



Spirits

THE TRUTH ABOUT OUR
ADOPTION AS SONS

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“....WAITING EAGERLY FOR OUR ADOPTION AS SONS.”
Romans 8:23 NAS

Throughout the history of Christianity, men of the true Church have said there is a deeper experience of God which follows the “new birth” and is necessary for full salvation.

This experience has been wrongly called by various names such as: A second blessing, Filled with the Spirit, or a second work of grace, John Wesley called it “The Great Salvation”.

No matter what it is called, this experience always represents something very different from conversion and brings power for service in God's Kingdom.

The apostle Paul referred to this second experience by its true name: “the adoption as sons”, the adoption is the key to understanding God's plan of salvation. Simply said, the process of salvation is this: First, we are BORN AGAIN and receive the Holy Spirit of God. Then later (after testing) we are ADOPTED AS SONS and receive the Spirit of Christ.

The New Birth and the Adoption are two separate spiritual events, one involving the Holy Spirit and the other involving the Spirit of Christ

However, most churchmen would argue that the Holy Spirit and the Spirit of Christ are identical. They say that the moment we are born-again we are also adopted as sons. THEY ARE WRONG?

The proof they are wrong hangs upon these questions:

*Is the “Holy Spirit”, the “Spirit of Christ”?

*Are believers both born-again and adopted at the same moment in time?

Your spiritual life may depend on knowing the Scriptural answers to those questions.

Please examine the following pages with prayer and an open mind....

IS THE "HOLY SPIRIT" THE "SPIRIT OF CHRIST"?

The Holy Spirit of God and the Spirit of Christ are distinctly different. Most church scholars teach that they are one and the same person, however the Bible clearly teaches the following facts:

ONE The Spirit of Christ is something separate and distinct from the Holy Spirit of God!

TWO The Spirit of Christ is received after we receive the Holy Spirit of God.

To avoid any confusion when referring to the two Spirits, I will distinguish them with a symbol as follows:

(HS) Holy Spirit of God

(SOC) Spirit of Christ

PAUL COMPARES THE TWO SPIRITS.

In his letter to the Romans, Paul spoke of both the Spirit of God and the Spirit of Christ in one verse. He said:

1A *"However you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the SPIRIT OF GOD (HS) dwells in you.*

1B *BUT if anyone does not have the SPIRIT OF CHRIST (SOC), he does not belong to Him."*
Romans 8:9

In line 1A, (above) Paul is referring to the SPIRIT OF GOD whom we receive when we are born-again as CHILDREN of God.

However, in line 1B, the contrasting word "BUT" clearly introduces a different Spirit, i.e. the SPIRIT OF CHRIST whom we receive later, when we are adopted as SONS of God.

BORN-AGAIN CHILDREN ARE NOT YET SONS!

In the eighth chapter of Romans, Paul made a clear distinction between those who were born-again CHILDREN of God and those who were the adopted SONS of God

First, he said this about those who were born-again:

2A *"THE SPIRIT (HS) Himself bears witness with our spirit that WE ARE CHILDREN OF GOD."*

Already born-again

Then just seven verses later, Paul said that the "children of God" had fruit of "the Spirit" but were waiting for adoption:

2B *"...but also we ourselves, HAVING THE FIRST FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT (HS)*

Waiting for adoption

2C *even we ourselves groan within ourselves, WAITING EAGERLY FOR OUR ADOPTION AS SONS."*
Romans 8:23 NAS

Please look at the underlined portion of those verses, Paul clearly said that:

1. They were **CHILDREN** of God, (2A)
2. They had the fruit of the Holy Spirit, (2B)
3. They were waiting for the adoption as **SONS**. (2C)

Therefore it must follow that those CHILDREN of God waiting for their adoption were not yet SONS of God!

ADOPTED SONS RECEIVE THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST.

Paul told the Galatians that they would become sons by adoption (not birth) and that each believer would know when he was adopted because at that time God would send forth the Spirit of His Son (SOC) into his heart as proof. The apostle said this:

3A *"...God sent forth His Son... that we might receive adoption as SONS.*

3B *And because ("as proof")* You are sons, God has sent forth the SPIRIT OF HIS SON into your hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"*
Galatians 4:4-6 NAS

It is important to note here that:

1. We become sons by adoption. (3A)
2. Sons receive the Spirit of Christ. (3B)

*"as proof", so reads: New English Bible

THE SPIRIT WHO BEARS WITNESS TO BELIEVERS THAT THEY ARE CHILDREN OF GOD IS NOT THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST!

IF... We know that the Children of God were WAITING to be adopted as sons. (see 2C)

AND... We know that sons receive the Spirit of Christ. (see 3B)

THEN ... We know that those who were waiting to be adopted as sons had not received the Spirit of Christ.

Think about it for a moment. It is certain that if the children of God were "waiting eagerly" for the adoption, they could not have already received the adoption.

And since they had not received the adoption, they could not have received the Spirit of Christ who comes at adoption.

Therefore, the Spirit who dwells in them (Rom 8:9) and witnesses to them that they are children of God (Rom 8:16) cannot be the Spirit of Christ!

Most of the organized church system has lost the basic scriptural truth that salvation is a process. It begins with the new birth and ends with receiving the Spirit of Christ at adoption. God tests the faith of those who are born-again before He adopts them.

BORN-AGAIN CHILDREN ARE PROMISED AN INHERITANCE.

Do not be deceived; one may indeed be a born again CHILD of God who has been promised an inheritance, and yet still not be an adopted SON of God who has received that inheritance. Paul said it like this:

4A *"I mean that the heir, as long as he is a CHILD, is no better than a SLAVE, though he is the owner of all the estate; but he is under the guardians and trustees until the date set by the father. SO WITH US...."*
Galatians 4:1 RSV

Thus we see that one may be a minor to whom an inheritance has been promised, but who will not receive that inheritance until certain conditions have been fulfilled. That is to say that one may be an "heir" and not yet be an "inheritor".

