

Romans 8:14–15

Led by the Spirit as Sons in Christ

Monday, August 14, 2023 • Read Romans 8:14–15

Questions from the Scripture text: What quantities are equal (v14)? By Whom are these people led? Whose Spirit is He? Whose sons are they? What spirit did believers not receive (v15)? To what was this bondage? But what Spirit did we receive? To Whom (implied) is this adoption? What does the Spirit make us do? To Whom do we cry out? What do we call Him?

How can we be sure that our putting to death the deeds of the body will be successful? Romans 8:14–15 looks forward to the midweek sermon. In these two verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **the sons of God have no reason to fear, either in battle against sin, or before the face of God.**

One of the things that we saw in v13 was this amazing promise that since believers are putting to death the deeds of the body by the Spirit, they can be sure that they will live. They will be more and more alive unto God for righteousness in this life. And they will live forever and ever rather than suffering the second death. But many believers, when we think about our sin-killing, we make the mistake of seeing the smallness of that sin-killing (which rightly grieves us) but missing the greatness of Him by Whom we kill it. So the apostle immediately gives us four things to note:

What “by the Spirit” means, v14a. Believers are in the Spirit; they are those who have the Spirit of God, Who is the Spirit of Christ (v9). But believers are also *led by* the Spirit (v14a). This is not the every-once-in-a-while nebulous guidance that some mean when they use that phrase. It is a sure, constant, effectual bringing or carrying. Believers will get there, because the Spirit is taking them there! O, let us not resist or quench or grieve Him Who is getting us there!

Who believers are, v14b. And believers are sons of God. Not only are they sustained by great power (v14a), but they are heirs to great power. There is a mathematical identity here. All who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. And all who are sons of God are led by the Spirit of God. This is part and parcel of what it means to be a Christian.

What believers aren’t in, v15a. Believers aren’t in bondage. Certainly, as they are killing sin, they are not slaves to that sin. With the Holy Spirit working on their spirits, believers mustn’t be afraid that they will return to bondage, but rather assured that they will move forward to victory. And their slavery to God is not a frightful bondage but a committed sonship. The Spirit is for them a Spirit of adoption.

What believers do, v15b. So, as the Spirit brings believers along, what is one great thing that He causes them to do? He causes them to cry out! Knowing God as Father, calling God “Father” from the heart, and crying out to Him are all things that the Spirit works in every Christian. The Spirit gives us not servile terror but a free affection that is wondrously joined to our holy reverence. The logic here is that *since we do this*, we can be sure that the same Spirit Who has made us to do this will surely bring us all the way home to everlasting life.

How do you relate the Holy Spirit? What does your relationship with Him assure you of your relationship to God? How does your heart know to address God? What does this tell you about the likelihood of eternal life?

Sample prayer: Our Father in heaven, how we thank You that Your own Spirit has made us to rejoice that we are Your children, and to be confident that we will be victors over sin and come into our full inheritance. Grant unto us to live in this confidence, as we also pray in this confidence, through Jesus Christ, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP131 “My Heart Is Not Exalted, LORD” or TPH400 “Gracious Spirit, Dwell with Me”

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Romans 8, verses 14 and 15. These are god's words. For as many as our lead by the spirit of god. These are the sons of god. For you, did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear. But you received the spirit of adoption, By him, we cry out aba Father.

So far, the

Inspired. And In there and to word of god.

He begins. To explain how it is that we are sure. That. Uh it is by the spirit that we are putting to death. That needs the body. We are sore. That we will live the greatness of the confidence that we have.

The greatness of the confidence that we have. Comes from our relationship to god and various aspects of it. That we see it that we see. Here in this passage. First, it's helpful for us to Um, Be clear about what being led by the spirit means. Uh, when he's when he says for as many As our lead by the spirit of god.

Because, There are many who use this sort of language being led by the spirit. To talk about moments in their life. When they have certain intuitions, or impulses to do, This thing or that thing. That is. Hopefully. A good and wise god, loving neighbor, loving thing to do. And sometimes is, Um, a rather.

Foolish. Providence denying. Um, The thing to do. Uh, but this is not that sort of use. Of the idea of led by the spirit at all led. By the spirit here is not describing something. That is every once in a while, it's talking about something. That is constant. We are those who are led.

By the spirit. And the leading here. Is not some. Um, suggestion. Or. Uh example. Uh, but a An actual effectual bringing or carrying. You think about the idea of being led by a rope? Although, there isn't The idea of a rope in this word, but it has that sort of a effectual causing What we do?

And this comes, of course, in the context of what we've been thinking about being transferred from being in the flesh, to be being in christ from being in the flesh, to being in the spirit. So that the fundamental core of who we are now is not our former identity and our former nature that we had from the first Adam.

But the fundamental reality of our life is that we are united to christ and led by the spirit. Okay, so i hope that that helps you And that the lord will cement that in your heart. And mind for every time you come back to Romans 8 verse 14 and not have this kind of nebulous fruitiness, every once in a while moment of divine inspiration idea, because that's not it at all.

And it doesn't have nearly the confidence and assurance of actually being a person who's life is led by the spirit and will, therefore assuredly arrive at the destination because the spirit is taking me there. And now we read verse 14 as a whole correctly four as many as our lead but the spirit of god, these are the sons of god.

So who believers are Believers are. Led by the spirit of god. Yes. Uh, but the identity. Is that and the amusing that word mathematically and identity where two sets

contain the exact same quantities, the exact same members, That we are sons. Of the living god. He's going to flash out a little bit.

What it looks like to be a son of the living. God both, with respect to how we act towards our sin and how we act towards our father and verse 15. But just for now in verse 14 we are sons of god and so everyone who's a son of god.

