

Indwelt

THOSE WHO TRUST JESUS ARE INDWELT BY THE HOLY SPIRIT
WHEN THEY ARE ADOPTED INTO THE FAMILY OF GOD.

Romans 8:14-27

14 For all those **led by God's Spirit** **A** are God's sons. **15** For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear. Instead, you received the **Spirit of adoption**, **B** by whom we cry out, "**Abba**, **C** Father!" **16** The Spirit himself **testifies together** **D** with our spirit that we are God's children, **17** and if children, also **heirs** **E** —heirs of God and coheirs with Christ—if indeed we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. **18** For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are **not worth comparing** **F** with the glory that is going to be revealed to us. **19** For the **creation eagerly waits** **G** with anticipation for God's sons to be revealed. **20** For the creation was subjected to **futility** **H** —not willingly, but because of him who subjected it—in the hope **21** that the creation itself will also be set free from the **bondage to decay** **I** into the glorious freedom of God's children. **22** For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together with **labor pains** **J** until now. **23** Not only that, but we ourselves who have the Spirit as the firstfruits—we also groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. **24** Now in this **hope** **K** we were saved, but hope that is seen is not hope, because who hopes for what he sees? **25** Now if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with patience. **26** In the same way the Spirit also helps us in our weakness, because we do not know what to pray for as we should, but **the Spirit himself intercedes** **L** for us with inexpressible groanings. **27** And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because he intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Exploring Key Words

- A** Following the Spirit's guidance. This is an indication of a genuine relationship with Christ.
- B** Rather than slaves, God adopts believers into His family. Through the Spirit, they enjoy the full rights of sons and daughters.
- C** An Aramaic term that reflects an intimate cry to God, showing a close, trusting relationship like a child with a loving parent.
- D** "Bears witness" (ESV). The Holy Spirit confirms that believers are true children of the Father.
- E** As God's children, Christ followers share fully in the inheritance of the Son. Ultimately, this includes eternal life in the glory of God.
- F** Because of sin, suffering is part of our experience on earth. However, these temporary hardships pale in comparison to the glory of our future state with the Father in heaven.
- G** Like us, the created order suffers the effects of sin. But when God frees His children, creation also will be freed from the impact of sin.
- H** "Vanity" (KJV); "frustration" (NIV). Through Christ, the emptiness of creation will be replaced with hope and life.
- I** Jesus will reverse the curse of Genesis 3. The broken state of sin will be replaced by freedom.
- J** "Pains of childbirth" (ESV; NIV). Just as a woman's pain in labor is not without hope, our groaning in the present age points us to eternity and our ultimate redemption (see v. 23).
- K** Not wishful thinking. While we do not see the fulfillment of our salvation in this life, we have confidence that God is working to that end.
- L** The Holy Spirit prays for believers. His prayers are effective because they align with the will of the Father.



Relationship (Rom. 8:14-17)

- Paul reminded his readers that believers are adopted into God's family and no longer need to fear slavery to sin.
- The Holy Spirit reassures believers that they are not only children of God but also His heirs.

Hope (Rom. 8:18-25)

- Paul reminded believers that the inheritance awaiting them was greater than any suffering they faced on earth.
- He also pointed out that all creation was touched by humanity's sin and waits to be set free from sin's consequences. Just as creation awaits its redemption, so too do believers.
- The anticipation of the final redemption of our bodies produces hope.

Help (Rom. 8:26-27)

- Sometimes believers struggle with their prayer life because they aren't sure what to pray for. Paul reminded his readers that the Holy Spirit helped them in their weaknesses by interceding for them.
- The Spirit's prayers are effective because they align with God's will.

Summary Statements

Those who trust Jesus are indwelt by the Holy Spirit when they are adopted into the family of God.

- Believers can confidently approach God as Father.
- The indwelling of the Spirit and the promise of what is yet to come motivates believers to live with hope.
- Believers can be assured that the Holy Spirit is interceding to the Father for them.

Memory Verse

Romans 8:15

Key Doctrine

Last Things

God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring the world to its appropriate end. (See 2 Corinthians 4:17; Revelation 21:1.)



For additional commentary, see the Leader Guide or Adult Commentary, available for purchase at [goExploreTheBible.com](https://www.goExploreTheBible.com).

ENGAGE

When you picture a happy family, whose family do you think of? (PSG, p. 64)

- A happy family always makes space for everyone. During holiday gatherings, the house might feel packed, but no one worries about being left out.
- Beds fill up fast, and cozy spots on the floor become welcoming places to sleep. Come breakfast, there's plenty for all—because the kitchen never runs out of pancakes.

How does being a part of God's family shape your sense of belonging? (PSG, p. 64)

Bonus: What word would you use to describe your family's holiday gatherings? Why?

EXPLORE

RELATIONSHIP (ROM. 8:14-17)

Bonus: How do you know you are a member of your extended family? Why is that important?

- When we receive God's gift of salvation, we join all those who enjoy the blessings of salvation. This includes the indwelling of God's Spirit. Paul reminded the Romans that we follow the Spirit's guidance. This is not simply about obedience. It is also about identification. We know we are God's children because we walk with the Spirit.
- Paul contrasted two spirits. A spirit of slavery brings the fear of punishment according to the law. In contrast, the Holy Spirit assures believers that God has adopted them. "Abba, Father" is the language of a child running into the arms of a loving father.
- Believers may wrestle with doubts about their salvation. In those moments, the Spirit serves as a decisive witness to confirm an individual's place in God's family.
- As members of God's family, we are heirs and have access to all of God's riches. Paul was not proclaiming a prosperity gospel. He was stating that God's resources are enough to meet our every need. While our lives on earth will include suffering, we also will experience glory in heaven.