SLAVES ARE NOT YET INHERITORS!

Paul goes on to explain the difference between a SLAVE who has been promised an inheritance and a SON who has received that inheritance.

First, he said this about new believers:

5A *"So with us; when we were children, we were **SLAVES** to the elemental [evil] spirits of the universe"*
Galatians 4:3 RSV

Then, in reference to the "slaves" who had become "sons", he said this:

5B *"And because [as proof] you are **SONS**, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts...."*
Galatians 4:6 NAS

Finally, Paul summed up his statement and said:

5C *"Therefore you are no longer a SLAVE, but a SON; and if a SON, then an heir through God."*
Galatians 4:7 NAS

Paul was saying this "Because you have received the Spirit of Christ, you know that you are now a SON and heir. (i.e. an inheritor of the promise) Therefore you are no longer a SLAVE."

SLAVE TO WHAT?

What did Paul mean when he said "no longer a slave"? Jesus Himself gives us the answer to this question in the Gospel of John. Our Lord warned us:

6A *"Truly, truly I say to you, everyone that commits sin is the **SLAVE OF SIN**.*

6B *And the slave does not remain in the house forever; the **SON** does remain forever.*

6C *If therefore the Son shall make you free, (from sin) you shall be free indeed."*

John 8:34-36 NAS

Thus we see that the SLAVE is one who has become a born again child of God through faith, but continues to commit willful sin and thus remains a slave to sin. He will be lost because "THE SLAVE DOES NOT REMAIN IN THE HOUSE FOREVER".

Paul also warned the born-again believers in Rome that they must give up their slavery to sin or die. He wrote this:

7A "You are **SLAVES** of the one you obey,
either of SIN resulting in DEATH,
or of obedience resulting in righteousness."
Romans 6:16 NAS

7B "For if you live according to the flesh YOU WILL DIE.

7C But if by the Spirit (HS) you put to death the deeds of the body YOU WILL LIVE."
Romans 8:13 RSV

One who is "born again" can still choose to "live according to the flesh" and remain a slave to sin. (He will be lost!) Or by the power of the Holy Spirit (HS) he can choose to obey God and "put to death the deeds of the body". (He will inherit eternal life)

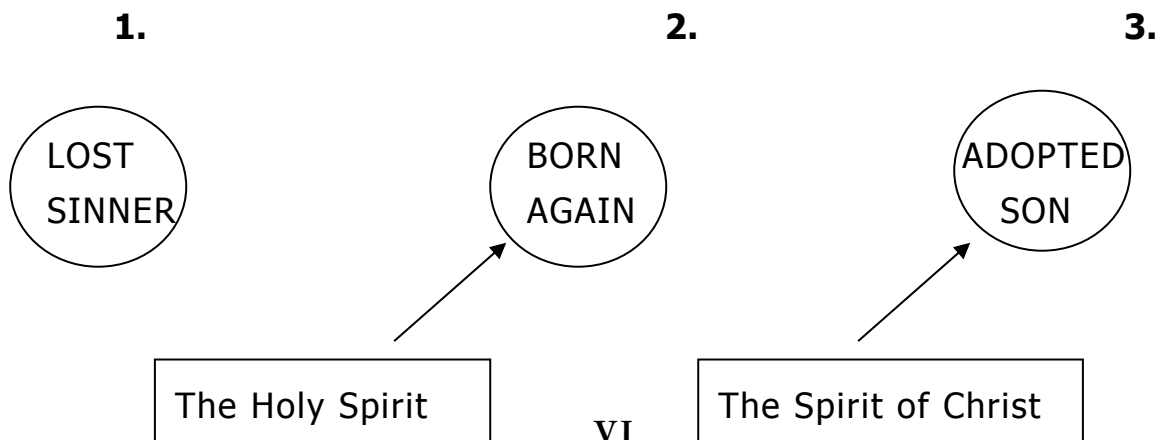
ETERNAL LIFE IS IN THE SON. (NOT IN THE HOLY SPIRIT)

The apostle John said this:

8A "...God gave us eternal life,
and this life is in His Son,
He who has the Son has life;
he who has not the Son of God has not life."
1 John 5:11 RSV

When we are born again, we are sealed with the Holy Spirit of God who is the earnest (the guarantee) of our PROMISED inheritance. He is the one who will guide us, teach us, enable us to overcome sin, and grow to spiritual maturity. When (and if) we grow to maturity, God will send forth "the Spirit of His Son into our hearts". It is Jesus Christ Himself who is the promised inheritance and eternal life is in Him. If His Spirit lives in us we also will live!

THE PROCESS OF SALVATION



VERSES REFERRING TO THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST

JOHN 14:15-18 NAS

*"If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.
And (then) I will ask the Father, and He will
give you another Helper that He may be with you forever;*

*that is the SPIRIT OF TRUTH whom the world cannot
receive, because it does not behold Him
or know Him,*

*but you know Him because He abides with you,
and will be IN you.
I will not leave you as orphans;
I WILL COME TO YOU....*

*:20 In that day know that
I am in my Father,
and you in Me,
AND I IN YOU."*

See note below

"SPIRIT OF TRUTH"
The Spirit of Jesus
He said "I am the way and
the TRUTH and the life."
(John 14:6)

"ANOTHER" In John 14:16 above where Jesus said that the Father will give us "another Helper", John used the Greek word "allos" (243) which, can only be used to express something that is different in number. (As opposed to "heteros" (2087) which is used to express something that is different in kind.) Therefore, in order for there to be "another" Helper, there must be more than one.

"HELPER" From the Greek "paracletos" (3875). The Bible clearly states that there are TWO "paracletos". The first is the Holy Spirit as found in John 14:26;

*"But the Helper (Gk paracletos), THE HOLY SPIRIT,
whom the Father will send in My name, He will
teach you all things"*

The second "paracletos" is Jesus Himself as found in the First Epistle of John 2:1:

*"And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate
(Gk paracletos) with the Father, JESUS CHRIST."*

That makes TWO! Now the question is:

Does the believer actually receive both Helpers? Yes! Jesus said:

*"He will give you another Helper (Gk paracletos)...
that is the SPIRIT OF TRUTH".
John 14:16*

If you have one apple and you are given "another" apple, you have received TWO apples.

