

Sons and Daughters of God

Psalm 37:3–7 (NKJV)

³Trust in the Lord, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness.

⁴Delight yourself also in the Lord, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.

⁵Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass.

⁶He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light, And your justice as the noonday.

⁷Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, Because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass.

These verses from Psalm 37 paint a wonderful picture of how we are to experience and enjoy our relationship with God.

— “Trust in the Lord”, “Trust also in Him” – *We are to learn just to trust Him moment by moment.*

— “do good” – *Let our lives be filled with doing good things.*

— “Dwell in the land” – *Learn to abide in His presence and in His promises.*

— “feed on His faithfulness” – *Just as sheep graze and enjoy lush pasture lands, let us be nourished by His faithfulness.*

— “Delight yourself also in the Lord” – *Learn to be constantly delighted in God.*

— “Commit your way to the Lord” – *Trust God to lead and direct every step of your life, the small steps as well as the big ones.*

— “Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him” – *Rest and wait upon God’s timing. Don’t allow your soul to be troubled with all the busyness of life.*

— *The result of these steps will be:*

— “And He shall give you the desires of your heart” – *The things that are nearest and dearest to your heart will be fulfilled.*

— “And He shall bring it to pass” – *God will be the One to fulfill His will in your life.*

— “He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light” – *The righteousness of Christ in you will become fully manifest in your life.*

— “And your justice as the noonday” – *God will heal those areas where you have suffered loss and provide new opportunities where you have allowed the enemy to rob you.*

— *After reading all these wonderful promises what hinders us from walking in the reality of these promises?*

— *Misunderstanding our relationship with God.*

— *For many years as a Christian I failed to grasp what it meant to experience security and acceptance as a child of God.*

— *The concept I had of my relationship with God was more like a servant who was constantly struggling to earn acceptance from my Master.*

We, as Believers, must see our relationship with God and His purposes for our lives as a delight and not a burden.

The Bible teaches us that we have been redeemed by Jesus Christ not to be His slaves, but to be His sons and daughters.

The New Testament teaches us that our relationship with God as His children is described in two different ways, one as His children by birth, and second as His children by adoption.

Romans 8:15-16 (NKJV)

15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.”

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

The principle of adoption raises a couple of questions regarding our relationship with God.

Does being adopted imply a lesser relationship than a son who is born into a family?

Doesn't the New Testament clearly say that we have been born into the family of God?

John 3:3-7 (NKJV)

3 Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

4 Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?”

5 Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

7 Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’

Four times in these verses it is stated that one must experience a spiritual birth to enter God’s kingdom.

1 Peter 1:3 (NKJV)

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

— *God has begotten us again to a living hope – The Greek literally means, “we have been born again.”*

1 Peter 1:23 (NKJV)

23 having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,

— *We have been born again of incorruptible seed. The Greek word for incorruptible means, “imperishable, immortal.”*

Ephesians 1:6 (NKJV)

6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

— *The Greek word for “accepted” means, “to show kindness to someone, to manifest graciousness to someone.”*

— *God has shown His kindness, love, and tenderness to us in the Beloved.*

Who is the Beloved?

— **Matthew 3:17 (NKJV)**

17 And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

— *Jesus Christ is the Beloved and we are in Him.*

— *What does God then say about us?*

— *This is My beloved son and daughter in whom I am well pleased.*

Three times Daniel was called beloved.

Daniel 9:23 (NKJV)

23 At the beginning of your supplications the command went out, and I have come to tell you, for you are greatly beloved; therefore consider the matter, and understand the vision:

— *Greatly beloved – As soon as we turn our hearts to God He is attentive to our prayers and the answer is on the way!*

Daniel 10:11 (NKJV)

11 And he said to me, “O Daniel, man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you.” While he was speaking this word to me, I stood trembling.

— *Greatly beloved – God wants to impart to you wisdom and understanding that comes right from the throne of God.*

Daniel 10:19 (NKJV)

19 And he said, “O man greatly beloved, fear not! Peace be to you; be strong, yes, be strong!” So when he spoke to me I was strengthened, and said, “Let my lord speak, for you have strengthened me.”

— *Greatly beloved – Don’t let your weaknesses and fears get you down. God is with you. Be at peace and be strong in the Lord.*

How wonderful it is to be sons and daughters of God and to be greatly beloved!

— *However, if we are born into the family of God why does the New Testament also describe our relationship with God in terms of adoption?*

— *We are going to look at this question of adoption from two points of view:*

— *Choice*

— *Inheritance*

Adoption in terms of choice:

John 15:15-16 (NKJV)

15 No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.

16 You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

“You did not choose Me, but I chose you” – *Our salvation was not just something that happened. It was a deliberate act of God choosing us.*

John 1:13 (NKJV)

13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

— *Our position as children of God is a direct result of God intervening in our lives and choosing to save us.*

— *When a child is born the parents do not make an active choice of who their child will be.*

— *In adoption the parents make a clear choice of their child.*

Ephesians 1:4-5 (NKJV)

4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,

5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

Ephesians 1:5 (DARBY)

5 having marked us out beforehand for adoption through Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

— *Here we see clearly the idea of adoption tied in with the concept of choice.*

— *This means it was God’s idea and not ours that we become His children.*

— *The second concept in adoption is in terms of inheritance.*

— *We have a beautiful illustration of the principle of adoption in terms of inheritance found in Genesis 48.*

Genesis 48:1-6 (NKJV)

1 Now it came to pass after these things that Joseph was told, “Indeed your father is sick”; and he took with him his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim.

