

THE SONG OF THE SPIRIT

Part 9 Romans Chapter Eight

Romans 8:15-16

*For you did not receive ~~the~~ a spirit of bondage again to fear, **but you received the Spirit a spirit of adoption by which we cry out, "Abba, Father."** ¹⁶The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.*

- **THE 1ST CHARACTERISTIC OF A SON OF GOD**

A few weeks ago in our previous verse – Romans 8:14 – we learned, **one of the great characteristics of sons of God** is that they are **'Led by the Spirit'**. This doesn't mean that the leading of the Holy Spirit makes us 'sons of God' (which I, myself and many others have wrongly taught) but rather, because you are a born again 'son of God' you are now always led by the Spirit.

Every born again believer is a 'son of God' regardless of their gender or age.

1 John 3:2 KJV '... Now are we the sons of God ...'

As a result of you being a 'son' you are now inherently led by the Holy Spirit ... **ALL** the time without exception; however, **whether you decide to follow that leading is your choice** (See Romans 8 Part 7 – 'The Leading of the Spirit').

- **THE 2ND CHARACTERISTIC OF A SON OF GOD**

Here in our text today, we see **the 2nd great characteristic of a 'son of God'**. Here we see as a born again 'son of God' **we have a regenerated spirit that intrinsically and continually cries heavenward to the Father ...**

Romans 8:15 ... You received a [new] spirit of adoption by which we cry out, 'Abba, Father'.

SLIDE OUR NEW SPIRIT CRYING ABBA-FATHER IS TRUE New Testament 'SPIRITUAL WORSHIP'

AS A SON OF GOD, YOU HAVE A NEW SPIRIT WHICH INHERENTLY WORSHIPS THE FATHER. YOUR NEW BORN SPIRIT IS INHERENTLY BORN TO WORSHIP THE FATHER ... IN FACT, YOUR NEW BORN SPIRIT DESIRES AND YEARNS TO WORSHIP THE FATHER IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH.

LET'S LOOK AT 3 MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT WORSHIP...

1. WE'VE MADE WORSHIP THE SAME AS PRAISE

Everyone always talks about **'Praise and Worship'**. We lump the two together and treat them as the same. But New Testament Worship is not at all audible or physical. **IT'S SPIRITUAL.**

IT'S SOMETHING WE ARE BORN-AGAIN WITH ... ALREADY IN OUR HEARTS.

2. WE'VE MADE PRAISE A PRIORITY – A WORK THAT BRINGS US INTO WORSHIP

In our ignorance, we used to teach 'Praise brings us into the presence of God and worship is what we do when we get there. Like you have to break through in praise to get into God's presence and Worship is your REWARD (which is absolute rubbish).

'PRAISE' doesn't take us into God's presence. Christ has already done that.

I am alive with Christ and seated with Christ in the heavenly realm NOW. (Ephesians 2:5-6)

My life is hidden with Christ in God. (Colossians 3:3)

THE PRIORITY OF WORSHIP

Today I want to show you ... in the New Testament **WORSHIP COMES BEFORE PRAISE.**

*If the new creation life within you intrinsically and organically desires to worship the Father **SLIDE THEN PRAISE IS BORN OUT OF WORSHIP ... NOT WORSHIP BORN OUT OF PRAISE.***

SLIDE NOTE CAREFULLY Romans 8:15 - YOU [ALREADY] **RECEIVED** A SPIRIT THAT CRIES ABBA-FATHER.

WE ALREADY RECEIVED THAT WORSHIPING SPIRIT WHEN WE WERE BORN AGAIN.

Your New Spirit Cries 'Abba-Father' in inaudible words.

True Praise comes from a regenerated spirit ... It's an expression of true worship we already have within us ...

PRAISE COMES FROM A WORSHIPING SPIRIT, a spirit connected to the Father in adoption.

PRAISE IS THE EXPRESSION OF WORSHIP ... Jesus said it like this ...

John 4:23 **SLIDE**

*... The hour is coming, and now is, when the **true worshipers** will worship the Father in [human] spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.*

WORSHIP OF THE FATHER IS THE HIGHEST CALLING A PERSON COULD EVER HAVE.

When we get to our Heavenly home ... all preaching will cease ... there will be no more prophecies ... we won't have Bible teachers as we will know as we are known ... we won't need pastors as we will be forever embraced in the eternal Shepherd's arms of love and care; however, there are two things we do here which will continue and never cease.

