

**Title:** “The Spirit Of Adoption”

**Text:** Romans 8:12-19 NKJV

**Proposition:** The Lord craves becoming yours, and all yours, and you becoming all His

**Purpose:** Surrender to His unfailing love that transforms

**Event:** Pinecroft Baptist Church – Senior Pastor

**Date:** 3.9.2025

*12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.*

*13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.*

*14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.*

*15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.”*

*16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,*

*17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.*

### ***From Suffering to Glory***

*18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.*

*19 For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.*

**Romans 8:12-19 NKJV**

## **I. Introduction: New Birth**

**[THIS WORD HAS THREE SECTIONS: NEW BIRTH, NEW IDENTITY, NEW LIFE]**

When a baby is born, it immediately cries. This is the fact of new life for every Christian. Your spirit literally cries out to God. There is a separation that can only be bridged by the redemption that will only be fully manifest by the return of Jesus Christ. Until then, we are waiting, as is all of creation for the full revelation of who we are – adopted children of God.

What we cry for is what was lost – unseparated communion with the love of God. God is love. And outside of Him there is no true love. Without the depth that we once enjoyed as humanity in the Garden of Eden, we are living a shadow of our existence. Our true identity cannot be fully realized on this planet or in this realm. This is what constitutes suffering. It’s the experience of

being outside of the closest proximity with God. That is our plight. And it started in the very beginning:

*6 "So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.*

*7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.*

*8 And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.*

*9 Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?"*

*10 So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself."*

**Genesis 3:6-10 NKJV**

When they ate the forbidden fruit, their eyes became "opened." They had the ability, for the first time, to see anything outside of the love of God. And they were introduced to the chief sin, FEAR.

The bible teaches that this is a spirit, and it did not come from God. It came from the serpent.

*6 "Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.*

*7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.*

***Not Ashamed of the Gospel***

*8 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God,"*

**2 Timothy 1:6-8 NKJV**

We are only allowed to fear one thing: God Himself. Fear placed anywhere else is likened to bondage. So, we must know the Lord as Father, because the Spirit of adoption is the OPPOSITE of the spirit of fear:

*14 "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.*

*15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."*

*16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,"*

**Romans 8:14-16 NKJV**

As a child of God, you have nothing to fear. But you won't get to that point of faith, until you have an ultimate experience with the Spirit of Adoption – otherwise known as the Holy Spirit. The

Father wants you to have as close an experience with His heart as Adam and Eve had in the Garden. They didn't even have a concept of what FEAR was! They only knew God walking with them, all the time. And you can have a taste of that now! "*Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!*" (Psalm 34:8 NKJV).

His goodness is so available to you right now. I'm talking about an experience with His presence. He is so near, but you need to taste it. You need to surrender to it. Don't hide from it. He is craving your soul and your mind and your friendship. Submit to Him and LIVE!

## II. New Identity

When you give your life to Jesus, you immediately become a child of God. You were once an orphan. You were one of those people who were running and hiding, trying to keep control of their lives. But, the Lord wants you to be close. He wants you to become adopted from the life of pain and hurt, into a life of joy in the Holy Spirit. He wants you to embrace your new identity as a child of God.

How do you get close to the Lord? How do you walk in your identity as a son or daughter? You need to do what Adam and Eve did:

*9 "Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?"*

*10 So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself."*

*11 And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?"*

*12 Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate."*

*13 And the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?"*

*The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."*

**Genesis 3:9-13 NKJV**

## 1. LISTEN

At some point, you have to stop running. You have to give into the idea that you can't take care of yourself. You can't outrun God. But, as you try, you are missing out on the life that He has for you. The Lord craves your closeness. And truth be told, most of us don't have much of an appetite for the Lord. We submit to the culture of our world. We think "normal" is defined by mankind. God defines normal!

Normal to God is you and Him and no one else. The word in Hebrew that's translated as "called," can also mean "cried." The Lord cried out to Adam and said, "Where are you?" So, where are you? Are you being found by the Lord? Are you escaping His gaze and attention? Are you afraid of the wrong things? Are you running from His voice? The bible says we should hate our father, mother, wife, brothers, and sisters, compared to how we love Jesus.

