

June 3, 2018

The Holy Spirit: *Testifier*
Romans 8:9-25

In Romans 8, Paul does not compare different kinds of Christians: *obedient vs disobedient, maturing vs back-sliders, Grace-walkers vs legalists*; rather, he contrasts Believers with Unbelievers: *those who have the Spirit with those who do not!*

Listen to these verses! Rom 8:1-2; 7-8; 9; 14

Today, we'll concentrate on the Holy Spirit's function as our Testifier: He testifies to us inwardly about our identity & future as God's *real* children; and He testifies thru us outwardly to the world about His salvation! You and I – *every Christian* – need to be experiencing both kinds of testifying by the Holy Spirit: inwardly and outwardly! Jesus says it this way: **John 15:26,27**

READ: Romans 8:9, 14-16 (NLT)

- 9) The Holy Spirit dwelling in you is *The* criterion of salvation
- 10) Like Christ, our bodies will die; but our spirit/soul live etern
- 11) Just as the Spirit raised Jesus from death, so He will us too!
- 14) you **ARE led by the Spirit** if He is in you! (*Willingly?*)
- 15) we were all born with a spirit that made us fearful slaves!!
-Now we've received God's Spirit of power & freedom!
- 16) Holy Spirit testifies w/ ours affirming us as God's children

About what does the Holy Spirit testify to us? Sonship!

There are two words used in the Gk New Testament regarding sonship in God's family:

- 1) teknon = to bear, to give birth to
- 2) huios = to adopt a non-birth child

The reason for using two words (*rebirth & adoption*) to describe how we become God's children is because there are two issues that stand in God's way of making us His children:

- 1) we were not His children by birth (*sinners by nature*)
- 2) we were law-breakers (*sinners by choices & actions*)

Salvation, then, is an act of grace that not only makes an outward difference in our relationship to God (*by adoption*), but also makes an inward difference by creating in us a new nature.

**We have the status of sonship by adoption
& the heart of sonship by rebirth!**

John 1:12 – *“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name.”* John's word “right or power” means a legal right to do something as acknowledge by a judge. The word “sons” is not from *huios* (*adoption*) but *teknon* (*birth-born*): those who received the Lord Jesus Christ as the One who satisfied God's justice against their sin, have the right to become His birth-born children. Rebirth (*teknon*) is therefore dependent upon legal adoption (*huios*) thru Christ's sacrifice.

(Wuest) *“The Holy Spirit of adoption regenerates the believing sinner and places him as a child of God in a legal standing in God's family, having all the privileges and rights of God's only-begotten Son. Think of it! To occupy a place in God's family in which He loves us just as much as He loves His only-begotten Son! And to have a place in God's family just as eternal and secure as His only-begotten Son. The Spirit of adoption is therefore the legal representative of God – our Advocate – imparting to us God's divine nature and placing us in the family of God, doing all this in accordance with the eternal, unchanging laws of God!”*

READ: Romans 8:19-23 (NLT)

So, the Holy Spirit testifies *to us* about our “sonship,” but He also testifies *thru us* as God's people to those of the world around us! We may call it many things: sharing the Savior, witnessing, testifying @ the truth of eternal life with God thru faith in Christ – *but whatever we call it...* we must participate as the Holy Spirit functions in us to testify to the world thru us!

TESTIMONY: Dean Hamner

INVITATION TO RESPOND PERSONALLY:

- 1) *Is the Holy Spirit testifying in you about your “son-ship?”*
- 2) *Is the Holy Spirit testifying thru you to the world @ Jesus?*
- 3) *Do you need to join a church pursuing both experiences with the Holy Spirit?*

CHILDREN'S SERMON: John 15:26,27

Today, were talking about the Holy Spirit's work in us testifying about the truth of salvation in Christ. *Do you know what the word **testify** means? (to tell the truth to others)*

How many of you want to tell the truth – testify – in this worship service? Swear in children as “Testifiers” of the truth: Place your left hands on the bible; Raise your right hands, and repeat after me!

“I solemnly swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth so help me God!”

You've all just been “sworn in!” – that means that you must answer questions by telling “the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth!” Are you ready?

- 1) Do you know God loves you & Jesus proved it on the cross?
- 2) Do you love your mom & dad more than hotdogs?
- 3) Do you always obey your parents?
- 4) Did you want to come to church this morning?
- 5) Do you love your pastor?

*Do you know what you've just done? You've testified: told the truth before God and all these people! That's what the Holy Spirit does in us: **He testifies – tells the truth about salvation in Christ - to us and thru us to the world!***

The Holy Spirit is our Testifier!

Listen to these verses:

1-2) *So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. And because you belong to Him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death. 7-8)* *For the sinful nature is always hostile to God. It never did obey God's laws, and it never will. That's why those who are still under the control of their sinful nature can never please God. 9)* *But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. (And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them do not belong to*

Him at all.) 14) *For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.*

Romans 8:9,14-16 (NLT) – *9) But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. (And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them do not belong to him at all.). 14)* *For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. 15)* *So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when He adopted you as His own children. Now we call Him, “Abba, Father.” 16)* *For His Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children.*

Romans 8:19-23 (NLT) – *For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who His children really are. 20)* *Against its will, all creation was subjected to God's curse. But with eager hope, 21)* *the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay. 22)* *For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. 23)* *And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as His adopted children, including the new bodies He has promised us.*

John 15:26,27 – *But I will send you the Advocate – the Spirit of truth. He will come to you from the Father and will testify all about Me. And you must also testify about Me because you have been with Me from the beginning of My ministry.*

John 1:12 – *But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name.*

Questions for Children's Worship bulletins:

- 1) What does the word "testify" mean?
- 2) What truths about God can you testify to others?
- 3) When can you testify about God to other people?
- 4) How might others react when you testify about God?

(Use the following questions to start meaningful conversations with your family about the Holy Spirit's function in believers)

1) What is the one criterion used in v.9 to define a Believer?

**2) Our physical birth gave us a spirit of fear & slavery.
What kind of spirit does the Holy Spirit give us?**

3) Discuss the meaning of being "adopted" by the Holy Spirit

4) In what ways is the indwelling Holy Spirit a "foretaste" of the glory of God?

5) What will we inherit as God's children & heirs?