THEY ARE WORSHIP AND PRAISE.

When we truly Worship and Praise God here on Earth ... we are partaking of an eternal calling. THERE IS NO GREATER TASK YOU COULD DO THAN TO WORSHIP AND PRAISE YOUR GOD. 'Worship and Praise' is the one ministry which is to and for God Himself.

Only a person with a regenerated spirit can worship God.

You cannot worship the true God from a different spirit.

John 4:24 **SLIDE**

God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

SPIRIT TO SPIRIT ...

WORSHIP IS THE UNITING OF OUR SPIRIT TO HIS SPIRIT.

1 Corinthians 6:17 NIV *But whoever is united with the Lord is one with him in spirit.*

Sharing in spirit ... pouring our heart into His ... connecting 'spirit to spirit' – an overwhelming response to His glory ... goodness ... grace...

ONLY BORN AGAIN PEOPLE CAN DO IT AND IT IS THE ULTIMATE PRIVILEGE OF A BORN AGAIN PERSON TO DO SO.

3. WE'VE REDUCED WORSHIP AND PRAISE TO A FORMULA

Sometimes we become too theological in our praise ... too academic.

We've got it all worked out ... we know the formula ... the program.

WE can become too clinical ... too serious ... too academic ...

One church I heard about used to tell their musicians and singers ... we sing 3 fast songs then one slow one and then the Holy Spirit turns up. As if the Holy Spirit follows a formula.

I also heard one pastor say, 'We need praise and worship to create an atmosphere so I can preach.'

THIS WORD ABBA CUTS THROUGH ALL THEOLOGY ... IT DISREGARDS ALL FORMULAS.

OUR ABBA-FATHER

WHAT DOES ABBA-FATHER MEAN?

Romans 8:15 **SLIDE**

For you did not receive ~~the~~ a spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received a spirit of adoption by which we cry out [to]"Abba, Father."

This means far more than repeating the literal words in rote like the repetitious prayers some people recite from their prayer book.

These words give us insight into the substance of this worship to the Father.

ABBA (Chaldean) = Daddy = the innocent and uncomplicated warmth and affection of a young child reaching out for their loving Father.

SLIDE

THERE'S NOTHING FORMAL ABOUT A DAUGHTER REACHING UP FOR HER DADDY.

She has no rules in mind ... it's just who she is and she knows whose she is.

What does she want? Nothing but him ... his closeness ...

SHE CRIES OUT ... LIFTS HER HANDS IN TOTAL ADMIRATION OF HIM ... ADORATION OF HIM

It's a response of love from a tender heart.

Jesus used these words to His disciples: *Unless you ... become as little children ...* (Matthew 18:3)

I recently saw a TV show where a black-American preacher and his daughter were doing a tour in the UK speaking about 'Civil Rights'. The daughter however shared with a friend about her family and her father. She said, 'We didn't have affection in our family ... we had a cause.'

BUT THE FATHER'S FAMILY HAS THE GREATEST CAUSE AND THE GREATEST AFFECTION.

FATHER = PATER = An intellectual understanding of your Father

It's the balance of a child's beautiful, heart-felt affection with the

understanding of mature son. THIS WORSHIP INCLUDES THE HEART AND MIND ...

But NOTE CAREFULLY WHAT COMES FIRST – THE HEART.

The New nature is first birthed in affection and it is inherent within its nature

WHAT IS WORSHIP? SLIDE

The New Testament word worship is *proskuneo* = to prostrate oneself in homage ...

But it also translates directly as **“to kiss towards.”** *Literally, to throw a kiss in token of respect or homage”*

NEW TESTAMENT WORSHIP INVOLVES DEEP AFFECTION FOR THE FATHER ...

WHICH WE INHERINTLY HAVE IN OUR SPIRIT.

One man described it as follows:

My little daughter Bella had crept into bed. I awoke to find he pressed against my back. I tried not to wake her, but she responded when I moved by wrapping her arm around me and kissed my shoulder. She then kissed my cheek and my neck - soft, little kisses ... each one saying, 'I love you, Daddy'.

This was her own outpouring of her love for me. She kissed me because she loved me.

Because she knew how much I love her.

“Those are sweet kisses,” I said.

“I love you, Daddy,” she replied, and I imagined, with only a glimmer, what God must feel when we “kiss toward” him as an outpouring of our love and devotion for him.

