



How to Know You Belong to God (pt. 1)

Romans 8:14-17

I. A New Identity (vv. 14-15b)

- A. They are _____ by the Spirit (v. 14)
1. This is for _____ Christian, not just for super-Christians (Rom. 8:1, 4, 9, 11)
 2. This is _____ in the Scripture, not mystical experience (Rom. 8:13; Gen. 41:38-40; Psa. 119:35, 133; Jn. 14:25-26; Lk. 24:44-45; Eph. 1:17-19; 3:16-19; Col. 1:9; Col. 3:16; 2 Cor. 2:14-16)
 - a) This is not you thinking you heard God's _____
 - b) This is not you thinking you have to _____ it
 - c) This is you putting to _____ the deeds of flesh by the Spirit
 - d) This is you being _____ by the Spirit
 - e) This is you _____ the Word of God
 3. This produces _____ fruit, not fake claims (Gal. 5:16-17, 25; 2 Pet. 1:3-8)
 - a) This is you walking in _____

b) This is you growing by His _____ power

c) This is you putting in _____

d) This is you moving in the right _____

B. They are not _____ (v. 15a)
(Heb. 2:14-15; 2 Tim. 1:7; 1 Jn. 4:18)

1. Fear is a mark of _____
2. Christians no longer _____ under fear

C. They live by faith, not by _____ (v. 15b)
(Rom. 5:1; Heb. 11:6; Isa. 41:10; Psa. 56:3-4; Gal. 3:26)

1. Fear-driven _____
2. Faith-driven _____

II. A New Intimacy (vv. 15c-16)

III. A New Inheritance (v. 17)

TAKE HOME:

- What is currently _____ your sense of assurance—your performance, or the Spirit's work in you?
- Where are you still living like a _____ instead of a son?
- What evidence of Spirit-led growth is _____ in your life right now?

Application Questions

James 1:22 says, *"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."* These questions are designed to help you apply today's message in your life. We encourage you to thoughtfully answer these questions and discuss your answers with others. For more information about joining a Small Group that uses these questions as the basis for discussion, prayer, and accountability, please call the church office at (661) 259-2913.

1. Is your sense of assurance rooted in the Spirit's work in you, or are you relying on your own performance for confidence before God?
(Rom. 8:14–16)
2. Are you fighting sin as a debt you owe or as a son who has already received freedom through Christ?
(Rom. 8:12–13)
3. When you face fear, do you respond with faith in your adoption, or do you fall back into old patterns of spiritual anxiety?
(Rom. 8:15; 2 Tim. 1:7)
4. Are you being led by the Spirit through Scripture, or are your decisions mostly driven by feelings and circumstances?
(Gal. 5:16; Psa. 119:133)
5. What evidence of Spirit-produced growth—such as love, self-control, or steadfastness—is increasing in your life right now?
(2 Pet. 1:5–8; Gal. 5:22–23)
6. Do you approach God with boldness and intimacy as your Father, or do you keep Him at a distance out of fear or guilt?
(Rom. 8:15; Heb. 4:16)
7. Is your obedience to God motivated by fear of punishment or by trust in His love and acceptance?
(1 Jn. 4:18; Rom. 8:1)
8. When doubts arise about your standing with God, do you look to your relationship with Christ and the Spirit's leading for assurance, or do you focus on your failures?
(Rom. 8:16; Eph. 1:13–14)

"Paul is not referring here to spectacular instances of divine guidance in the lives of eminent Christians. Rather, he is speaking of what is true of all sons of God—namely, that they are led by the Spirit of God. It is not a question of the degree in which they are yielded to the Holy Spirit, but of a relationship which takes place at the time of conversion."

- William MacDonald, *Believer's Bible Commentary*