the **righteous requirement of the law** might be **fulfilled** in us who do not **walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.**" Romans 8:3-4 NKJV
 - 2. The strength of the law was to define and expose sin.
 - a) Once plausible deniability was removed, without excuse, all of mankind became condemned for sin. Let's connect the dots!
 - b) The law convicts the entirety of mankind of sin because that is how sin is defined. *Sin is lawlessness.* (1 John 3:4)

- 1) *"Now we know that whatever **the law says**, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, **and all the world may become guilty before God**. Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, **for by the law is the knowledge of sin.**"*

Romans 3:19-20 NKJV

- c) You could mistake that you were okay before the law was codified, but once it became "official," so did your death sentence.

- 1) ***"I was alive once without the law, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died.***

And the commandment, which was to bring life, I found to bring death." Romans 7:9-10 NKJV

- d) And if you think that makes the law imperfect, think again. It's not the law that was deficient; it was you!

- 1) *"For if that first covenant had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second. **Because finding fault with them...**"*

Hebrews 8:7-8 NKJV

- e) God sent His Son in the same type of human flesh as those who had been condemned...

- 1) *"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, **taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.**"* Philippians 2:5-7 NKJV
- f) And He came as such, not to condemn mankind, but to condemn sin itself. Some men practice their sin with a passion; they hate light and love darkness. When they are exposed to the light, their condemnation is certain.
- 1) *"For God so loved the world that **He gave His only begotten Son**, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. **For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.** **"He who believes in Him is not condemned;** but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And **this is the condemnation,** that the **light has come** into the world, and **men loved darkness** rather than light, because their deeds*

were evil. For **everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.** But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”” John 3:16-21 NKJV

g) In order to be righteous according to the law, there are stringent requirements for obedience.

Righteousness can only be achieved through a relationship with Christ; He imparts His righteousness to us when we have faith in Him! Man could never achieve this level of obedience on his own.

1) “But now the righteousness of God **apart from the law** is revealed, **being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets**, even the righteousness of God, through **faith in Jesus Christ**, to all and on all who believe...” Romans 3:21-22 NKJV

2) “Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained like precious **faith** with us **by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:**” II Peter 1:1 NKJV

3) “For they **being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness**, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. For **Christ is the end [goal] of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.**” Romans 10:3-4 NKJV

h) The stringent requirements for obedience can be satisfied when our old life is exchanged for a life of “Christ in me.” A life animated by the Holy Spirit, satisfies all the requirements of the law because Y’shua covers every sin with grace and sees us as if we are already PERFECT. True righteousness cannot be achieved by striving to obey the law in your own strength; it comes only by allowing Christ to live through you, not you living through you. Ultimately that will be demonstrated by your pure love for God and others.

1) “But the **fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. **Against such there is no law.** And **those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh** with its passions and desires. **If we live**

in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.”

Galatians 5:22-25 NKJV

- 2) *“To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory**. Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, **that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus**. To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.”*

Colossians 1:27-29 NKJV

- 3) *“I have been crucified with Christ; **it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain.**”* Galatians

2:20-21 NKJV

- 4) *““Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?” Jesus said to him, “‘**You shall love the Lord your God** with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and*

*great commandment. And the second is like it:
'You shall **love your neighbor** as yourself.'* **On
these two commandments hang all the Law and
the Prophets.**"" Matthew 22:36-40 NKJV

- i) Every shortcoming in the life of he who lives according to the Spirit and is not walking according to the flesh, is erased instantly upon repentance.

- 1) *"that the **righteous requirement of the law** might be **fulfilled** in us who do not **walk according to the flesh** but **according to the Spirit.**"* Romans 8:4 NKJV

(4) What has your attention?

(a) Fleshly Things or Spiritual Things?

- 1. "For those who **live according to the flesh** set their minds on the things of the flesh, but **those who live according to the Spirit**, the things of the Spirit."

Romans 8:5 NKJV

- 2. The heart wants what the heart wants.

- a) In eastern cultures (Hebrew/Israel/Middle East), the mind is best understood from the western worldview as the heart.

- 1) *"For as he **thinks in his heart**, so is he.*
" Proverbs 23:7a NKJV
- 2) *"For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the **thoughts and intents of the heart.**"* Hebrews 4:12 NKJV
- 3) *"A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For **out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.**"* Luke 6:45 NKJV
- b) When a man's heart is determined to satisfy his lustful passions, his attitude, priorities, and actions — his whole life puts this on full display.
 - 1) Hebrews 4 cont. *"And there is **no creature hidden from His sight**, but **all things are naked and open** to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account."* Hebrews 4:13 NKJV
 - 2) *"For **nothing is secret that will not be revealed**, nor anything hidden that will not be known and come to light."* Luke 8:17 NKJV

- c) Conversely, when a man is dedicated to a life animated by the Holy Spirit, that too is on full display.
- 1) *"Let your gentleness be **known to all men**. The Lord is at hand."* Philippians 4:5 NKJV
 - 2) *"A good man out of the good treasure of his heart **brings forth good**..."* Luke 6:45 NKJV
 - 3) *"Even so, **every good tree bears good fruit**, but a bad tree bears bad fruit."* Matthew 7:17 NKJV
- d) No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket. If you are living by the Spirit, the world will know!
- 1) *"No one, when he has lit a lamp, covers it with a vessel or puts it under a bed, **but sets it on a lampstand, that those who enter may see the light**."* Luke 8:16 NKJV
 - 2) *"With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You. Blessed are You, O Lord! **Teach me Your statutes. With my lips I have declared All the judgments of Your mouth**."* Psalms 119:10-13 NKJV

(5) The Mind

(a) Carnal vs. Spiritual

1. "For to be **carnally minded** is death, but to be **spiritually minded** is life and peace. Because the **carnal mind is enmity against God**; for it is **not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be**. So then, those who are in the flesh **cannot please God.**"

Romans 8:6-8 NKJV

2. Choices with consequences.

- a) A heart hell-bent on satisfying every sinful passion is just that; destined for hell. When you follow the dictates of your own heart, and worse yet, believe there will be no consequences, but rather that God will bless you anyway, you are worse than a drunken fool.