2 And Jacob was told, “Look, your son Joseph is coming to you”; and Israel strengthened himself and sat up on the bed.

3 Then Jacob said to Joseph: “God Almighty appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan and blessed me,

4 and said to me, ‘Behold, I will make you fruitful and multiply you, and I will make of you a multitude of people, and give this land to your descendants after you as an everlasting possession.’

5 And now your two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, who were born to you in the land of Egypt before I came to you in Egypt, are mine; as Reuben and Simeon, they shall be mine.

6 Your offspring whom you beget after them shall be yours; they will be called by the name of their brothers in their inheritance.

— *Jacob took Joseph’s two sons and adopted them to be his own.*

— *They were already related to Jacob through birth. Joseph was their father and Jacob was their grandfather.*

— *But through adoption they became equal to Joseph and shared equally with him in Jacob’s inheritance.*

Through birth Ephraim and Manasseh were related to Jacob as his grandsons. But through adoption they became his own sons and were as much sons to Jacob as was Joseph.

— *In Numbers 2, when God is describing where each of the tribes of Israel will be located around the tabernacle, both Manasseh and Ephraim are named.*

— *When God gave each tribe an inheritance in the land of Israel both Manasseh and Ephraim are named.*

— *The Greek word for adoption is υιοθεσία huiothesia and it is derived from two Greek words, tithemi (to place) and huios (an adult son), therefore it means literally “to select-out ones as adult sons.”*

— *The Greek word for adoption υιοθεσία huiothesia means, “To formally and legally declare that someone who is not one’s own child to henceforth to be treated and cared for as one’s own child, including complete rights of inheritance.” Louw and Nida’s Greek Lexicon*

— *“Thus God takes an unbelieving sinner, regenerates him and by means of this makes him His child (teknon, a born one). Then He takes this child and places him in a legal position as an adult son (huios).”*

John 1:12 (NKJV)

12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children (teknon) of God, to those who believe in His name:

Thus through our new birth we become children of God by nature, but through adoption we legally become co-heirs with Christ.

— *This Greek word “adoption” is used five times in the New Testament.*

— *Each time, adoption is somehow tied in with the idea of inheritance.*

Galatians 4:4-7 (NKJV)

4 But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law,

5 to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!”

7 Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

— *The logical conclusion is that if we are sons then we are also heirs.*

Isaiah 14:12-15 (NKJV)

12 “How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations!

13 For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north;

14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.'

15 Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit.

— In Isaiah 14 we can get some important insights into this spiritual battle in which we are engaged.

— Lucifer wanted to be seated with God on His throne.

— Whose place did Lucifer want to take?

Revelation 3:21 (NKJV)

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

— Lucifer, no matter how glorious an angel he had been created, he was not created to be seated with God on His throne.

— God created us to be His sons and daughters and to rule and reign with Him for all eternity.

Romans 8:14-19 (NKJV)

14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."

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

17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

19 For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.

— From both Revelation 3:21 and Romans 8 we can learn two important truths about our inheritance.

— We have been adopted so that we are now joint heirs with Christ and have the opportunity to share perfect fellowship with Him as we reign with Him forever.

— We must respond and be willing to go through the preparation process of sanctification and maturing so that we can overcome the flesh in order to receive our inheritance.

— Satan's wrath has been poured out against mankind because the very thing he wanted, we were created for.

— Satan's two purposes are:

— 1. To stop people from receiving Christ so that they will suffer in Hell with him for eternity.

— 2. *To keep Christians in a state of bondage and defeat so that they will not receive the inheritance that God has for them.*

— *In Revelation Chapter 7, twelve thousand are sealed from each of the twelve tribes of Israel. They are sealed for a very special time and for a very special purpose.*

— *However, two tribes are missing from Revelation 7, the tribes of Dan and Ephraim.*

Why is the Tribe of Dan not mentioned among the Tribes of Israel that are sealed in Revelation 7?

Judges 1:34 (NKJV)

34 And the Amorites forced the children of Dan into the mountains, for they would not allow them to come down to the valley;

— *The Tribe of Dan was driven from their inheritance and thus they missed out on God purposes for them in the end times.*

— *The tribe of Ephraim failed in leading the Northern Kingdom of Israel and also lost their inheritance.*

— *The important point we can learn from this is that just because Dan and Ephraim were heirs did not mean they automatically received their inheritance.*

— *We can see in Ezekiel 48, which is describing the Millennium, all the tribes are accounted for. The glorious time when God is using the 144,000 to restore Israel to faith starting in Revelation 7. Dan and Ephraim do not have a part in this work or an inheritance.*

Hebrews 12:15-17 (NKJV)

15 looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled;

16 lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright.

17 For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears.

— *This Scripture clearly distinguishes between being an heir and being able to receive ones inheritance.*

— *Esau was a son who forfeited, not his place of sonship, but the inheritance that belonged to him as an heir.*

— *Esau chose to temporally satisfy the lusts of the flesh at the expense of his eternal inheritance.*

2 Corinthians 5:9-11 (NKJV)

9 Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him.

10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

11 Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences.

2 John 8 (NKJV)

⁸Look to yourselves, that we do not lose those things we worked for, but that we may receive a full reward.

— Don't allow the busyness and fleeting lusts of this world to rob us of our eternal rewards and inheritance.

Philippians 1:6 (NKJV)

6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

— Remember this is God's work not ours, but we must co-operate with Him for it to be accomplished.

— If you have not yet become a child of God, today you can receive Christ and become part of His family.

— If you have made choices that have allowed the enemy to destroy what God wants to do in your life, today you turn to God and co-operate with His plans for your life.

— If you have been growing in your relationship with God, today you can give thanks and seek to yield to Him even more.

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