

SPIRIT AND TRUTH

A NO-NONSENSE, BIBLICAL LOOK AT
THE PERSON AND WORK OF THE
HOLY SPIRIT

February 14, 2021

Spirit and Truth Part 10: The Spirit Who Saves (3): Sure about Sonship - The Spirit's Role in Adoption and Assurance
Selected Scriptures

I. _____ (Romans 8:15, 8:23, 9:4; Gal 4:4-7; Eph 1:5; Jn 1:12-13)

A. _____

B. _____

God has granted that all those who are justified would receive the grace of adoption, in and for the sake of his only Son Jesus Christ. By this they are counted among the children of God and enjoy the freedom and privileges of that relationship. They inherit his name, receive the spirit of adoption, have access to the throne of grace with boldness, and are enabled to cry "Abba, Father!" They are given compassion, protected, provided for, and chastened by him as a father. Yet they are never cast off but are sealed for the day of redemption and inherit the promises as heirs of everlasting salvation. - 1689 Baptist Confession

II. _____ (Romans 8:15-17)

A. _____

B. _____

1) _____

2) _____

1689 Baptist Confession Chapter 18 - Assurance of Grace and Salvation

1. Temporary believers and other unregenerate people may deceive themselves in vain with false hopes and fleshly presumptions that they have God's favor and salvation, but their hope will perish. Yet those who truly believe in the Lord Jesus and love him sincerely, endeavoring to walk in all good conscience before him, may be certainly assured in this life that they are in a state of grace. They may rejoice in the hope of the glory of God, and this hope will never make them ashamed.

2. This certainty is not merely an inconclusive or likely persuasion based on a fallible hope. It is an infallible assurance of faith founded on the blood and righteousness of Christ revealed in the Gospel. It is also built on the inward evidence of those graces of the Spirit about which promises are made. It is further based on the testimony of the Spirit of adoption, witnessing with our spirits that we are the children of God. As a fruit of this assurance, our hearts are kept both humble and holy.

3. This infallible assurance is not such an essential part of faith that it is always fully experienced alongside faith, but true believers may wait a long time and struggle with many difficulties before obtaining it. Yet with the enabling of the Spirit to know the things freely given to them by God, they may attain this assur-

ance using ordinary means appropriately without any extraordinary revelation. Therefore, it is the duty of all to be as diligent as possible to make their calling and election sure. In this way their hearts may be enlarged in peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, in love and thankfulness to God, and in strength and cheerfulness in the duties of obedience. These effects are the natural fruits of this assurance. Thus, it does not at all encourage believers to be negligent.

4. True believers may in various ways have the assurance of their salvation shaken, decreased, or temporarily lost. This may happen because they neglect to preserve it or fall into some specific sin that wounds their conscience and grieves the Spirit. It may happen through some unexpected or forceful temptation or when God withdraws the light of his face and allows even those who fear him to walk in darkness and to have no light. Yet they are never completely lacking the seed of God, the life of faith, love of Christ and the brethren, sincerity of heart, or conscience concerning their duty. Out of these graces, through the work of the Spirit, this assurance may at the proper time be revived. In the meantime, they are kept from utter despair through them.

EST 2020

MINING THE MESSAGE

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND FURTHER RESOURCES
TO DIG DEEPER



Look back at **Galatians 4:4-7**. How does Paul describe our adoption as believers? What are some implications that flow from this?

What effect does our adoption have on our relationships with fellow believers?

Does someone need to be assured of their salvation to be saved?

What is one practical step of faith you can take this week in light of this message?

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Resources: *This list of resources is designed to address topics raised in the message in more details. The inclusion of the resources here does mean total endorsement of every "jot and tittle" and of course, I encourage you to be a Berean and test all things (Acts 17:11, 1 Thess 5:21) and to pray through the text we've studied, trusting the Lord to grant further understanding.*

*** denotes a "top pick" resource*

Something to Read:

The Quest for Full Assurance - Joel Beeke

Children of the Living God - Sinclair Ferguson

Heirs with Christ: The Puritans on Adoption - Joel Beeke

Saved without a Doubt - John MacArthur

Reclaiming Adoption: Missional Living Through the Rediscovery of Abba Father - ed. Dan Cruver

Something to Listen to (unless otherwise noted, all messages are available on YouTube):

The Doctrine of Adoption - Voddie Baucham

The Adoption of the Believer - John MacArthur

Adopted as God's Children - Andy Woodard

*The Narrow Mind #120 - The Doctrine of Adoption ***