When born-again we receive the first "Helper", the Holy Spirit to teach us; and then later when we have been tested and approved, we receive "another Helper", the Spirit of Truth. (i.e. the Spirit of Jesus.)

How do we know that the Spirit of truth is the Spirit of Jesus? The Greek text actually reads "The Spirit of THE Truth". Jesus said of Himself: "I am... the truth", therefore the Spirit of "the truth" is the Spirit of the Lord! (For more proof that "the truth" was a phrase commonly used to represent the Spirit of Jesus, see 2 John 1:2, 1 John 2:4, Heb 10:26)

M *ACTS 3:19 NAS* (Three steps to life)

(1) *"Repent therefore and return, that your sins may be wiped away,*

(2) *in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of THE LORD;*

"THE LORD" = The Spirit of God.

(3) *and that He may send JESUS, THE CHRIST appointed for you,"*

"JESUS" = The Spirit of Christ.

M *ROMANS 8:9 NAS* (The two Spirits compared)

"However you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, IF indeed the SPIRIT OF GOD dwells in You.

BUT-

if anyone does not have the SPIRIT OF CHRIST, he does not belong to Him."

8:10

"And if CHRIST IS IN YOU.... the spirit is alive because of righteousness"

"CHRIST" = The Spirit of Christ in you.

8:11

"But if the SPIRIT OF HIM WHO RAISED JESUS from the dead dwells in you,..."

"HIM WHO RAISED JESUS" = The Spirit of God in you.

M 2 CORINTHIANS 13:5 NAS

*"Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves!
Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that
JESUS CHRIST IS (IN) YOU -
unless indeed you fail the test?"*

“JESUS CHRIST” = The Spirit of Christ in you.

THIS IS THE “TEST”! (1 John 2:3,4)



*"And by this we know that we have
come to know Him, IF WE KEEP HIS
COMMANDMENTS.*

“TEST”
See note below

*The one who says, "I have come to
know Him", and does not keep His
commandments, is a LIAR, and the truth
is not in him."*

“CHRIST IN YOU”
See John 14:15 above

“TEST” The Greek negative particle “a” when placed before a word changes the meaning of the word from the positive sense to its negative sense. When Paul said that Jesus was in us unless we “fail the test”, he used the Greek word “adokimos” which means: unapproved. “Adokimos” is the negative of the Greek word “dokimos” which means: to be approved. (Tested and found worthy)

To understand what it means to “fail the test” (adokimos) we must understand what it means to be “dokimos” (approved). James said this about being “approved”:

*"Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once
he has been APPROVED (dokimos), he will receive the
crown of life, which the Lord has promised to those who
LOVE Him."*

James 1:12 NAS

Now, please look closely, James said that once we are APPROVED we will receive the “crown of life”. And Paul said that if we are UNAPPROVED, (“fail the test”) Jesus Christ is not in us. Could the crown of life be Jesus Christ Himself come to dwell in our hearts?

Take a look at what the apostle John said:

*"God gave us eternal life,
and this life is in his Son.
He who has the Son HAS LIFE..."*
1 John 5:11

Yes, the Spirit of the Son is the same "crown of life" that James said is promised to those who LOVE God. In 1st John 5:3, we find out how to LOVE God:

"For this is the LOVE of God, that we keep His commandments." (See also John 14:21)

Here is a summary of those verses which prove that we must obey God's Law in order to pass the test and receive the "crown of life".

James said:

The crown of life is promised to those who LOVE God.

John said:

The LOVE of God is to keep His commandments.

Therefore:

The crown of life is promised to those who keep His commandments.

And that is "THE TEST", whether we will keep God's Commandments or not!

Before we who are born-again may receive the Spirit of Christ, God first tests our faith by asking us to obey His Ten Commandments. Those whose faith has been tested and approved will receive the promised eternal life which is in Christ Jesus.

That is why our Lord Jesus said to the Rich Young Ruler:

*"If you would enter life,
KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS."
Matthew 19:17 RSV*

Christians are saved by faith, but that faith must be tested by fire to see if it is a true and lasting faith or if it is the faith of those who "believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away." (Luke 8:13). James said it this way:

"Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the TESTING OF YOUR FAITH produces endurance.

*And let endurance have its perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing."
James 1:2 NAS*

That "perfect result" is to receive the crown of life!

M GALATIANS 2:20 NAS

"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but CHRIST LIVES IN ME;"

"CRUCIFIED"
See note below.

4:6

"And because [as proof] you are sons, God has sent forth the SPIRIT OF HIS SON into our hearts,"

4:19

"My children with whom I am again in labor until CHRIST IS FORMED IN YOU..."

"CRUCIFIED" What does Paul mean when he says: "I have been crucified"?

We find the answer in the same book of Galatians:

*"Now those who belong to Christ Jesus HAVE crucified the flesh with its passions and desires."
Galatians 5:24 NAS*

The word "crucified" comes from the Greek "stauroo" (4717): to impale on a cross, to extinguish. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have already crucified the sins of the body through obedience to God's Law. When we have put to death the deeds of the body by the power and leading of God's Holy Spirit, then and only then will we receive the Spirit of Christ. At that time we will say with Paul: *"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me."*

Paul put forth the same idea of crucifying the flesh in his letter to the Romans. verse 8:13, he said:

"But - if by the Spirit you PUT TO DEATH the deeds of the body you will live."

The Holy Spirit is the power that enables us to obey God and teaches us how to put to death the deeds of the body. The sons of God are those who have finally become completely obedient to the instruction of the indwelling Spirit of God:

*"For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God."
Rom 8:14 RSV*

However, those who are led by the flesh in any degree are not yet sons. Believers must obey the Holy Spirit by subjecting themselves to God's Law (Rom 8:7) and crucifying the flesh. When that crucifixion is complete they will receive the Spirit of Christ in their hearts.