Is led by the spirit of god. And so, if you are a Christian who is going through a time of spiritual weakness, or affliction and you're unsure. Of how things are going with you, or even more than that, anxious of how things will come out with you. So long as the spirit is still training, your heart to call Godfather.

You say i belong to that, mathematical identity. I am a son of god and therefore, i am being led by the spirit of god. And i can put to death, the deeds of the body. And i will put to deputy to the body and i will Because i am led by the spirit of god.

On the other hand. Sometimes we are led by the spirit. That we love god's word, we believe the truth and the gospel, we hate our sin. Um, and yet god. And his providence is. For whatever in his perfect wisdom reason not permitting, us to feel as warmly and closely, the reality of our relationship with him.

As we have been accustomed to in the past. And yet we can say, if i am on the other side of this, mathematical identity advice and lead by the spirit of god. Surely, i am the sun. Of god. Because the two groups. Contain the exact same members. And so who believers are?

We are sons of god. What believers aren't in? That brings us to verse 15 for you. Do did not receive the spirit of bondage again. This is how we begin an atom. We were in bondage to our sin. We were enslaved to our sin. It was our master And sometimes when things are not going well.

In your christian life, particularly Uh, you keep Uh, being seduced by sucked into tricked, by committing the same sin that you are battling against. And you are, are tempted to be afraid that you are a slave of this scent. He says, no. If you're a son of god and the lord jesus christ, the united to him, you are led by the spirit of god.

And you are not in bondage. You must not be afraid that you will not make it. You must be confident as you battle against your sin. Not confident and sell. Confident in. God, confident in christ, confident in the spirit. Even more than that, you're not just afraid that you will not make it.

But, You aren't you don't have servile fear, you're not afraid of what god is going to do to you at last. You don't live in this terror that he is against you. And that and that the other shoe is going to drop at some point as they say. Know, the spirit has has trained, your heart to know that god is your father who loves you.

God is your father who had knows what is good for you is determined to give you and do for you. What is good for you? And so yes, we have this. Holy reverence for god. But we are not afraid of what he is going to do to us. We are not in a that sort of bondage, we love to do whatever he says, he's our master.

And so we're joyous slaves and that respect. But we don't have a slavish beer. Of what he might do to us. You did not receive the spirit of bondage. No, you received the spirit of liberty. You've been liberated, you've been freed? To know god's love for you to know his good intentions to you to love his good instructions.

It's good commandments to be able to, to defeat your Your remaining flesh in order to obey this good father, who has adopted you as his son, that's not bonded. Devotion, to righteousness and bondage, being a slave of god isn't bondage. It's actually the only true freedom So you're not received, you did not receive the spirit of bondage, again to fear, but you received The spirit of adoption.

And so believers aren't in bondage. Who believers are sons of god. What believers aren't in. They aren't in bondage. And in the last place, what believers do? The spirit of adoption by him. We cry out abba. Father. Whom did we hear is leading us along throughout our life? In verse 14.

The holy spirit. And so what is one thing that the holy spirit leads those whom he's leading along leads them to do? To cry out. Abba father. Believers. Pray. How do we know because they're led by the spirit? And one of the great things that the spirit leads them to do is to pray And he gives them to pray.

With an intimacy. That comes from our union with jesus christ. How do we see that in the passage? Because the spirit has been teaching christians for 2000 years to pray in Aramaic. The roman church was largely gentile. There were some Jews, there was difficulty with the jewish minority and the Roman church, we're going to get to that in a few chapters, but it's a largely gentile church, but he doesn't teach them that the spirit That we have received a spirit of adoption by whom we cry out Potare.

No, even Greek speaking christians cry out abba. Not this doesn't mean that you have to use the actual aromatic language. But the reason for the Aramaic word is because that was the native tongue that god, the sun spoke when he took on humanity. That was the native tongue that god the sun spoke when he was full of the spirit without measure and in his humanity as he grew in wisdom and he grew in favor with god.

He would more and more richly cry out to god, abba.

And so, We are given. To know god as our father in the lord jesus christ. That the intimacy with which we make cry out to him as father. Is not a borrowed intimacy. Let's work about to hear. If we are just to go on in verse 16 and 17, It's not a borrowed intimacy.

It's a Joint intimacy. That we are. Adopted by god in jesus. And we are to address him as father. With all of the confidence and all of the reverence and all of the nearness of affection. That jesus addresses. God, his father. You have. As much, right? In jesus christ.

To call godfather as he does. Not because You are son in your person, like he was But you have been joined to him. And adopted with him. And you have a now. United subjective and so really wonderful. Here. In verse 15, i grew up thinking that it was wonderful because i could call god daddy.

And isn't that neat to be able to say daddy? And it is wonderful. To have a near and close intimate knowledge. Of god is our father. I'm afraid that the daddy the my use of daddy when i was younger was Um, Flip it. And disrespectful to God. But there's something much greater here.

Union with jesus christ. In our intimacy with the father. What a wonderful thing he's given us. It makes you not afraid at all you sin. I'm adopted by the father in union with the son and dwelt by the spirit who leads me along through my whole life. Is it possible that i would lose ultimately this war with sin?

However, many battles or skirmishes go wrongly. Of course, not. As many as our led by the spirit of god. These are sons of god. For you, did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear. But you receive the spirit of adoption. By whom we cry out. Father. Amen.

What a wonderful passage.

Father in heaven and pray. For my wife and for my children. And for myself, That we would come into the full experiential knowledge of these glorious treats. That you have just made us to hear. From Romans 8, verse 14 and 15. Glorify yourself. Oh god. In the christ united confidence.

Of your adopted children here on earth. We ask by the work of your spirit and the name of your son. Amen.