

Romans: The Crown Jewel of Salvation

Adopted for Life

Romans 8:14-17

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa

1. Want to know if you're a child of God? You need to know if you're led by the Spirit!

Rom. 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

Christian pop culture has plenty to say about how to know if you're Spirit-led, but oftentimes their alleged "proofs" are foreign to the pages of Scripture. What does the Word of God say are evidences that you're Spirit-led?

A. **Circumstances**—You can look back on your life and see indications of God's Spirit leading and directing in circumstances the Lord brings about.

Acts 8:29ff Then **the Spirit said to Philip**, "Go near and overtake this chariot."

Acts 16:6,7ff ⁶ Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, **they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia.** ⁷ After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but **the Spirit did not permit them.**

B. **Illumination**—The ability to understand the Word of God is evidence of the Spirit at work in your life.

1 Cor. 2:14ff But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.

C. **Application**—Understanding Scripture is helpful, but God has called us to apply the Word of God to our everyday life.

James 1:22 But **be doers of the word**, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

- D. **Sanctification**—Someone who is “Spirit-led” is changed by the information they apply. Bible information brings about our sanctification as we change and grow to become more like Jesus.

Rom. 8:13,14

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.

Illumination → Application → Sanctification

What about you? What evidence do you see in your life that you are “Spirit-led”?

- 2. If you’re a believer, you’ve been given more than eternal life. You’ve been adopted into God’s family, and given all the benefits of sonship!**

Rom. 8:15

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.”

It’s not that God is “like a Dad” to us. As believers, we’ve been adopted into His family and He is our Father. God no longer judges us with condemnation from a distance, but loves us because we’re His children and He’s our “Abba,” our **Daddy!**

There is no such thing as a fatherless Christian.

What about you? Do you see within your life a compelling desire to spend time with your heavenly “Daddy”? Do you cry out to Him as His child?

3. As adopted children of God, a primary way we show our understanding of God's adoptive compassion on us is by our involvement in the caring of orphans locally, domestically and internationally.

James 1:27

Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, *and* to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

"It is one thing when the culture doesn't 'get' adoption. What else could one expect when all of life is seen as the quest of 'selfish genes' for survival? It is one thing when the culture doesn't 'get' adoption and so speaks of buying a cat as "adopting" a pet. But when those who follow Christ think the same way, we betray that we miss something crucial about our own salvation."

Moore, Russell. *Adopted for Life: The Priority of Adoption for Christian Families and Churches*. Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway, 2009. 21-2. Print.

What about you? Not everyone is called to adopt a child. However, in light of your having "received the Spirit of adoption," how might you be involved in an earthly expression of that same adoptive grace? What might God call and enable you to do in caring for orphans?