

Romans Chapter 8
Week 10, v. 16-17

Rom 8:16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

What is a witness? What does a witness do?

witness: 1. somebody who sees an occurrence; somebody who gives evidence after seeing or hearing something; 2. somebody who signs a document to show that it is genuine

witness <summartureo> to testify jointly, i.e. corroborate by (concurrent) evidence

There are usually several witnesses at a trial. The information is put together to support the conclusion.

The Holy Spirit of God testifies with our spirit – He gives us understanding so through the work of the Spirit there is evidence of God working in our lives. The testimony of God changing your life is proof of your adoption as His child.

The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit... You know if you have been saved by Jesus' blood. You are given understanding of who God is and what He has truly done for you. Suddenly, God's word makes sense, His commands make sense and trusting in Him becomes the obvious choice.

And this is not a momentary influx: if we take care to walk with God, and not grieve the Holy Spirit, we shall have an abiding testimony; and while we continue faithful to our adopting Father, the Spirit that witnesses that adoption will continue to witness it; and hereby we shall know that we are of God by the Spirit which he giveth us. Adam Clarke's Commentary

2 Cor 1:21-22 Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us is God, who also sealed us and gave [us] the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge.

Eph 1:13-14 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, with a view to the redemption of [God's own] possession, to the praise of His glory.

1 John 5:10-11 The one who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the witness that God has borne concerning His Son. And the witness is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.

1 Cor 2:12-13 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things freely given to us by God, which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual [thoughts] with spiritual [words.]

If it be asked how this is done, I answer, It is not by any revelation of new truth; it is not by inspiration; it is not always by assurance; it is not by a mere persuasion that we are elected to eternal life; but it is by producing in us the appropriate effects of his influence. It is his to renew the heart; to sanctify the soul; to produce "love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance," Ga 5:22,23. If a man has these, he has evidence of the witnessing of the Spirit with his spirit. If not, he has no such evidence. And the way, therefore, to ascertain whether we have this witnessing of the Spirit, is by an honest and prayerful inquiry whether these fruits of the Spirit actually exist in our minds. If they do, the evidence is clear. Albert Barnes' NT Commentary

1 John 4:12-13 No one has beheld God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.

Can you see evidence in yourself that says you are a child of God?

Rom 8:5 For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.

Can your spirit testify that you live according to the Spirit of God?

How can you tell that you are a child of God?

- there is testimony of the Spirit in our lives
- there is assurance of our salvation
- there is proof of our adoption "evidenced by the holiness of our lives and conversation" WBN

Rom 8:17 and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with [Him] in order that we may also be glorified with [Him.]

If you are a child of God then you are also an heir of God meaning you have an inheritance in Him.

heirs <kleronomos> a sharer by lot, inheritor, a possessor
fellow heirs <sugkleronomos> co-heirs, participant together with

heir: a legal inheritor of something; somebody who holds the right to receive a property, position, or title when someone dies; syn.-beneficiary, recipient

As a child of God, we are in a position to receive His blessings.

The child of God by faith can draw on his spiritual wealth because he is an heir of God and a joint-heir with Christ. Warren Wiersbe – Romans

Acts 26:18 to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, in order that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.'

Gal 4:7 Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God.

If indeed is the condition to be met to be heirs of Christ.

What does it mean to suffer with him? Do we suffer in His cause? Are we persecuted for what Christ was persecuted for? Do we keep quiet about the truth of the Gospel in order to avoid negative comment? Are we willing to be rejected as He was for the truth?

Suffering for Him is another way of showing we are united with Him.

The sufferings are small and short, and concern the body only; but the glory is rich and great, and concerns the soul, and is eternal. MHC

Acts 14:21-22 And after they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and [saying,] "Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God."

Phil 1:29 For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake,

Matt 16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

2 Cor 4:8-11 [we are] afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. For we who live are constantly being delivered over to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.

2 Tim 2:8-12 Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, descendant of David, according to my gospel, for which I suffer hardship even to imprisonment as a criminal; but the word of God is not imprisoned. For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus [and] with [it] eternal glory. It is a trustworthy statement: For if we died with Him, we shall also live with Him; If we endure, we shall also reign with Him; If we deny Him, He also will deny us;

We are His children, we are heirs of His goodness and glory, we can expect to suffer for His sake, we will share in glory with Him.

But the honour and happiness of an heir lie in the value and worth of that which he is heir to... MHC on the Whole Bible

The Lord is the portion of our inheritance. Not fame that will fade, not money that will run out, not buildings that will crumble, not fortunes of this world.

Ps 16:5-6 The LORD is the portion of my inheritance and my cup; Thou dost support my lot. The lines have fallen to me in pleasant places; Indeed, my heritage is beautiful to me.

Matt 25:21 "His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful slave; you were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things, enter into the joy of your master.'

Luke 22:29-30 and just as My Father has granted Me a kingdom, I grant you that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

John 17:24 "Father, I desire that they also, whom Thou hast given Me, be with Me where I am, in order that they may behold My glory, which Thou hast given Me; for Thou didst love Me before the foundation of the world.

Rev 3:21 'He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

Rev 21:7 "He who overcomes shall inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son.

In our present state we come short, not only in the enjoyment, but in the knowledge of that glory 1Co 2:9; 1Jo 3:2: it shall be revealed. It surpasses all that we have yet seen and known: present vouchsafements are sweet and precious, very precious, very sweet; but there is something to come, something behind the curtain, that will outshine all. Shall be revealed in us; not only revealed to us, to be seen, but revealed

in us, to be enjoyed. The kingdom of God is within you, and will be so to eternity. MHC on the Whole Bible

1 Cor 2:9 but just as it is written, "THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND [which] HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM."

1 John 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we shall be. We know that, when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is.

What truths do we learn from Romans 8:16-17?

- We know for certain that we are God's children through the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.
- If we are God's children, we are also His heirs and co-heirs with Christ.
- We can expect to suffer for the truth of the Gospel; in fact it is a testimony of our relationship to God as His children.
- We can look forward to the certainty of someday being glorified with Him.

Application Questions

Read through Romans Chapter 8. These questions will focus on verses 16 and 17. Use your 'Apply It' questions and your journal to write down the things God brings to mind.

Look up 1 John 5:10-11. Do your actions bear witness with the Holy Spirit that Christ is in your life? Think of a recent example where the remembrance of God's word changed your attitude or words. Then, praise God for His faithfulness because this is the evidence that you are His child!

As God's child, what are you heir to? Read through scripture and write down a few verses that speak of what you inherit from your Father in heaven.

Read Philippians 1:29; Matthew 16:24 and 2 Corinthians 4:8-11.

What does it mean to suffer for Christ? How can this be a privilege?