

Romans 8:15,16

THE ASSURING WITNESS OF THE SPIRIT: SONSHIP

- I. The cry.
 - A. Our text declares the fact that the children of God cry, “Abba, Father.” (first in Chaldean, and then in Greek.)
 - 1. It is not a command, but a statement of fact: we do cry, “Abba, Father.”
 - 2. It is the strong and clear expression that the relationship God established so some become His children.
 - B. This cry arises by virtue of God’s gracious adoption of us and by reason of our being born of God.
 - 1. The appellative indicates the knowledge that God, as Father, loves us and has forgiven us.
 - 2. This is not a song (what it will be in heaven), but a cry while still in the midst of sin and trouble.
 - 3. This is a spontaneous cry of faith, of love, of hope and longing; with deep emotion, expressing fervency and earnestness.
- II. How does one get this assurance? It is the work of the Spirit.
 - A. We “receive” the Spirit.
 - B. This is not the Spirit of bondage to fear, so we are afraid or terrified of God.
 - C. The Spirit of adoption witnesses with the spirit of those given to Christ that they are the children of God.
 - 1. Adoption is that work of God on those who are fallen in Adam whereby He makes them to be His children.
 - 2. The Spirit prompts, urges, leads, and causes us to love Him and His precepts, to love the brethren, to long for His fellowship, to seek to be pleasing to Him.
- III. The Spirit assures us by “witnessing with our spirit.”
 - A. The Spirit always works with the Word (Jesus), convincing us it is God’s Word and enabling us to believe it.
 - B. And the Spirit usually works this assurance in the way of fellowship in the church and in the way of sanctification.
 - C. This Spirit teaches us and leads us to cry “Abba, Father.” Assurance of our being God’s children is the response to the testimony of the Spirit of adoption!