M *EPHESIANS 1:13 NAS* (Here Paul refers to the Holy Spirit)

"In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation - having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the HOLY SPIRIT, of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance,"

"HOLY SPIRIT" -
The Spirit of God

3:14-17 (Here Paul refers first to the Holy Spirit and then to the Spirit of Christ)

Paul said: *"I bow my knees before the FATHER that He would grant" [that the Ephesians would be...]*

"strengthened with power through HIS Spirit in the inner man

"HIS SPIRIT" - The Spirit they were sealed with in 1:13

SO THAT CHRIST MAY DWELL (IN) YOUR HEARTS through faith."

"CHRIST MAY DWELL" =
The Spirit of Christ

4:13

"until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the KNOWLEDGE OF THE SON OF GOD..."

M *COLOSSIANS 1:26 NAS*

"that is, the MYSTERY which has been hidden from the past ages and generations; but has been manifested to His saints, to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the gentiles which is CHRIST (IN) YOU, the hope of glory."

"CHRIST IN YOU"
See John 14:15 above.

M *2 THESSALONIANS 2:1 (RSV)*

"To this He called you, through our gospel, so that you may obtain the GLORY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST."

i.e. to obtain the glory of the Spirit of Christ "in you".

M HEBREWS 3:14 KJV

"For we are made **PARTAKERS OF CHRIST**, if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the **end**."

"END"

See note below.

10:36 NAS

"For you have need of endurance, so that **WHEN** you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised."

FOR YET IN A VERY LITTLE WHILE,
HE WHO IS COMING WILL COME,
AND WILL NOT DELAY.

"HE WHO IS COMING"

The Spirit of Christ,
see John 14:15:

"END" From the Greek "telos" (5056): the goal or purpose. "It does not, as is commonly supposed, mean the extinction, end, termination with reference to time, but the goal reached... It never denotes merely an end as to time, a termination in and for itself, for which another word, "teleute" (5054): death, is always used."

Lexical Aid To The New Testament
Spiro Zodhiates - Riverside

Therefore, when the scriptures say "hold our confidence unto the end" they are not referring to the end of time or to our personal death, but rather to the goal that God has set for us — to put to death the deeds of the flesh and receive the Spirit of Christ. The "end" or goal for believers is to be awarded the Spirit of Christ!

M 1 PETER 1:6f NAS

"you have been distressed by various trials, that the proof [testing] of your faith,....may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ."

i.e. to obtain the glory of the Spirit of Christ "in you".


M 2 PETER 1:4 NAS

"For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, in order that by them you might become **PARTAKERS**, OF THE DIVINE NATURE, [after] having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust."

"PARTAKERS" = of Christ
see Heb 3:14 above

M 2 JOHN 9 KJV (Two Spirits)


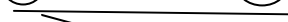
"Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath BOTH the FATHER AND THE SON.



The Spirits of both God and the Son.

M REVELATION 3:20 RSV

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any one hears my voice and opens the door, (I) WILL COME (IN) TO HIM."



I = The Spirit of Christ,
See John 14:15,
"I will come to you"..

3:22 RSV

"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the CHURCHES"



THIS PROMISE WAS MADE
TO THE CHURCH ONLY
NOT TO UNBELIEVERS!

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Although the scriptures clearly say that Christians are "in Christ" and that Christ will be "in us", nowhere does it say that these two events will occur simultaneously! The fact is:

WE MAY BE "IN CHRIST" BUT
CHRIST NOT YET "IN US".

The proof of this concept is found in this same letter to the Laodicean church. Jesus said to them: *"Because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew you out of my mouth."*

Isn't that a clear picture of being in Him?

Yet, just four verses later, He says to this same group of baptized believers (who are already "in Christ"): *"Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any one hears my voice and opens the door, I WILL COME INTO HIM..."*

THEY WERE IN CHRIST BUT HE WAS NOT YET IN THEM!

When a believer is born-again he is "in Christ". After his faith has been tested and approved he is adopted and Christ comes to be in the believer.

M TWO SPIRITS IN EPHESIANS?

In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul stated that he was continually praying that Christ would come to dwell in their hearts - even though they had already received the Holy Spirit. In the first chapter, Paul said this concerning the Holy Spirit:

*"...In whom also after that ye believed,
ye were sealed with that HOLY SPIRIT of promise,
Which is the earnest of our inheritance..."
Ephesians 1:13 KJV*

Then in the third chapter, (while speaking to the same church of baptized believers), Paul said that he was praying that God the Father would strengthen them through His Spirit (HS) so that Christ (SOC) may come to dwell within them. He said:

*"For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our
Lord....
That **HE** would grant you, according
to the riches of HIS glory,
1. 2.
to be strengthened with might by HIS Spirit in the inner man;
3. 4. 5.
That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith;"
Ephesians 3:14f KJV*

Please take a close look at the underlined words above:

1. TO BE STRENGTHENED: Paul is describing the process of spiritual growth which he expects the Father to accomplish in the believer by [means of] His Spirit.
2. BY HIS SPIRIT: This can only refer to the Spirit of the Father not the Son).
3. THAT: This word introduces the clause that explains what will happen after the believer has been strengthened.
i.e. To be strengthened → SO THAT → Christ may dwell!
4. CHRIST MAY DWELL: The word "may" expresses contingency, especially in clauses of purpose, result, concession, etc. (Webster's) Thus we see that the Spirit of Christ coming to dwell in our hearts is contingent upon our having been strengthened by the Spirit of God.

5. IN YOUR HEARTS: This metaphor of Christ coming into our hearts was also used by Paul in Galatians 4:6 to describe the "adoption as sons": "And because (as proof) ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of His Son INTO YOUR HEARTS,".