*25 "Now great multitudes went with Him. And He turned and said to them,*

*26 "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.*

*27 And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple."*

**Luke 14:25-27 NKJV**

## 2. CONFESS

God is that beautiful! And He wants you to see it! So, you must first CONFESS. Confess your need for God and confess your sins. You might be thinking, "Where have I sinned?" As we just mentioned, if you have desired anything at all in your life more than you have desired to be with God, you have sinned. You have worshipped idols. You have committed adultery. Confession brings you to surrender.

### **3. SURRENDER**

God wants you to embrace your identity. He has not called you live like an orphan, who is estranged from their Father. He wants you to submit to the love He's constantly pouring out, through the nearness and the voice of the Holy Spirit.

*17 "the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.*

*18 I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you."*

**John 14:17-18 NKJV**

This is what it means to "walk in the Spirit," or "live in the Spirit." It means to adopt a lifestyle of adoption. **IT IS A LIFE OF SURRENDER.** You submit to the authority and voice of your Father who is always with you and ministering to you, correcting you, directing you, yes, LOVING YOU.

The Spirit of truth tells you the truth of WHO YOU ARE. You are a son. **There is never anything to fear,** EVER. Jesus left you, but He left you in good hands. He left you a COMFORTER. He left you the Spirit that gives you a new identity. The Spirit of Adoption that transforms you from one culture and brings you into an entirely different Kingdom.

**SURRENDER TO HIS UNFAILING LOVE** and you will find your identity IN HIM.

Surrender is a lifestyle, not a moment. You live in surrender. What are surrendering to? Your surrendering to the fact that you are not your own!

*18 "Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body.*

*19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?*

*20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's."*

**1 Corinthians 6:18-20 NKJV**

You are not called to be an adulterer. You are called to be a Bride. You are called to be a member of the Body of Christ, the Temple of the Holy Spirit. Everything you do should be with

the Holy Spirit in mind. He should direct your steps and keep you in the love of God! Stay in the family! Where you have stepped out of the love of God, you have committed adultery. And it starts in the heart. The Spirit of Adoption didn't stop at the moment you got rescued from sin! **HE WANTS TO TAKE ALL THE SIN OUT OF YOU!** He wants to remove all stumbling blocks and walls that impede your being consumed by the Father and being limitlessly in His arms and presence. It's really a choice to BE HUMBLE. If you remain committed to relying on God, and not yourself, you are walking in the identity He ordained for you, not the story someone else has written for you, especially the devil.

You experience the glory of God by your surrendering of every part of you. You are not your own. You are ALL HIS. This heartache for God is the secret to a life of fulness of joy in the Spirit.

*<sup>17</sup> "For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit."*

**Romans 14:17 NKJV**

### **III. New Life**

The bible teaches us that we are now "new creatures" in Christ. This literally means your DNA has been adopted into the DNA of Christ. You might have your earthly parents DNA in a natural sense, but when you were birthed by the Holy Spirit, you took on the nature of your Father in the spirit realm. You might look the same to all of us. But in the spirit, you are totally different. You even have a new name in heaven!

What we know about newly-adopted orphans in a natural sense can help us see what we need to appreciate about being adopted in the spiritual sense.

### **1. Adoptees Change Environments**

When someone is adopted, they can't stay where they used to. They're often taken from a place where there are numerous people, and isolated from that kind of communal lifestyle and planted into a loving home.

### **2. Adoptees Learn A New Culture**

The place where you used to reside is totally different from the family of God. It's been described as "upside-down" compared to the world.

### **3. Adoptees Take A New Name**

When you're adopted, you change names, not just addresses. The name you are known by changes. As one who is adopted by the Father, you need to do everything in the name of Jesus!

