

*“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received The Spirit Of Adoption, Whereby We Cry, ‘Abba, Father.’ The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:” *Romans 8:14-16 KJV**



You might think adoption a lesser status than being born biologically, but Paul was referring here to the term as it was applied under Roman law. Under ancient Roman law adoption had powerful meaning. When a child was born biologically, the parents could disown the child for a variety of reasons, but a slave could be freed, become a Roman citizen, and then adopted; receiving a new identity. Any prior commitments, responsibilities and debts were erased. New rights and responsibilities were assumed. In ancient Rome the concept of inheritance was part of life, not something that began at death. Adoption made someone an heir to their father, joint-sharers in all his possessions and fully united to him. Paul then adds another dimension; the term “Abba.” It is a Hebrew word much akin to our word “Daddy,” but also one of reverence; at once intimate and respectful. When God’s Word imparts faith to our souls and we cry to Him in humble repentance, He frees us, adopts us, and we are born again of His Spirit! So not only are we irrevocably adopted, we are BORN into the Divine Family; “*joint-heirs with Christ!*” Tom Hayes recounts, when he visited Israel, he heard a little child come running into the house to her father calling out “Abba, Abba!” and it suddenly gave this passage new meaning! Believers always have their Father’s Ear and attention when they cry, “Abba! *The Righteous cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is His Mercy toward them that fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our transgressions from us. Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear Him. For He knoweth our frame; He remembereth that we are dust. But as many as received Him, to them gave He Power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His Name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*” If you believe by faith, you can also cry to God, “Abba!”

Adopted through the Father’s Will,
I now can come before Him still,
Bringing my joys and heartaches all,
Receiving comfort when I fall. –CGP

Does the Truth of God’s Word resonate with your heart that you are God’s child? Even when you fall, is your instinct to run and cry to Father? Is God your KING? Is the KING your “Abba?”

*“Seeing then that we have a Great High Priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly (unashamedly) unto the Throne of Grace, that we may obtain Mercy, and find Grace to help in time of need.” *Hebrews 4:14-16 KJV**