- 1) False Prophets: *"They continually say to those who despise Me, 'The Lord has said, "You shall have peace" ';* ***And to everyone who walks according to the dictates of his own heart, they say, 'No evil shall come upon you.'*** "" Jeremiah 23:17 NKJV

- 2) *"and so it may not happen, when he hears the words of this curse, that he blesses himself in his heart, saying, 'I shall have peace, even though I*

***follow the dictates of my heart'**—as though the drunkard could be included with the sober."*

Deuteronomy 29:19 NKJV

- b) Death is imminent for such fools...
 - 1) **Maybe this is the mantra of such a man:** *"I am going to enjoy every ounce of my lewdness, depravity, and lust right now, because this little vapor of time is all I have. An eternity in the presence of the God of peace is off the table for me."*
- c) There's one more thing that must be duly noted about the man fixated on his carnal desires. He literally loves his sin and hates God.
 - a) *"And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and **men loved darkness** rather than light, **because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light** and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed."* John 3:19-20 NKJV
- d) He will not subject himself to God's rule of law because he literally can't! And as such it impossible for him to ever be pleasing in God's sight.

- 1) *"But **without faith it is impossible to please Him**, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."* Hebrews 11:6 NKJV
3. Again, the converse is true for the man heaven-bent.
 - a) The heart filled with and happily submitted to the Holy Spirit enjoys a peace that supersedes logic. God will establish (support, fix firmly, stabilize) and guard you...
 - 1) *"But **the Lord is faithful**, who will **establish you and guard you** from the evil one."* II Thessalonians 3:3 NKJV
 - b) The Lord is faithful...
 - 1) *"Let your gentleness be known to all men. **The Lord is at hand**. Be anxious for nothing, but **in everything** by **prayer and supplication**, with **thanksgiving**, let your **requests** be made known to God; and **the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus**. Finally, brethren, whatever things are **true**, whatever things are **noble**, whatever things are **just**, whatever things are **pure**, whatever things are **lovely**, whatever*

*things are of **good** report, if there is **any** virtue and if there is **anything praiseworthy**—**meditate on these things**. The things which you **learned and received and heard and saw** in me, these do, and **the God of peace will be with you.**”*

Philippians 4:5-9 NKJV

- c) Here's the way it works...
 - 1) The Lord is instantly available to you!
 - 2) You have ZERO reason for anxiety, but if you begin to feel overwhelmed—pray with intense desire as if your life depends on it.
 - 3) Thank God for everything, even the very trial that is igniting the need for prayer; and then be clear with the Lord what it is you need.
- d) He already knows; you are telling Him so you recognize what you need. And if you are missing His will, He will not grant your request, so you have no need to keep begging for the same thing—**CHANGE YOUR REQUEST IF NECESSARY!**
 - 1) *“Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we **ask anything according to His will, He hears us**. And **if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the***

petitions that we have asked of Him.” I John
5:14-15 NKJV

- e) Once that is dialed in, and you hit the exact request, a peace will overcome you that terminates the anxiety that was building!
 - 1) You won't understand it with your intellect, but that is not required, nor recommended!
 - 2) This is God's preferred mechanism of stabilizing and guarding you.
- f) Then mediate and focus on the following:
 - 1) Truth
 - 2) God's character.
 - 3) Justice
 - 4) Purity
 - 5) Beautiful and pleasant things.
 - 6) All things good!
 - 7) Anything that is right in God's eyes!
 - 8) Anything worth praising in God's eyes!
 - 9) Anything you learned about, agreed with, heard about, or witnessed about God's goodness for His people!
 - 10) Then God's Peace will overwhelm you and all anxiety will be abolished!

ORPHAN SPIRIT OR SPIRIT OF GOD

2. According to the Flesh or according to the Spirit?

A. How are you living?

(1) Does the Spirit of God dwell in you?

(a) The body is dead because of sin; The Spirit is life!

1. "But **you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if** indeed **the Spirit of God dwells in you**. Now if anyone **does not have the Spirit** of Christ, he is **not His**. And **if Christ is in you**, the **body is dead** because of **sin**, but the **Spirit is life** because of **righteousness**."

Romans 8:9-10 NKJV

2. Let's get personal. What about you?

- a) Are you the type who desires to enjoy every ounce of lewdness, depravity, and lust right now?
- b) If the Spirit of God dwells in you, that is simply not possible.
- c) When you were born again, the Holy Spirit took up residence in your heart, which means that if the Spirit is not present, then you are simply not a Christian.
- d) And if you are a Christian, then the old you who was infected with sin and death is dead, and the

new you is filled with Christ's righteousness, a life empowered by grace, truth and the Holy Spirit!

1) *"But you have not so learned Christ, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: that you **put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man** which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and **be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God**, in true righteousness and holiness."* Ephesians 4:20-24 NKJV

2) *"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of **the only begotten** of the Father, full of **grace and truth**."* John 1:14 NKJV

3. Can it be any more obvious?

- a) If you have Christ in you, you are a new man!
- b) Gone are all your old ways of thinking and acting.

1) *"For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in **doing the will of the Gentiles**—when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness,*

revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries.” 1 Peter 4:3 NKJV

(2) Does the Spirit of God dwell in you?

(a) You know the answer.

1. “But if **the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead** dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will **also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.**” Romans 8:11 NKJV

2. The answer is yes, but...

a) What you may not realize is all the benefits that come along with it.

1) It’s like a new piece of technology or a new car with so many features you never quite learn to access, all the immense capabilities you have at your fingertips, and yet over the useful life of such an asset, you never tap its full potential.

b) The power of Holy Spirit that raised Christ from the grave is in you! Let’s call this resurrection power.