### **4. Adoptees Struggle To Assimilate**

Just because you are adopted, doesn't mean your past vanishes from memory. You're still influenced by the fears of your past life. The Lord invites you to abandon your past, and believe what He says about you right now.

### **5. Adoptees Submit To New Authority**

Your Father in Heaven is now the voice you follow. You need to learn His heart and His voice. He is the one who is standing behind you saying, "This is the way. Walk in it." (Isaiah 30:21)

## **6. Adoptees Forsake All Former Entanglements**

The bondage that you were under before, is not for you anymore. When you join with the Lord, you forsake all others.

## **7. Adoptees Are Under Different Legal Authority**

No matter what the devil says about you, the Lord loves you and will never leave you. You are now ruled by grace, truth, mercy, forgiveness, and love. You are no longer bound by the sins and the law of sin.

## **8. Adoptees Become Intimate With A Former Stranger**

Perhaps this is the most uncomfortable aspect of adoption. You have to begin loving someone you never knew. How do you do this? You spend time together. You talk to them. You listen to them and tell them your most guarded secrets. You allow yourself to take risks at their word, **BECAUSE OF WHO YOU ARE TO THEM – AND WHO THEY ARE TO YOU!**

## **IV. Conclusion – Embrace Suffering**

The trouble with adoption arises when the adoptee can't seem to get with the new program. They still want independence. They struggle to trust anyone in authority due to how they had been abandoned and treated in the past. They might have anger issues or other bad habits.

The Lord knows all this. And so, He has baked into your relationship with Him a solution.

SUFFERING.

*16 To the woman He said:*

*“I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception;  
In pain you shall bring forth children;  
Your desire shall be for your husband,  
And he shall rule over you.”*

17 Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it':

*"Cursed is the ground for your sake;*

*In toil you shall eat of it*

*All the days of your life.*

18 *Both thorns and thistles it shall [f]bring forth for you,*

*And you shall eat the herb of the field.*

19 *In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread*

*Till you return to the ground,*

*For out of it you were taken;*

*For dust you are,*

*And to dust you shall return."*

**Genesis 3:16-19 NKJV**

The Lord ordained suffering as a consequence for the sin that separated us from His most glorious presence. Someone had to pay. Until blood was shed, there was mercy, but it was still harsh. God didn't kill them immediately, but He allowed Adam and Eve to experience a measure of the grief that they brought the Holy Spirit. Yes, you hurt the Lord's heart. Yes, sin actually hurts Him.

\*\*\*Suffering helps you do three things:

- **Learn how much you have hurt the Lord**
- **Learn how much you need the Lord**
- **Learn how much the Lord wants YOU**

Through suffering, you are simultaneously humbled, and brought closer. The adoption of your soul did not eliminate the habits and death tendencies that still reside in your flesh, or human nature. In order to keep you as close as possible, the Lord made life hard. Otherwise, we would not choose Him, seek Him, or desire Him. And He would not be a righteous judge. It's amazing how the Lord uses judgment to actually redeem us. I encourage you to embrace the suffering that comes with **LISTENING, CONFESSING, AND SURRENDERING**. It's through this submission to God that we get the taste of Eden that He so desperately desires. He wants to take you back to the place

where only His vision for us – LOVE was possible. He wants you to come to Him – the creator, purveyor, and preserver of eternal, unfailing love. Choose Him over comfort. For He is worth surrendering to. He is your HEAVENLY FATHER, and He is perfect.

How did He show you His love? He sent His only Son, Jesus Christ. The suffering you endure is an opportunity for you to feel a small bit of what the Lord suffered for you. He chose to come here and suffer on the earth He created. He embraced the curse that was on all of us and faced death, pain, and suffering. He decided YOU WERE WORTH ALL THE PAIN THE WORLD COULD GIVE HIM. When you suffer, you are in fellowship with Him. When you carry the cross, you see His love for you on the cross He carried. You understand the cost of sin and His willingness to pay the full price. He shows you how much it cost to adopt you. It cost Him everything.

WILL YOU SURRENDER TO THAT LOVE TODAY?