Paul was saying to the Ephesians that they must first be strengthened in the inner man by the power of the Holy Spirit of God SO THAT "the Christ" may come to dwell in their hearts.

The tenses indicated by the original Greek text clearly point to Christ coming into our hearts after being strengthened by the Holy Spirit. George Ricker Berry, in his Interlinear Greek-English New Testament gave a strict literal translation of that verse as follows:

*...to be strengthened by his Spirit in the inner man;
(for) to dwell the Christ, through faith, in your hearts."*

Note Berry's use of the word (for) above:

for: Indicating the end with reference to which anything acts, serves, or is done. (Webster's)

The end of being strengthened was for the Christ to dwell in their hearts!

In perfect agreement with Berry, the noted Greek scholar, Kenneth Wuest, also points to the future aspect of Christ's coming to dwell in the hearts of the Ephesians. In his book, "The New Testament, An Expanded Translation," he put it this way:

... to be strengthened through the Spirit in the inward man, that the Christ MIGHT FINALLY SETTLE DOWN and feel completely at home in your hearts through your faith;"

Therefore it must be true that "the Christ" had not yet come to dwell in the hearts (of at least some) of the Ephesian believers, even though they had already been sealed by the Holy Spirit of God.

Please take note, the Ephesians had "the Spirit", but Paul was praying that the Christ would come to dwell in their hearts. So it is with all believers even today...

When we are born-again, we are sealed by the "Holy Spirit of promise". His presence is the "earnest" (the pledge) of our promised inheritance. It is He that strengthens us in the inner man, so that the Spirit of Jesus Christ Himself (our inheritance - the crown of life) may come to dwell in our hearts when we receive the adoption as sons.

M "ABBA! FATHER!"

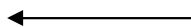
Most Bible commentators would say that both Romans 8:16 and Galatians 4:6 have reference to the same Spirit because the term "Abba, Father!" is found in both verses.

However, their interpretation cannot be true, because as you can see below, in Romans it is WE who cry "Father" - but in Galatians it is the Spirit HIMSELF who cries "Father!".

Romans 8:15.16 (RSV)

"For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the spirit of sonship.

*When WE cry, "Abba! Father!" it is **the Spirit** Himself bearing witness with our spirit that we are CHILDREN OF GOD,"*

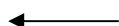


Here, WE cry.

Galatians 4:5,6 (RSV)

"God sent forth His Son.... to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive the ADOPTION AS SONS.

*And because you are sons, God has sent **the Spirit of His Son** into our hearts, CRYING "Abba! Father!"*



Here, HE cries.

The verse in ROMANS speaks of being born of God and receiving the witness of the Holy Spirit. When that happens we know that we are now CHILDREN of God and the Spirit inspires us to cry "Father".

On the other hand, GALATIANS speaks of the adoption as SONS. The Spirit we receive who cries "Father", could not possibly be the Holy Spirit.(HS) Why?... Because there is only one Spirit that could rightfully cry "Father", and that is the Spirit of His Son Jesus, "the ONLY begotten Son of God"!

It is remarkable how Paul was inspired to describe the Spirits in such a way that they could not be confused!

THE SPIRIT WHO BRINGS US TO ADOPTION
IS NOT THE SPIRIT WE RECEIVE AT ADOPTION!

M ADOPTION AS SONS (Defined)

"HUIOTHESIA, from the Greek "huios", a son, and "thesis", a placing, ...signifies the place and condition of a son given to one to whom it does not naturally belong....Adoption is a term involving the dignity of the relationship of believers as sons, it is NOT a putting into the family by spiritual birth, but a putting into the position of sons."

(Vines Dictionary of NT Words Strong's 5206)

ADOPTION: "There is no adoption, says the great Charnock, without regeneration. (to make new) "Adoption," says the same author, "is not a mere relation; the privilege and the image of the sons of God go together. A STATE OF ADOPTION IS NEVER WITHOUT A SEPARATION FROM DEFILEMENT." (2 Cor 6:17,18.) The new name in adoption is never given till the new creature be formed. "As many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." Rom 8:14. Yet these are to be distinguished:

REGENERATION: as a physical act, gives us a likeness to God in our nature;

ADOPTION, as a legal act, gives us a right to an inheritance.

....Those who are adopted into a family must obey the laws of that family; so believers prove themselves adopted, by their obedience to the word and ordinances of God "Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you." John 15:14.

(Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge, 1842)

When the believer is adopted, he becomes something he was not before. He has moved from the fact of spiritual rebirth to the legal position of son, ("and if a son then an heir." Gal 4:7) All who are born of God are children of God, but not all children become sons. Only the sons inherit eternal life. Jesus said it this way:

*"For the gate is narrow... (BORN-AGAIN)
and the way is hard..... (TESTING OF FAITH)
that leads to life,..... (ADOPTION AS SONS)
and those who find it are FEW,"*

Matthew 7:14 RSV

M "CHILDREN" AND "SONS" COMPARED ACCORDING TO THE GREEK:

In the Greek language the words Children and Son were used to express two different ideas. Although both words point to parentage, the word Son expresses a much higher relationship.

CHILDREN: From the Greek "Teknon", emphasizes the idea of DESCENT, giving prominence to the physical and outward aspects. (Berrys NT Synonyms - 5043)

TEKNON: a child (akin to "tikto", to beget, bear) is used in both the natural and the figurative senses. In contrast to "huios", son [see below] gives prominence to the FACT OF BIRTH, whereas "huios" stresses the dignity and character of the relationship.

(Vines Dictionary of NT Words)

Some verses using "teknon":

"But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God," (John 1:12 NAS)

"The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God," (Romans 8:16 NAS)

"By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: any one who does not practice righteousness is not of God," (1 John 3:10 NAS)

SONS

From the Greek "Huios", emphasizes the idea of RELATIONSHIP, and considers especially the inward, ethical, and LEGAL aspects."