1) *“and what is the exceeding greatness of **His power toward us who believe**, according to the working of His mighty power **which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead***

and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,” Ephesians 1:19-20 NKJV

- c) It is accessible to you via a supernatural feature called grace.
 - 1) It's not meant simply to secure your eternity.
 - 2) Yes, you will literally die one day and resurrect into a permanent-glorified-incorruptible-eternal-immortal body.
 - 3) But wait! There's more!
- d) That same resurrection power that dwells in you right now, accessible via God's grace, is also animating your current temporary body, so you can live the most abundant, fruitful, effective and pleasing life in Christ at this very moment—and for every day until your dying breath!
 - 1) *“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom **also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand**, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.” Romans 5:1-2 NKJV*

e) What this means is that the best life you could possibly live now is available because you have access to God's grace.

1) *"For **bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things**, having promise of the **life that now is and of that which is to come**."* I Timothy 4:8 NKJV

(3) We should feel an overwhelming debt of gratitude!

(a) We owe it to God to live for God!

1. "Therefore, brethren, we are **debtors—not to the flesh**, to live according to the flesh." Romans 8:12 NKJV

2. Do you realize the magnitude of debt you ought to feel toward Christ for what He sacrificed?

a) He surrendered His human life for you.

b) But wait! There's more!

1) The greater sacrifice was when He surrendered Himself from heaven and became a man—lowered Himself to become a bondservant.

2) For such you should feel happily obligated to no longer seek to satisfy your past lustful desires.

(4) A Hebrew Bondservant: A Voluntary Slavery (See: [Slavery](#))

(a) Y'shua came as a bondservant.

1. A **Hebrew Bondservant** is a slave who has earned the right to go free, but volunteers to stay in service of his master forever.

a) Where does identifying as a bondservant originate?

1) *“If you buy a **Hebrew servant**, he shall serve six years; and in the seventh **he shall go out free** and pay nothing. If he comes in by himself, he shall go out by himself; if he comes in married, then his wife shall go out with him. **If his master has given him a wife, and she has borne him sons or daughters, the wife and her children shall be her master’s, and he shall go out by himself. But if the servant plainly says, ‘I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free,**’ then his master shall **bring him to the judges**. He shall also bring him to the door, or to the doorpost, and his master **shall pierce his ear** with an awl; and **he shall serve him forever.**” Exodus 21:2-6 NKJV*

2. Facts about the Hebrew bondservant...

a) A Hebrew bondservant (slave) was treated like a member of the family and subsequently would be freely released after seven years of service.

- b) However, if he gained a wife and children during his service, they could not go free with him. As such, he had to make a one-time binding permanent decision.
 - c) He could leave forever on his own (or with his wife if he was married before he became a slave), or if he loves his master and his family, he could choose to stay forever.
 - d) If he chooses to stay, he is publicly pierced as a sign of his choice, *"I will stay forever because I love my master and my wife!"*
3. This is precisely what Y'shua did in the Garden of Gethsemane when He made His final binding permanent decision to stay, and on the cross when He was pierced.
- a) When did Y'shua **choose to become a bondservant?**
 - 1) *"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, **who, being in the form of God**, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And **being found in***

appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross." Philippians 2:5-8 NKJV

2) He became a bondservant when left behind His form of God and came as a man.

b) When did Y'shua **choose to remain a bondservant?**

1) *"And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and prayed, saying, **"Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done."*** Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him. And ***being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.***" Luke 22:41-44 NKJV

c) He chose to remain a bondservant when in the Garden, He chose to stay.

- 1) Y'shua is praying in the Garden on the night He was betrayed... He knew what was coming.
- 2) He could leave and abandon the mission; He could go free, return to His previous state of

existence in the spirit realm, *“being in the form of God”*.

- 3) However, the rule says that because He received His bride (that’s you) while a **bondservant**, He would not be able to keep her.
 - 4) He had a choice: Leave without His bride (that’s you!), or if He loves His Master (His Father) and loved His wife (You, the Church), He could choose to stay forever and get pierced.
 - 5) What did He choose?
- d) When did Y’shua make is **final binding permanent decision to stay?**
- 1) In the midst of His betrayal, He affirmed His decision, even though it was clear He had the ability to leave! He went to the cross and stayed on the cross to his death.
- e) He chose to submit as a servant and not fight.
- 1) *“But Jesus said to him, “Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Or **do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels? How then***

could the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must happen thus?" Matthew 26:52-54 NKJV

- f) At trial, He chose not to defend Himself and to submit to getting pierced!
- 1) *"And the high priest arose and said to Him, **"Do You answer nothing?** What is it these men testify against You?" **But Jesus kept silent.** And the high priest answered and said to Him, "I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!" Jesus said to him, **"It is as you said.** Nevertheless, I say to you, **hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand** of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven."*"* Matthew 26:62-64 NKJV*
- g) On the cross, He chose to forgive, get pierced, and stay on the cross.
- 1) *"Likewise the chief priests also, mocking with the scribes and elders, said, **"He saved others; Himself He cannot save.** If He is the King of Israel, **let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe Him.** He trusted in God; let Him deliver Him now if He will have Him; for He said, 'I am the Son of God.' "*"* (Matthew*

27:41-43) *“Then Jesus said, **“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.”** And they divided His garments and cast lots. Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, **“If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us.”** And Jesus said to him, **“Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.”**”* Luke 23:34, 39, 43 NKJV

h) He chose to die!

1) *“And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, **and yielded up His spirit.**”* Matthew 27:50 NKJV

i) Can you see it clearly now? Do you recognize the true magnitude of His sacrifice? It was more than just His death on a cross! (Phil. 2:5-8/Ex. 21:2-6)

1) He once existed in the same realm as God the Father (a Spirit).

2) He voluntarily became a bondservant! How?

3) He surrendered His Spirit form and became a man (born as a human baby)!

4) He permanently humbled Himself, submitting to His Father's will, and chose to remain as a bondservant. When? How?

5) In the Garden He chose to stay.

