

Holy Spirit: Wind and Fire | Adoption

Introduction:

Looking back upon her life, a woman who was adopted at a young age remarked, “I think adoption is a blessing and an opportunity.” She saw the blessing of being loved and included, and the opportunity of a different future. So, it is also with those who are adopted into Christ Jesus.

In the book of Romans, the Apostle Paul explores the cross and resurrection of Jesus and its meaning for us using the metaphor of adoption. By the power of the Holy Spirit, when we put our faith and trust in God, he becomes our father, and we become his children. With this relationship comes life, redemption, and the forgiveness of sins. We are blessed because we are brought into the family of God, and we participate in the life that God has prepared for his children.

At the same time, we experience opportunity to live a new future. The Apostle Paul reminds us that the inheritance we receive in joining Christ’s family is participation in his life, death, and resurrection. For us this means to experience the great blessings of his mercy and grace, but also to participate in his suffering. To be a Child of God is both the experience of salvation and the burden of being called to serve a broken world.

Read Your Bible

- Romans 8:9-17
- John 1:9-13

Apply God’s Word to Your Life:

1. Think of these two words that are used in Romans: “Adoption” and “Heirs.” What do each of these words mean to you?
2. What does it mean to be a part of a family? How is it a blessing? How might it be a burden?
3. How is it helpful to think of God as our father? How might it be difficult?
4. What does the reading from John tell us about how to become Children of God?
5. What do we inherit as adoptive heirs of Jesus? What blessings? What opportunities? What sufferings?

Reflecting on the text:

1. What have you learned about God?
2. What have you learned about the world?
3. What have you learned about yourself?

Pray

Abba, Father, through Your son, you have redeemed us from sin and death. By Your Spirit, You have called us Your children. You welcome us into Your family. Teach us to live as Your children, blessed by Your grace and sharing in Your sufferings in this broken world, so that all might come to know of Your love. In Jesus’ name. Amen.