(Berrys NT Synonyms - 5207)

"Huios" primarily signifies the relation of offspring to parent and not simply the birth as indicated by "teknon"..."

(Lexical Aids to the NT, Spiro Zodhiates)

"HUIOS, ...The Lord Jesus used "Huios" in a very significant way, as in Matt 5:9, 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called SONS of God' and vv. 44,45, 'Love your enemies and pray for them that persecute you; that ye may be (become) SONS of your Father which is in heaven,'. The disciples were to do these things, not in order that they might become CHILDREN of God, but that, being children (note "your Father" through-out), they might make the fact manifest in their character, might "become sons". See also 2 Cor 6:17, 18."

(Vines Dictionary of NT Words)

Notes: ...The difference between believers as "children of God" and as "sons of God" is brought out in Rom. 8:14-21. The Spirit bears witness with their spirit that they are "CHILDREN of God"... This stresses the fact of their spiritual birth (vv16,17). On the other hand, "as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are SONS of God," i.e., "these and no other."
(Vines Dictionary of NT Words)

The following verses, (2 Cor 6:17,18,) to which Vines referred us, are of particular importance because *they* point out the fact that becoming a "SON" is indeed an event which occurs after the believer is born-again as a CHILD of God:

*"Therefore come out from them,
and be separate from them, says the Lord,
and touch nothing unclean;
→ **THEN** I will welcome you,
and I will be a father to you,
and you shall be my SONS and DAUGHTERS,
says the Lord Almighty;"*
2 Corinthians 6:17 RSV

Remember, that command was given to baptized believers who were already "children of God". Then, in the very next verse, Paul said that becoming "sons and daughters" of God was a PROMISE that would be granted to those who would "be separate", and "touch nothing unclean":

*"Since we have these PROMISES, beloved, let us cleanse
ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, and make
holiness perfect in the fear of God."*
2 Corinthians 7:1 RSV

Paul said: "come out",... "be separate",... "touch nothing unclean". Those who do will inherit the promises. Jesus also pointed to the fact that believers must undergo a cleansing and testing before they actually become sons. For example, He said:

*"He who overcomes shall inherit these things, and
I will be his God and he will be My SON."*
Revelation 21:7 NAS

*ALL SONS ARE CHILDREN OF GOD,
BUT NOT ALL CHILDREN OF GOD ARE SONS!*

M CHILDREN AND SONS IN THE KING JAMES VERSION.

When studying the question of Adoption in the King James Version there is a problem. The translators of the King James did not always distinguish between the Greek words Huios (sons) and Teknon (children). Generally, they would translate Huios as "son" (which is correct), but occasionally as "children" (which is incorrect) and vice versa with Teknon. Their error causes the reader to overlook the distinction that the Greek language makes between those two words.

(Later translations always translate the word Huios as "son" and Teknon as "children".)

The following is a list of verses where HUIOS (son) and TEKNON (children) are incorrectly translated and thus tend to create a misunderstanding of the process that leads to the "adoption as sons". Remember, we are born—again as "children" of God, but we become "sons" only by adoption.

EXAMPLES WHERE "TEKNON" (Children) IS MISTRANSLATED AS SONS

Incorrect form....~~sons~~
Correct form.....CHILDREN

JOHN 1:12 "But as many as received Him, to them gave he power to become the CHILDREN of God, even to them that believe on his name:

PHILIPPIANS 2:14f Do all things without murmurings and disputings: that ye may be blameless and harmless, the ~~sons~~ CHILDREN of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation,"

1 JOHN 3:1 "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the ~~sons~~ CHILDREN of God;

1 JOHN 3:2 "Beloved, now are we the ~~sons~~ CHILDREN of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be:"

EXAMPLES WHERE HUIOS (sons) IS MISTRANSLATED AS CHILDREN

Incorrect form...~~children~~
Correct form.....SONS

MATTHEW 5:9 "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the ~~children~~ SONS of God."

MATTHEW 5:45 ". . .pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the ~~children~~ SONS of your Father which is in heaven:"

MATTHEW 13:38 "The field is the world; the good seed are the SONS of the kingdom; but the tares are the ~~children~~ SONS of the wicked one;"

LUKE 6:35 "But love ye your enemies, and do good,...and ye shall be the ~~children~~ SONS of the Highest:"

LUKE 20:35 "But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead,... are equal unto the angels; and are the ~~children~~ SONS of God, being the SONS of the resurrection."

ROMANS 9:26 "And it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people; there shall they be called the ~~children~~ SONS of the living God."

GALATIANS 3:26 "For ye are all the ~~children~~ SONS of God by faith in Christ Jesus."

Almost all denominations will say that "children" and "sons" are the same thing. That is simply not true! Children become sons by adoption and not before.

M THE "ONE SPIRIT" ARGUMENT?

Ephesians 4:4 says: "There is.. .ONE SPIRIT", therefore some say that proves that the Spirit of Christ and the Holy Spirit must be one. However, when that verse is taken in context we see that Paul was referring to the Holy Spirit – not Jesus.

*"There is one body and
one Spirit... (THE HOLY SPIRIT)
one Lord... (JESUS, THE SON)
one God and Father... (THE FATHER)
(Ephesians 4:4)*

In reality, the Bible speaks of three Spirits. For example:

1. "God is Spirit" John 4:24 (THE FATHER)
2. "the Spirit of His Son" Gal 4:6 (JESUS)
3. "the Holy Spirit of God" Eph 4:30 (HOLY SPIRIT)

HEIRS AND SUFFERING

There are two verses which seem to say that both "Children and "Sons" are heirs of God. Therefore many falsely conclude that since both children of God and sons of God are heirs, then the words children and son must mean the same thing. However, a close examination of those verses proves quite the contrary:

KING JAMES VERSION

Romans 8:17
 "And if **CHILDREN**, then **HEIRS**; heirs of God, and joint-heirs **with** Christ; **if** so be that we **suffer** with him,

Galatians 4:7
 "Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a SON; and if a son, then an HEIR of God through Christ.