- 6) In the Garden He chose to surrender and not fight when being arrested?
- 7) At trial, He chose not to defend Himself and to get pierced on the cross (the outward declaration of His decision to stay)!
- 8) He chose to remain on the cross, instead of exercising His power to save Himself (it had to be voluntary).
- 9) The choice to remain a bondservant is a permanent one, and it was finalized upon His death on the cross.
- 10) All because ***“He loved His master and His wife.”***
- j) He resurrected as a new creature (a new form with a glorified body), and that is the precise form in which we resurrect. As such (the same form), we can be His bride. Had He chosen to go free, He would have had to leave us behind!
- 1) *“So also is **the resurrection of the dead**. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in **incorruption**. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in **glory**. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in **power**. It is sown a natural body, it is raised a*

spiritual body. *There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. And so it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being.” The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual. **The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven.** As was the man of dust, so also are those who are made of dust; **and as is the heavenly Man, so also are those who are heavenly.** And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, **we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man.**” I Corinthians 15:42-49*
NKJV

(5) Your life reflects your choice!

(a) Live for the flesh or for the Spirit...

1. “For **if you live according to the flesh** you will **die**; but if **by the Spirit** you put to death the deeds of the body, you will **live.**” Romans 8:13 NKJV

2. Which are you?

a) Permanent death is imminent for those who have nothing other than this life. (They live solely for the satisfaction of their carnal lusts and passions.)

b) A life transformed by an encounter with the Holy Spirit murders the old life and embraces a new life, which is both permanent from an eternal perspective, and becomes glorifying to God in this life, via every thought and action.

1) *"For whoever **desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.**"* Matthew 16:25 NKJV

HAND-PICKED BY GOD

3. Sons of God

A. Legal Adoption

(1) That Selection Process (He did it all FOR YOU!)

(a) Pool of Orphans

1. "For as many as are **led by the Spirit** of God, these are **sons of God.**" Romans 8:14 NKJV

2. Paul makes a turn to introduce a critical doctrinal premise—sonship!

a) Paul is responsible for the majority of established Christian theological beliefs and practices.

1) Although a pandemic of detachment from Paul's Hebrew Roots has propagated the uprising of thousands of denominations over the past

twenty centuries, fueled by a combination of ignorance and antisemitism, this narrative aims to restore a connection.

- b) The idea of sonship is not original to Christianity.
 - 1) It is paramount for God's chosen people, Israel, and the practice of their given faith.
 - 2) To understand this idea is not just beneficial but essential.
 - 3) On the already born-again side of the coin it is as critical as is how to get saved is on the non-believer side of the coin.
- c) Only those who are animated by the Holy Spirit are true sons of God.
 - 1) And when we revisit what that meant for Israel, which is the root of your faith as a Christian, we can recognize that the entirety of God's plan for humanity is to separate sons from sons.
- d) God makes the life-defining distinction between three types of sons: firstborn sons of God, firstborn sons not of God, and non-firstborn sons!
 - 1) Next week when we cover Romans 8:18-22 we will elaborate fully on the subject of three

categories of sons. But for now, we will simply introduce the idea.

- 2) The separation of sons into three groups comes down to us from the Passover Story, as we consider what transpired with Tenth Plague, the death of the firstborn.
- 3) Firstborns who applied the blood to the door posts lived and were separated from firstborns who did not, because those who did not died. All other sons, non-first borns, were never at risk, and thus we distinguish firstborn sons of God, from firstborn sons not of God, from non-firstborn sons—three groups.
- 4) A more elaborate and prophetic explanation is coming in our next teaching, but because this is where Paul introduces the idea of sonship, it was necessary to set the stage here.

3. Adoption Paperwork

- a) Legitimate Sons are subdued, restrained and corrected by God! If not, then they are not legitimate sons!
- 1) ***"For whom the Lord loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives." If you***

*endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? **But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons.***“ Hebrews 12:6-8 NKJV

b) All Christians are considered Firstborn sons:

1) *“to the general assembly **and church of the firstborn** who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect,”* Hebrews 12:23 NKJV

2) *“For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be **conformed to the image of His Son**, that He might be **the firstborn among many brethren.**”* Romans 8:29 NKJV

c) Every Christian has the right to be called a son at the moment they are born-again:

1) *“**But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God**, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”* John 1:12-13 NKJV

d) The right to become a son of God is different from the revealing of sons of God, which happens much later (at a prophetic moment at the end of the age):

1) *"For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly **waits for the revealing of the sons of God.**"* Romans 8:19 NKJV

e) **Food for Thought:**

- 1) Contrast the born again experience at which you are considered a newborn in the faith, from the moment in life in which you are declared to be a mature adult in the faith.
- 2) In Judaism, the revealing of sons is not at the time of birth, but at the age of maturity. It is both a Passover (separating firstborn sons) and a bar mitzvah (the presenting of a mature son.)
- 3) Details to come in our next teaching.

(2) The Spirit of Adoption

(a) From Orphan Spirit to Child of God

1. "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."" Romans 8:15 NKJV

2. The Spirit of Bondage vs. The Spirit of Adoption

- a) Paul ties together what was already clearly elaborated—you gained access to a new Spirit when Christ came into your life, separate and distinct from the human spirit with which you were born. (See: [Shards of History](#))
 - 1) ***“The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit...”*** Romans 8:16
 - 2) ***“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”*** II Timothy 1:7 NKJV
- b) Here, he says that the human spirit is actually a spirit of bondage.
 - 1) It has no allegiance to anything other than its own sinful passions, nor has it the ability to choose God.
- c) Paul also shares another subtle nuance about the Holy Spirit’s character, not formerly mentioned.
 - 1) The element of adoption; the Spirit of adoption.
- d) This is mesmerizing for a few reasons:
 - 1) It negates the need to be born of a certain bloodline to be considered a son of God—what a relief!

