

From Childhood to Adulthood?

Galatians 4:4-7

East Berlin Community Church
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Introduction

- My personal journey from childhood to adulthood
- The Galatians' spiritual journey from childhood to adulthood
 - Heard the gospel of salvation by God's grace through faith
 - Promise of salvation part of Abrahamic covenant
 - Now not only children of God, but "sons of God" through faith in Christ
- The Judaizers' attempt to make the Galatian believers "children" again under overbearing, legalistic pastors, in bondage to the "elements of the world"

From Childhood to Adulthood?

A. God sent forth His Son into the world—Galatians 4:4-5

1. *"In the fullness of time"*—when the world was ready for Christ's birth
2. Jesus Christ, as God, fully identifies with man—Galatians 4:4
 - a. *"Born of a woman"*—that is, fully human
 - b. *"born under law"*—that is, under the "elements of the world"
3. The two-fold reasons Jesus, the Son of God, became man...
 - a. *"To redeem those who were under the law"*—Galatians 5:5; Romans 8:2-4; 1 Peter 1:18-19
 - b. *"That we might receive the adoption as sons"*—Galatians 5:5; Ephesians 1:3-5

B. God sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts—Galatians 4:6-7

1. The "family" spirit in biblical times
2. **Because we are the adopted sons of God, we've been given the "family" Spirit.**
 - a. The "family" Spirit as the "Spirit of God", "Spirit of Christ", the "Holy Spirit"—the third person of the trinity. Fully God with all of God's attributes, yet distinct from God the Father and God the Son.
 - b. The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament
 - 1) Would selectively indwell individuals for life—Genesis 41:38; Dan. 5:14
 - 2) Would come upon individuals for a period of time to accomplish a particular task, such as in the case of Saul (1 Samuel 10) and David (1 Samuel 16)
 - c. The Change regarding the Spirit in New Testament times and today.
 - 1) The Promise of Jesus—John 14:16, 25 *"abide with you forever"* and *"will be in you"*
 - 2) The Provision of the New Covenant—Jeremiah 31:33-34; Ezekiel 36:26-28
 - d. Every believer in Christ is indwelt today by the Spirit of Christ who assures us that we are sons in God's family. Romans 8:9, 16
3. **Because God sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, we now have an INTERNAL GUIDANCE System!**
 - a. We are now *"led by the Spirit"*.—Romans 8:14
 - b. **How can we know if the Spirit is leading us?**
 - 1) **The Spirit always leads us into truth, and according to the truth!**
 - a) The Spirit of God **IS** the "Spirit of truth"—John 16:13
 - b) As the "Spirit of truth", the Holy Spirit superintended the writers of the Holy Scriptures so that they recorded without error the very Word of God! 2 Peter 2:20-21; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; John 14:26; 15:25; 16:13
 - c) As the "Spirit of truth", the Holy Spirit illumines our minds so that we can understand what the Scriptures are teaching.
 - (1) The "natural" man cannot understand the Scriptures—1 Corinthians 2:14
 - (2) The Spirit of God opens our spiritual "eyes". He is our resident teacher. 1 John 2:27
 - (3) The Spirit of God chooses to work through human instruments—Eph. 4:11-16
 - d) Ramifications
 - (1) Do not need "experts" to understand God's Word.
 - (2) Do not need "legalists" to fill in the gaps where God's Word is silent
 - 2) **The Spirit always leads us towards Holiness of Life, and away from sin. Romans 8:10-13**
 - a) The Spirit never leads us contrary to God's revealed Word.
 - b) The Spirit will never lead you to sin. James 1:13