BERRY'S INTERLINEAR GREEK NEW TESTAMENT

Romans 8:17
 "And if **CHILDREN**, also **HEIRS**. heirs indeed of God, and joint-heirs of Christ; **if** indeed we **suffer** together,"

Galatians 4:7
 "So no longer thou art bondman, but SON; and if (a) son, also HEIR of God through Christ."

As we look at this question, there are three important words to consider: (as underlined in Berry's Romans 8:17, above)

1. Joint-heirs
2. If
3. Suffer

These words are the key to understanding what Paul meant in those verses.

1. JOINT-HEIRS

Most translators follow the KJV and read: "Joint-heirs with Christ", meaning heirs of all that is Christ's, together with Christ. That is a nice thought, but the truth is that we are not heirs **WITH** Christ, rather, we are heirs **OF** Christ. (So reads Berry's above and also Young's Literal Translation of the Bible) We do not inherit all that Christ has, rather, we inherit Christ Himself. (i.e. we are to be heirs-together of the Spirit of Christ.)

The word "Joint-heirs" comes from the Greek: Sugkleronomos (4789) which means "co-heir, or a participant in common." Paul was saying that we are participants together, not with Christ, but **of** Christ! (See Ephesians 3:6 G 1 Peter 3:7, - same word)

2. IF

Paul did not say that children of God are already heirs (i.e. inheritors) of Christ; he said children will be heirs "IF so be that we suffer with Him.". The word IF comes from the Greek: Eiper (1512) which means "if perhaps", (RSV reads "provided"). This word Eiper clearly is conditional, and that condition is that we must first "suffer with Him". Paul was saying that 'if we suffer with Christ, we will become heirs of Christ'.

3. SUFFER

The apostle Peter gave us a clear definition of what it means to "suffer" with Christ. He said:

*"Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh,
arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that
hath suffered in the flesh HATH CEASED FROM SIN;"
1 Peter 4:1 KJV*

Thus we see that in Romans 6:17, the CHILDREN of God are promised an inheritance. They are indeed "heirs", but they will not receive that inheritance unless they suffer (cease from sin) and become an "heir"

On the other hand, in Galatians 4:7, Paul said that if you are a SON of God, you are an heir –no conditions! The sons have already suffered; they have ceased from willful sin and thus are no longer a "servant" of sin. Therefore, through the adoption as sons they are now an "heir of God through Christ"!

CHILDREN ARE HEIRS, IF...

A SON IS AN HEIR (Period, no ifs)

M THE FAULTY THEOLOGICAL EXPLANATION OF ADOPTION.

When faced with the theological dilemma created by Paul's statement that CHILDREN of God were "waiting" for their adoption as SONS, most church authorities resort to saying something similar to the following commentaries:

1. The Pulpit Commentary (Romans 8:23)

"it's being said that we still wait for our adoption as sons Is NOT INCONSISTENT with other statements to the effect that we are already adopted, and are already sons; for "huiiothesia" here denotes the final realization of our present sonship,"

2. Ellicott's Bible Commentary (Romans 8:23)

'THE ADOPTION'. The Christian who has received the gift of the Spirit is ALREADY an adopted child of God. (See verses 15 and 16.) But this adoption still has to be ratified and perfected,"

HERE IS THE PROBLEM THEY MUST SOMEHOW TRY TO EXPLAIN:

1. They say all children of God are sons of God.
2. BUT, in Romans 8:23, Paul said that children of God were "WAITING EAGERLY" for their adoption as sons.

In order to explain this glaring contradiction they say that we are adopted, but that adoption is not complete until some future time. They are forcing the Bible to say that the adoption is somehow both present and future at the same time, in order to make it agree with their position that "all children of God are sons of God". Since they offer no proof, their opinions are based on this false premise:

"IT MUST BE TRUE, THEREFORE IT IS TRUE!"

I say: 'Where is the proof?' Here are the facts: There is absolutely no historical, legal, or scriptural precedent to indicate that any "adoption" (spiritual or otherwise) was ever effected in two parts. How can someone be partially adopted? Plain common sense will tell you that a person is either adopted or he is not adopted.

Their conclusions are simply an attempt to make scripture agree with established church doctrine, rather than make doctrine agree with scripture.

Please take a close look at what that scripture really says:

"...we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, WAITING EAGERLY for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body."*

Romans 8:23 NAS

If the rules of language apply to scripture, it is clear to me that anyone "waiting" for adoption is not adopted!

'Note: "THE REDEMPTION OF OUR BODY".

We do not receive the adoption as sons until our "body" has been fully redeemed from the control of our sin nature. In the book of Romans, Paul outlines this process of our deliverance from bondage to sin:

Romans 6:6 (KJV) When we come to God and are born-again we are commanded to "take up our cross" in order that our "body of sin" might be crucified and destroyed. Paul said it like this:

"Knowing this that our old man is crucified with him, that the BODY OF SIN might be destroyed, that hence-forth we should not serve sin."

Romans 6:23 (KJV) If believers continue to "serve sin" they will be lost!

"For the wages of sin is death. "

Romans 7:7 NAS Sin means breaking any of God's Ten Commandments including the Sabbath). Paul said:

"I would not have come to know sin except through the Law; for I would not have known about coveting if the Law had not said, "YOU SHALL NOT COVET."

Romans 7:14 NAS Paul describes the condition of every believer and why we must be redeemed. He said:

"But I am of flesh, SOLD INTO BONDAGE to sin."

Romans 7:24 (KJV) When we look at ourselves in the light of God's Ten Commandments, we quickly come to recognize our helplessness against the power of our own sin nature which dwells in and controls our "body of death". No matter how hard we try to obey, we fall and we tremble because we know that "the wages of sin is DEATH! It is then that we cry out desperately just as Paul did:

"O wretched man that I am! WHO shall deliver me from the body of this death?"