- 2) Next time you feel like an orphan, alone and unwanted, meditate on this utterly beautiful thought.
 - 3) Adoption is a choice which requires a selection process, and God searched the pool of orphans in which you were swimming and He chose you!
3. Legally Adopted (Adoption Paperwork)
- a) “Abba, Father.” He is the Father to the fatherless! You were legally adopted by God because He has a home for EVERYONE!
 - 1) *“Sing to God, sing praises to His name; Extol Him who rides on the clouds, By His name Yah, And rejoice before Him. **A father of the fatherless, a defender of widows, Is God in His holy habitation. God sets the solitary in families [finds a home for those who are alone] ; He brings out those who are bound into prosperity; But the rebellious dwell in a dry land.**” Psalms 68:4-6 NKJV*
 - b) You did not choose Him; He chose you! Adoption is a choice and God chose you!

- 1) *"**You did not choose Me, but I chose you** and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you."* John 15:16 NKJV
- c) We are all grafted in to the family of God!
 - 1) *"**You will say then, "Branches [Israel] were broken off that I [Gentile] might be grafted in."** And they also, if they do not continue in unbelief, will be grafted in, **for God is able to graft them [Israel] in again.**"* Romans 11:19, 23 NKJV

(3) Join Heirs

- (a) What is your ultimate inheritance?
 1. **"The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit** that we are **children of God**, 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.**" Romans 8:16-17 NKJV
 2. We close out this section with an exclamatory remark affirming that both spirits are available in us as Christians.

- a) The Holy Spirit witnesses to the spirit of man that remains in us.
 - b) But what it witnesses is yet another mind-altering doctrinal truth-bomb. Words can hardly express the scale of the spiritual explosion in Paul's premise. It staggers the mind.
 - a) You were not just adopted by God as His child, which makes you an heir to His kingdom; you became a joint heir with Christ.
 - b) Your inheritance in God is an equal inheritance as promised to His only begotten Son!
 - c) And that means God has placed you in the firstborn position along with Y'shua.
 - d) That is who you really are!
3. **If** indeed we **suffer** with Him...
- a) A final stipulation is reiterated. Suffering is a must! You have to suffer and die with Christ, if you also want the inheritance. Paul has certainly made the case that when you do the cost benefit analysis, there is just no comparison.
 - 1) ***"For whom the Lord loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives." If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with***

*sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? **But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons.***“ Hebrews 12:6-8 NKJV

2) *“For **if we have been united together in the likeness of His death**, certainly we also shall be in **the likeness of His resurrection**, knowing **this, that our old man was crucified with Him**, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.*

“ Romans 6:5-6 NKJV

b) We will pick it up next time but the transition makes it obvious.

1) *“For I consider that **the sufferings of this present** time are not worthy to be compared with **the glory which shall be revealed in us.**”*

Romans 8:18 NKJV

Summary: OPTIONAL CONDEMNATION

1. By Flesh or By Spirit

A. Condemnation is up to you!

(1) Your Walk Matters

- (a) The quintessential safety net...
 - 1. Self-condemnation is a disease that can ruin a man.
 - a) To guard us from falling into this trap, we learn that in Christ there is no condemnation.
 - b) With repentance, God bypasses punishing us for our sins, and instead separates us from our sins (and their eternal consequences) as far is as east is from west. The concept here is that you can travel east indefinitely and never turn west (the distance is infinite). This is in contrast to traveling north, which is finite, as you will eventually turn south.
 - c) Those who choose the flesh are not living with reverence for God! Therefore, to avoid condemnation there is a stipulation.
 - 1) You must choose to be animated by the Holy Spirit and not inspired by your fleshly desires.
 - d) That does not mean you must live a mistake-free life (*as per Romans 5:20), but instead that you are obligated to feel horrified by your sin—AND TO REPENT!
 - 1) [Sin + a Contrite Heart + Repentance = an exponential effect on Grace]

- e) If you find yourself bathing in deliberate sin, and violation after violation of God's ways yields no conviction, then you most assuredly ARE NOT in the family of faith. Why? Because it is impossible to be enlightened (repent, receive the gift of faith, and be filled with the Holy Spirit), only then to reject it and hope to cycle back around to repentance, as if you can start all over (lose salvation and then be born-again-again). NO! THAT IS NOT POSSIBLE!
- f) There is simply no sacrifice (not even the shed blood of Christ) that can save someone who believes such blasphemy. It would be like treating the blood of Christ like a temporary animal sacrifice, which can just be repeated over and over again. If that is your approach, then you will become guilty of the unpardonable sin, blasphemy of the Holy Spirit. (Read [The Sin that Leads to Death](#) for an in depth study.)
- g) Think of it this way, "God has no difficulty dealing with your sin, as long as you do. If you hate your sin, God will erase your sin. If you don't, He won't! And, if you love your sin long enough, God

will eventually turn you over to your own lustful passions and the depravity of your mind will become permanent.”

- h) Run from sin and practice righteousness. God’s people don’t sin! How is that possible? Sin was originated by Satan and Y’shua destroyed the strategy of Satan.
- i) If you are still confused because you, at times, find yourself sinning, remember what you learned in [Shards of History](#). The one sinning is NOT YOU!

(2) Two Sets of Laws

(a) Another way of describing the two sets of laws...

1. The law to which we are now obligated and its opposition! (Also Romans 7:22-25)

a) The Obligation: **The law of the Spirit of life.** This law has set us free from the other. AKA...

1) The law of God

2) The law of my mind

b) The Opposition: **The law of sin and death.** AKA...

1) The law in my members

2) The law of sin

c) The Law of Sin

1) Animates the evil that remains in you.

- 2) The sinful nature enjoys debauchery.
- d) The Law of God
 - 1) The one which desires to be righteous.
 - 2) The inner man that delights in God's laws.
 - 3) This Spirit aligns with the mind of Christ.
- (3) A groundbreaking theological premise...
 - (a) God's law codified on Mount Sinai could never produce righteous subjects.
 - 1. The strength of the law was to define and expose sin.
 - a) Once plausible deniability was removed, without excuse, all of mankind became condemned for sin. Let's connect the dots!
 - b) The law convicts the entirety of mankind of sin because that is how sin is defined. *Sin is lawlessness.* (1 John 3:4)
 - c) You could mistake that you were okay before the law was codified, but once it became "official," so did your death sentence.
 - d) And if you think that makes the law imperfect, think again. It's not the law that was deficient; it was you!
 - e) God sent His Son in the same type of human flesh as those who had been condemned...