IF ONLY WE COULD BEGIN TO GRASP THE PROFOUND AFFECTION THE FATHER HAS FOR EACH ONE OF US ...

WE ADMIRE AND DESIRE HIM BECAUSE:

The Father is perfect righteousness ... the Father is full of glory ... the Father is complete loving kindness ...

We are now 'Mini-fathers' -

As we begin to grow and know Him ... we see He is the maturity we so **admire**

and desire. He is the fullness of what we have ... we have a withdrawal ... He is the bank. **HE IS EVERYTHING WE INTRINSICALLY LOVE AND ADORE** ... ALL WE ADMIRE AND DESIRE ... **THIS IS WHY WE CRY MY ABBA-FATHER.**

We cry TO Abba-Father in admiration and adoration.

We cry FOR Abba-Father for fellowship and closeness.

“You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you.” - St Augustine

SO WITH ALL THIS HAPPENING ON THE INSIDE
WHAT SHOULD OUR RESPONSE BE ON THE OUTSIDE?

Do we now outwardly just walk about twitching because something is going on inside ... making strange noises ... with a funny look on our face?

NO!

HOW DO WE GIVE EXPRESSION TO THIS AMAZING GRACE THAT IS ERUPTING INSIDE US ... THE WELL OF WATER BURSTING UP INTO EVERLASTING LIFE?

Many years ago ... as a new believer, I was in a home prayer meeting, but as I knelt sincerely praying I suddenly just wanted to laugh. Of course I stopped myself thinking it was disrespectful. However, in the next meeting it happened again, this time even stronger. I kept spluttering and coughing until I LET GO and immediately started to speak in tongues of praise to God. It was a beautiful expression of praise to mu Abba-Father.

THERE IS A LANGUAGE OF THE SPIRIT

THERE ARE TWO TYPES OF TONGUES:

There are tongues of (1) Men and of (2) Angels (1 Corinthians 13:1)

Men speak **horizontally** to men. Angels speak **vertically** to God.

HERE WE ARE ONLY SHARING ABOUT THE VERTICAL, SPIRITUAL LANGUAGE OF ADORATION OF GOD FROM YOUR SPIRIT.

1 Corinthians 14:2 **SLIDE**

For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries.

THIS EXPRESSION OF SPEAKING IN TONGUES IS YOUR PERSONAL EXPRESSION OF LOVE AND AFFECTION TO YOUR FATHER FROM THE DEPTH OF YOUR SPIRIT.

This is NOT speaking out to the church with a message.

SPEAKING UP AND SPEAKING OUT

1 Corinthians 14:28 **SLIDE**

... Let him speak to himself and to God.

This is personal and private but it's still **in** public (See v26 '... Whenever you come together ...')

THIS IS **SPEAKING UP** TO THE FATHER NOT **SPEAKING OUT** TO THE PEOPLE.

1 Corinthians 14:15 *Berean Literal*

What then is it? I will pray with the spirit, but also I will pray with the mind. I will sing praise with the spirit, but also I will sing praise with the mind.

If I can put simply what I believe Paul is saying.

He's saying, 'In church, **don't NOT speak in tongues but don't ONLY speak in tongues** ... YOU NEED TO COMMUNICATE HORIZONTALLY AS WELL'

Looking back at my years in the Pentecostal church, I become aware that the phenomena of 'tongues' was, most of the time, quite militant.

It seemed like we were always storming the gates of hell; blasting our way through the enemy's strongholds and creating an atmosphere of victory in our meetings. No wonder so many more sensitive people were 'put off'.

Today however, I experience this beautiful grace gently rising from my newly regenerated spirit, expressing beautiful, tender-hearted songs of praise to my Abba-Father ... the intimate language of the Holy Spirit, from an adoring son.

TONGUES OF PRAISE

The last meeting we had at Redcliffe we only sang 3 songs. I felt in my heart it was time to stop singing the songs we had picked out (we had 5). So we didn't sing the last two songs, but instead just played gentle chords. Then, unanimously and spontaneously, we were surrounded by the strong but beautiful song of the Spirit. I wasn't forcing it ... people's hearts were dancing all around that place ... weaving in and out in joy and gladness as the Holy Spirit manifested around us and witnessed to our hearts with amazing peace and joy and warmth and love...

It was a beautiful thing ... freely flowing out in worship to the Father.

People's hearts were crying ... 'Abba Father'.

**THIS IS THE SONG OF OUR SPIRIT CARRIED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT TO OUR
ABBA-FATHER**