How does calling God "Abba, Father" impact your understanding of prayer and intimacy with Him? (PSG, p. 67)

HOPE (ROM. 8:18-25)

Bonus: How often do you think about heaven? What are you looking forward to the most?

- Paul had endured ridicule, beatings, imprisonment, and even near-death encounters. But he kept his focus on eternity. He stated that the sufferings of this world could not compare with the blessings of heaven.
- A day is coming when Christ will restore all things in a new heaven and new earth. Using personification, Paul

pictured creation straining with anticipation for that moment. Just as sin corrupted the entire universe, Christ's return will bring complete renewal.

- Until that day, believers can depend on the Holy Spirit to produce firstfruits. This word picture depicts a bountiful harvest. Believers will experience the complete joy of their adoption and the redemption of their bodies. This produces hope in the midst of patience.

How does the hope expressed in these verses help you in times of adversity? (PSG, p. 69)

HELP (ROM. 8:26-27)

Bonus: How do you handle doubts about God?

- The Spirit helps us walk with Jesus. His presence now is the guarantee—the down payment—of what is to come. By dwelling in us, He keeps our hope in Christ alive.
- Weakness often shows up as confusion or uncertainty that leads to frustration. In those times, even knowing what to pray for can feel overwhelming. Thankfully, the Spirit intercedes for us when our own words fail.
- God always hears the Spirit's prayers. Just as God the Father listened to the prayers of His Son, He also hears the prayers of His Spirit. The Spirit's prayers are heard because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

How does knowing that God understands both your heart and the Spirit's intercession give you peace? (PSG, p. 71)

CHALLENGE

As a group, reflect on being children of God.

Share with your Bible study group what being in God's family means to you. (PSG, p. 72)

During the week, spend time confessing to God just how much you need Him in your life.

What effect does your personal relationship with God as your Father have on the durability of your hope? How much do you depend on the Holy Spirit to help you when you pray? (PSG, p. 72)

FURTHER DISCUSSION



Scan here for additional discussion questions for this week's study.

BIBLE SKILL (PSG, P. 71)

Use a Bible dictionary to learn more about the Holy Spirit.

Use a Bible dictionary to learn more about what the Bible teaches about the Holy Spirit. Reflect on these questions: ***How did the Holy Spirit's work differ in the Old and New Testaments? What kind of work does the Holy Spirit do in the life of a believer in the New Testament?***

Note any findings about the Holy Spirit that were new for you.

Encourage adults to share which member of the Trinity they understand best. Note how many (or few) mentioned the Holy Spirit. Affirm that the Holy Spirit can seem mysterious, but He plays an important role in our spiritual growth. Divide adults into teams and give each team a Bible dictionary. Direct them to complete the Bible Skill activity on page 71 of the PSG. After a few minutes, allow volunteers to share what they learned about the Spirit in their research.

OBJECT LESSON: CANE

Bring a cane or a similar mobility device to the session. Write "Holy Spirit" on the board. Encourage adults to share what they know about the Holy Spirit from the Scriptures. Use the "Dig Deeper" feature below to supplement the conversation. Affirm the Spirit is an invaluable partner as we become more like Christ and make a difference for the kingdom of God.

Show adults the cane or other device. Explain that getting around after an accident, following surgery, or as we simply get older can be problematic. Note that many people rely on crutches or something similar to feel safe and confident in walking.

Share that this support is a great illustration of how the Holy Spirit helps us overcome our weaknesses as we walk with Christ. Discuss: ***How are you relying on the Holy Spirit to support your walk with Christ today?*** Encourage adults to reflect on the Spirit's work in their lives and to avoid overlooking the impact He has on our walk with Jesus each day.

DIG DEEPER

THE HOLY SPIRIT

In Romans 8:14-27, Paul emphasized the central role played by the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer. The Spirit is not an impersonal force or feeling. Rather, He is the third Person of the Trinity, fully God and equal with the Father and the Son (Matt. 28:19). For Christians, the Spirit serves as God's constant presence, confirming their adoption into His family. As Paul noted, the Holy Spirit testifies along with our own spirit that we belong to God (Rom. 8:16). He guarantees our personal relationship with the Father through the Son.

The Holy Spirit convicts people of sin, points them to Christ, and lives within every believer from the moment of salvation (John 16:8-13; 1 Cor. 6:19). He seals us for the day of redemption (Eph. 1:13-14), and He works daily to make us more like Christ. The Spirit reveals the active work of God the Father in the world, especially in and through the ministry of His church.¹

Romans 8 explains that the Spirit leads Christ followers away from fear and into a close relationship with God. He moves us to cry out, "Abba, Father," showing that our relationship with God is warm and

personal (Rom. 8:15). In addition, the Spirit helps us when we do not know how to pray, interceding for us according to the will of God (8:26-27). We are not left to figure things out on our own. God provides the Spirit to help and guide us.²

Walking by the power and wisdom of the Holy Spirit is the normal model for the Christian life. He is our Helper, Counselor, and Comforter. The Spirit frees us from sin's power, assures us of our hope, and strengthens us in our weakness. And He shows us that we truly belong to God. This is why Jesus sent Him to believers after He returned to heaven (John 14:15-17), and this is why the Spirit is so vital to our ability to fulfill God's mission on earth.

Sources:

1. Grudem, Wayne. *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*. (Zondervan, 1994), 634.
2. Stott, John. *The Message of Romans*. (InterVarsity Press, 1994), 237.