- f) And He came as such, not to condemn mankind, but to condemn sin itself. Some men practice their sin with a passion; they hate light and love darkness. When they are exposed to the light, their condemnation is certain.
- g) In order to be righteous according to the law, there are stringent requirements for obedience. Righteousness can only be achieved through a relationship with Christ; He imparts His righteousness to us when we have faith in Him! Man could never achieve this level of obedience on his own.
- h) The stringent requirements for obedience can be satisfied when our old life is exchanged for a life of "Christ in me." A life animated by the Holy Spirit, satisfies all the requirements of the law because Y'shua covers every sin with grace and sees us as if we are already PERFECT. True righteousness cannot be achieved by striving to obey the law in your own strength; it comes only by allowing Christ to live through you, not you living through you. Ultimately that will be demonstrated by your pure love for God and others.

- i) Every shortcoming in the life of he who lives according to the Spirit and is not walking according to the flesh, is erased instantly upon repentance.

(4) What has your attention?

(a) Fleshly Things or Spiritual Things?

1. The heart wants what the heart wants.

- a) In eastern cultures (Hebrew/Israel/Middle East), the mind is best understood from the western worldview as the heart.
- b) When a man's heart is determined to satisfy his lustful passions, his attitude, priorities, and actions — his whole life puts this on full display.
- c) Conversely, when a man is dedicated to a life animated by the Holy Spirit, that too is on full display.
- d) No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket. If you are living by the Spirit, the world will know!

(5) The Mind

(a) Carnal vs. Spiritual

1. Choices with consequences.

- a) A heart hell-bent on satisfying every sinful passion is just that; destined for hell. When you follow the

dictates of your own heart, and worse yet, believe there will be no consequences, but rather that God will bless you anyway, you are worse than a drunken fool.

b) Death is imminent for such fools...

1) **Maybe this is the mantra of such a man:** *"I am going to enjoy every ounce of my lewdness, depravity, and lust right now, because this little vapor of time is all I have. An eternity in the presence of the God of peace is off the table for me."*

c) There's one more thing that must be duly noted about the man fixated on his carnal desires. He literally loves his sin and hates God.

d) He will not subject himself to God's rule of law because he literally can't! And as such it impossible for him to ever be pleasing in God's sight.

2. Again, the converse is true for the man heaven-bent.

a) The heart filled with and happily submitted to the Holy Spirit enjoys a peace that supersedes logic. God will establish (support, fix firmly, stabilize) and guard you...

- b) The Lord is faithful...
- c) Here's the way it works...
 - 1) The Lord is instantly available to you!
 - 2) You have ZERO reason for anxiety, but if you begin to feel overwhelmed—pray with intense desire as if your life depends on it.
 - 3) Thank God for everything, even the very trial that is igniting the need for prayer; and then be clear with the Lord what it is you need.
- d) He already knows; you are telling Him so you recognize what you need. And if you are missing His will, He will not grant your request, so you have no need to keep begging for the same thing—
CHANGE YOUR REQUEST IF NECESSARY!
- e) Once that is dialed in, and you hit the exact request, a peace will overcome you that terminates the anxiety that was building!
 - 1) You won't understand it with your intellect, but that is not required, nor recommended!
 - 2) This is God's preferred mechanism of stabilizing and guarding you.
- f) Then mediate and focus on the following:
 - 1) Truth

- 2) God's character.
- 3) Justice
- 4) Purity
- 5) Beautiful and pleasant things.
- 6) All things good!
- 7) Anything that is right in God's eyes!
- 8) Anything worth praising in God's eyes!
- 9) Anything you learned about, agreed with, heard about, or witnessed about God's goodness for His people!
- 10) Then God's Peace will overwhelm you and all anxiety will be abolished!

Summary: ORPHAN SPIRIT OR SPIRIT OF GOD

2. According to the Flesh or according to the Spirit?

A. How are you living?

- (1) Does the Spirit of God dwell in you?
 - (a) The body is dead because of sin; The Spirit is life!
 1. Let's get personal. What about you?
 - a) Are you the type who desires to enjoy every ounce of lewdness, depravity, and lust right now?
 - b) If the Spirit of God dwells in you, that is simply not possible.

- c) When you were born again, the Holy Spirit took up residence in your heart, which means that if the Spirit is not present, then you are simply not a Christian.
- d) And if you are a Christian, then the old you who was infected with sin and death is dead, and the new you is filled with Christ's righteousness, a life empowered by grace, truth and the Holy Spirit!

2. Can it be any more obvious?

- a) If you have Christ in you, you are a new man!
- b) Gone are all your old ways of thinking and acting.

(2) Does the Spirit of God dwell in you?

(a) You know the answer.

1. The answer is yes, but...

- a) What you may not realize is all the benefits that come along with it.
 - 1) It's like a new piece of technology or a new car with so many features you never quite learn to access, all the immense capabilities you have at your fingertips, and yet over the useful life of such an asset, you never tap its full potential.
- b) The power of Holy Spirit that raised Christ from the grave is in you! Let's call this resurrection power.

- c) It is accessible to you via a supernatural feature called grace.
 - 1) It's not meant simply to secure your eternity.
 - 2) Yes, you will literally die one day and resurrect into a permanent-glorified-incorruptible-eternal-immortal body.
 - 3) But wait! There's more!
 - d) That same resurrection power that dwells in you right now, accessible via God's grace, is also animating your current temporary body, so you can live the most abundant, fruitful, effective and pleasing life in Christ at this very moment—and for every day until your dying breath!
 - e) What this means is that the best life you could possibly live now is available because you have access to God's grace.
- (3) We should feel an overwhelming debt of gratitude!
- (a) We owe it to God to live for God!
 - 1. Do you realize the magnitude of debt you ought to feel toward Christ for what He sacrificed?
 - a) He surrendered His human life for you.
 - b) But wait! There's more!