Romans 9:25 (KJV) Jesus will deliver us! Having recognized our helplessness we come to understand that only the supernatural power of God can break the death grip sin has on us and deliver us from its control, and we thank God that we may be saved through our Savior.

"I thank God - through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Romans 8:13 (RSV) Paul tells us how this "body of death" is to be redeemed from the power of sin in the flesh:

*"For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by **the Spirit** (HS) you PUT TO DEATH THE DEEDS OF THE BODY you will live."*

Romans 8:23 (RSV) This verse points to the time of suffering that we must endure as we cease from all willful sin. When our bodies have been fully redeemed from captivity to sin, we will receive the adoption as sons:

*"but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait for **adoption as sons**, the redemption of our bodies. FOR IN THIS HOPE WE WERE SAVED."*

When we are born-again, we are saved (rescued) from the power of sin. We must then "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling" in cooperation with the Holy Spirit by putting to death the deeds of the body. All the while resting in the sure HOPE that if we "endure unto the end" we will be adopted as sons and receive the Spirit of Christ in our hearts. And that my friends is our promised inheritance-"Christ in you, the **HOPE** of Glory". (Col 1.29)

Q. How do we know if we are adopted?

A. We have the witness in ourselves when our body is fully redeemed from the control of sin and is fully under the control of Christ. The desire to sin is broken. The love of sin is destroyed. The Holy Spirit has washed us and Christ truly reigns in our hearts. The sin nature no longer has power to make us break God's law. Even though tempted to sin, we are always able to say "No!" The apostle John said it this way:

"By this we know that we HAVE COME TO know Him, if we [are able to] keep His commandments."

I John 2:3 NAS

FINAL COMMENT

In the early church even new believers knew about the Spirit of Christ. Early in their Christian experience they were told something like this:

"Welcome brother, the fact that you believe that Jesus is the Christ is the proof that you have been begotten of God (Matt 16:16) and are able to **SEE** his kingdom. (John 3:3) Now that you have received (accepted) Christ you can be sure that you have been given the power **to become** a child of God. {John 1:12}.

Now you must be baptized and then seek to completely surrender your life to serve and obey God. Be careful lest the devil tempt you and you become like those who believe for a while but when tempted soon fall away. (Luke 9:13) When you have truly surrendered everything, God Himself will confirm your surrender. At that time He will send His Holy Spirit (HS) to dwell in your heart. When that happens the Spirit will witness to you in an unmistakable way; you will KNOW that you are now a child of God and will cry out "Abba! Father!". You will know that you have been born--again and have **ENTERED** the kingdom of God. (John 3:5)

The Holy Spirit will be your Helper. He will guide you, teach you according to the scriptures, and strengthen you so that you may obey all that God commands. Take heed, for when you are born-again God will put your faith to the test with fiery trials. (1 Pet 4:12) This will go on for some time. When the testing of your faith is completed and you have been approved, God Himself will again witness to you personally by granting to you the Spirit of His Son. (Gal 4:6) Eternal life is in the Son and His Spirit is our promised inheritance (Gal 3:14) The Spirit of Jesus is that "crown of life" which is promised to all those who truly love God. (James 1:12)

But, take warning - if you choose to turn away from God by willfully refusing to obey His commandments, He will discipline you. If you continue to disobey, He will turn His back on you forever. (Heb 6:4-6)

That would be terrible, but even worse is the case of those who receive the Spirit of Christ and then turn back to sin like the dog that turns back to his vomit. Woe unto them. (2 Pet 2:20-22) for their *fate* will be the burning wrath that is promised to the *foes of God*. (Heb 10:26)

Now, come join us brother, and be at peace for you cannot fail in your journey - if only you will obey God..."

This process of salvation was the foundation of all teaching. The epistles of the New Testament refer to it often, but nowhere is it explained in detail (except Romans) because the authors had personally given the churches instruction similar to the example above.

God's plan is simple. He alone is to be the sovereign judge of our hearts as we grow up to full salvation. His supernatural response to our faith (or lack of it) is the true proof of where we stand with God. (Not sacraments or doctrines). Man cannot deceive us if we understand God's simple plan.

STAGES OF GROWTH

GOD'S WITNESS IN US

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1. <u>BEGOTTEN</u> of God | We Believe Jesus is the Christ and repent of our sins. |
| 2. <u>BORN</u> of the Spirit | We receive the Holy Spirit and are able to overcome all sin. |
| 3. <u>ADOPTED</u> by Jesus | We receive the Spirit of Christ and power for service. |

When the New Testament epistles are read with that understanding, many verses take on a whole new meaning. For example, the test of a false prophet given by John when he said:

“. . . try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world... Every spirit that confesseth that JESUS CHRIST IS COME IN THE FLESH is of God.”

I John 4:1 KJV

John was saying that if the “prophet's” spiritual character reflected that Jesus Himself had come to dwell in his heart, then you could be sure that man was sent by God.

Those who understand the “Spirit of Christ”, know exactly what the author of Hebrews meant when he said:

"For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise."

For yet a little while, and HE that shall come will come, and will not tarry."

Hebrews 10:36 KJV

Many today have expressed surprise at how the apostles seemed to think that Christ could come at any moment. The apostles were speaking of Christ's personal coming into the believer's heart, not the second coming of Christ at Judgment. The apostles had already received that which Jesus promises to all "sons"...

*"He that hath my commandments, **AND KEEPETH THEM**, he it is that loveth me: and he that *loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him,*
AND WILL MANIFEST MYSELF TO HIM."*

John 14:21 KJV

On the other hand:

*"He that saith, I know Him, and **KEEPETH NOT His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.**"*

1 John 2:4 KJV

Dear Reader:

Do you know Him? Has Jesus manifested Himself In your spirit, or do you fail the test? I pray that all who read this will be inspired to love God with their whole heart, mind, soul, and strength. Time is short.

Author

Finish then Thy new creation,
Pure and spotless let us be,
Let us see Thy great salvation
Perfectly restored in Thee.

C. Wesley