- 1) The greater sacrifice was when He surrendered Himself from heaven and became a man—lowered Himself to become a bondservant.
 - 2) For such you should feel happily obligated to no longer seek to satisfy your past lustful desires.
- (4) A Hebrew Bondservant: A Voluntary Slavery (See: [Slavery](#))
- (a) Y'shua came as a bondservant.
 1. A **Hebrew Bondservant** is a slave who has earned the right to go free, but volunteers to stay in service of his master forever.
 - a) Where does identifying as a bondservant originate?
 2. Facts about the Hebrew bondservant...
 - a) A Hebrew bondservant (slave) was treated like a member of the family and subsequently would be freely released after seven years of service.
 - b) However, if he gained a wife and children during his service, they could not go free with him. As such, he had to make a one-time binding permanent decision.
 - c) He could leave forever on his own (or with his wife if he was married before he became a slave), or if he loves his master and his family, he could choose to stay forever.

- d) If he chooses to stay, he is publicly pierced as a sign of his choice, *"I will stay forever because I love my master and my wife!"*
- 3. This is precisely what Y'shua did in the Garden of Gethsemane when He made His final binding permanent decision to stay, and on the cross when He was pierced.
 - a) When did Y'shua **choose to become a bondservant?**
 - 1) He became a bondservant when left behind His form of God and came as a man.
 - b) When did Y'shua **choose to remain a bondservant?**
 - c) He chose to remain a bondservant when in the Garden, He chose to stay.
 - 1) Y'shua is praying in the Garden on the night He was betrayed... He knew what was coming.
 - 2) He could leave and abandon the mission; He could go free, return to His previous state of existence in the spirit realm, *"being in the form of God"*.
 - 3) However, the rule says that because He received His bride (that's you) while a **bondservant**, He would not be able to keep her.

- 4) He had a choice: Leave without His bride (that's you!), or if He loves His Master (His Father) and loved His wife (You, the Church), He could choose to stay forever and get pierced.
- 5) What did He choose?
- d) When did Y'shua make is **final binding permanent decision to stay**?
 - 1) In the midst of His betrayal, He affirmed His decision, even though it was clear He had the ability to leave! He went to the cross and stayed on the cross to his death.
- e) He chose to submit as a servant and not fight.
- f) At trial, He chose not to defend Himself and to submit to getting pierced!
- g) On the cross, He chose to forgive, get pierced, and stay on the cross.
- h) He chose to die!
- i) Can you see it clearly now? Do you recognize the true magnitude of His sacrifice? It was more than just His death on a cross! (Phil. 2:5-8/Ex. 21:2-6)
 - 1) He once existed in the same realm as God the Father (a Spirit).
 - 2) He voluntarily became a bondservant! How?

- 3) He surrendered His Spirit form and became a man (born as as human baby)!
- 4) He permanently humbled Himself, submitting to His Father's will, and chose to remain as a bondservant. When? How?
- 5) In the Garden He chose to stay.
- 6) In the Garden He chose to surrender and not fight when being arrested?
- 7) At trial, He chose not to defend Himself and to get pierced on the cross (the outward declaration of His decision to stay)!
- 8) He chose to remain on the cross, instead of exercising His power to save Himself (it had to be voluntary).
- 9) The choice to remain a bondservant is a permanent one, and it was finalized upon His death on the cross.
- 10) All because ***“He loved His master and His wife.”***
- j) He resurrected as a new creature (a new form with a glorified body), and that is the precise form in which we resurrect. As such (the same form), we

can be His bride. Had He chosen to go free, He would have had to leave us behind!

(5) Your life reflects your choice!

(a) Live for the flesh or for the Spirit...

1. Which are you?

- a) Permanent death is imminent for those who have nothing other than this life. (They live solely for the satisfaction of their carnal lusts and passions.)
- b) A life transformed by an encounter with the Holy Spirit murders the old life and embraces a new life, which is both permanent from an eternal perspective, and becomes glorifying to God in this life, via every thought and action.

Summary: HAND-PICKED BY GOD

3. Sons of God

A. Legal Adoption

(1) That Selection Process (He did it all FOR YOU!)

(a) Pool of Orphans

1. Paul makes a turn to introduce a critical doctrinal premise—sonship!

- a) Paul is responsible for the majority of established Christian theological beliefs and practices.

- 1) Although a pandemic of detachment from Paul's Hebrew Roots has propagated the uprising of thousands of denominations over the past twenty centuries, fueled by a combination of ignorance and antisemitism, this narrative aims to restore a connection.
- b) The idea of sonship is not original to Christianity.
 - 1) It is paramount for God's chosen people, Israel, and the practice of their given faith.
 - 2) To understand this idea is not just beneficial but essential.
 - 3) On the already born-again side of the coin it is as critical as is how to get saved is on the non-believer side of the coin.
- c) Only those who are animated by the Holy Spirit are true sons of God.
 - 1) And when we revisit what that meant for Israel, which is the root of your faith as a Christian, we can recognize that the entirety of God's plan for humanity is to separate sons from sons.
- d) God makes the life-defining distinction between three types of sons: firstborn sons of God, firstborn sons not of God, and non-firstborn sons!

- 1) Next week when we cover Romans 8:18-22 we will elaborate fully on the subject of three categories of sons. But for now, we will simply introduce the idea.
- 2) The separation of sons into three groups comes down to us from the Passover Story, as we consider what transpired with Tenth Plague, the death of the firstborn.
- 3) Firstborns who applied the blood to the door posts lived and were separated from firstborns who did not, because those who did not died. All other sons, non-first borns, were never at risk, and thus we distinguish firstborn sons of God, from firstborn sons not of God, from non-firstborn sons—three groups.
- 4) A more elaborate and prophetic explanation is coming in our next teaching, but because this is where Paul introduces the idea of sonship, it was necessary to set the stage here.

2. Adoption Paperwork

- a) Legitimate Sons are subdued, restrained and corrected by God! If not, then they are not legitimate sons!

- b) All Christians are considered Firstborn sons:
- c) Every Christian has the right to be called a son at the moment they are born-again:
- d) The right to become a son of God is different from the revealing of sons of God, which happens much later (at a prophetic moment at the end of the age):
- e) **Food for Thought:**
 - 1) Contrast the born again experience at which you are considered a newborn in the faith, from the moment in life in which you are declared to be a mature adult in the faith.
 - 2) In Judaism, the revealing of sons is not at the time of birth, but at the age of maturity. It is both a Passover (separating firstborn sons) and a bar mitzvah (the presenting of a mature son.)
 - 3) Details to come in our next teaching.

(2) The Spirit of Adoption

(a) From Orphan Spirit to Child of God

- 1. The Spirit of Bondage vs. The Spirit of Adoption
 - a) Paul ties together what was already clearly elaborated—you gained access to a new Spirit when Christ came into your life, separate and

distinct from the human spirit with which you were born. (See: [Shards of History](#))

b) Here, he says that the human spirit is actually a spirit of bondage.

1) It has no allegiance to anything other than its own sinful passions, nor has it the ability to choose God.

c) Paul also shares another subtle nuance about the Holy Spirit's character, not formerly mentioned.

1) The element of adoption; the Spirit of adoption.

d) This is mesmerizing for a few reasons:

1) It negates the need to be born of a certain bloodline to be considered a son of God—what a relief!

2) Next time you feel like an orphan, alone and unwanted, meditate on this utterly beautiful thought.

3) Adoption is a choice which requires a selection process, and God searched the pool of orphans in which you were swimming and He chose you!

2. Legally Adopted (Adoption Paperwork)

- a) “Abba, Father.” He is the Father to the fatherless!
You were legally adopted by God because He has
a home for EVERYONE!
- b) You did not choose Him; He chose you! Adoption
is a choice and God chose you!
- c) We are all grafted in to the family of God!

(3) Join Heirs

- (a) What is your ultimate inheritance?
 - 1. We close out this section with an exclamatory remark
affirming that both spirits are available in us as
Christians.
 - a) The Holy Spirit witnesses to the spirit of man that
remains in us.
 - b) But what it witnesses is yet another mind-altering
doctrinal truth-bomb. Words can hardly express
the scale of the spiritual explosion in Paul’s
premise. It staggers the mind.
 - a) You were not just adopted by God as His child,
which makes you an heir to His kingdom; you
became a joint heir with Christ.
 - b) Your inheritance in God is an equal inheritance
as promised to His only begotten Son!

c) And that means God has placed you in the firstborn position along with Y'shua.

d) That is who you really are!

2. **If** indeed we **suffer** with Him...

- a) A final stipulation is reiterated. Suffering is a must! You have to suffer and die with Christ, if you also want the inheritance. Paul has certainly made the case that when you do the cost benefit analysis, there is just no comparison.
- b) We will pick it up next time but the transition makes it obvious.

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

1. **There is no condemnation to those who are in Christ (Romans 8:1)...**

- A. What is the stipulation that comes with this promise?
- B. Explain why God's forgiveness separates us from our sins as far as east is from west. (See Psalms 103:10-12)
- C. How is David's repentance, as depicted in Psalms 51, a perfect model for us?
- D. Use Hebrews 6:4-6 and 10:26-29 to craft a statement that proves you cannot once be part of God's family and later be removed from God's family.

- E. Use I John 3:4-9 and Romans 7:17-20 to explain why it is that you can no longer sin.
- 2. Contrast the law of the Spirit of life from the law of sin and death. (For help see Romans 8:2 and 7:22-25)**
- 3. God's law that was codified on Mount Sinai could never produce righteous subjects.**
 - A. Use to Romans 8:3-4; 3:19-20; 7:9-10 and Hebrews 8:7-8 to prove that the strength of the law was to define and expose sin.
 - B. Relate Romans 8:3-4 to Philippians 2:5-7.
- 4. What has your attention, fleshly things or spiritual things?**
 - A. Serious Contemplation: Read Romans 8:5; Proverbs 23:7; Hebrews 4:12-13; Luke 6:45; 8:17; Matthew 7:17; Luke 8:16; and Psalms 119:10-13
 - B. Contrast the carnal and spiritual mind from Romans 8:6-8.
 - C. How are you living? (Romans 8:9-10)
- 5. When a man's heart is determined to satisfy his lustful passions, his attitude, priorities, and actions—his whole life puts this on full display. Conversely, when a man is dedicated to a life animated by the Holy Spirit, that too is on full display.**
 - A. Be honest with yourself and determine what needs to changed in your life.

- B. Write them down and then tell a friend who will hold you accountable.
 - C. Use Philippians 4:5-9 to write a personal action plan to help you live a submitted life to God.
- 6. Does the Spirit of God dwell in you? (See Romans 8:11)**
- A. What immense benefit of the Holy Spirit is revealed in Ephesians 1:19-20?
- 7. Romans 8:12 says we ought to feel like debtors to God.**
- A. Why should you should feel an overwhelming debt of gratitude?
- 8. Romans 8:13 says you can live according to flesh or the Spirit.**
- A. How does your life reflect your choice?
 - B. Use Matthew 16:25 to help.
- 9. Paul introduces the critical doctrinal premise of sonship in Romans 8:14.**
- A. How do Hebrews 12:6-8, 23; and John 1:12-13 speak of sonship?
 - B. How does Romans 8:15 paint the beautiful picture of you being hand-picked by God? (Use Psalms 68:4-6; John 15:16; and Romans 11:19-23 to bolster your answer.)
- 10. Read Romans 8:16-17 ten times... Then meditate on and write your thoughts on this new reality.**

- A. You were not just adopted by God as His child, which makes you an heir to His kingdom; you are a joint heir with Christ.
- B. Your inheritance in God is an equal inheritance as promised to His only begotten Son!
- C. That means God has placed you in the firstborn position along with Y'shua. That is who you really are!