

THE GOSPEL OF GOD IN ROMANS

Message Nine

Children of God, Sons of God, and Heirs of God

Scripture Reading: Rom. 8:14, 16-17, 21, 23

- Rom 8:14 For as many as are ¹led by the ²Spirit of God, these are ^{3a}sons of God.
Rom 8:16 The Spirit Himself ^awitnesses ¹with ²our ^bspirit that ³we are ^cchildren of God.
Rom 8:17 And ¹if children, ^aheirs also; on the one hand, heirs of God; on the other, joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we ^bsuffer with *Him* that we may also be ^cglorified with *Him*.
Rom 8:21 In hope that the creation itself will also be ¹freed from the slavery of corruption into the freedom of the ^aglory of the children of God.
Rom 8:23 And not only *so*, but we ourselves also, who have ¹the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves ²groan in ourselves, eagerly awaiting ^{3a}sonship, the ^bredemption of our body.

I. Being children of God is our initial, or primary, relationship with God; we need to grow to become sons of God, and then we need further growth unto maturity in order to become heirs of God—Rom. 8:14, 16-17, 23.

- Rom 8:14 For as many as are ¹led by the ²Spirit of God, these are ^{3a}sons of God.
Rom 8:16 The Spirit Himself ^awitnesses ¹with ²our ^bspirit that ³we are ^cchildren of God.
Rom 8:17 And ¹if children, ^aheirs also; on the one hand, heirs of God; on the other, joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we ^bsuffer with *Him* that we may also be ^cglorified with *Him*.
Rom 8:23 And not only *so*, but we ourselves also, who have ¹the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves ²groan in ourselves, eagerly awaiting ^{3a}sonship, the ^bredemption of our body.

II. "The Spirit Himself witnesses with our spirit that we are children of God"—v. 16:

- A. As believers in Christ the Son of God, we have been born of God the Father, the source of life, to be children of God with the life and nature of God—John 1:12-13; 3:15; 2 Pet. 1:4.
John 1:12 But as many as ^{1a}received Him, to them He gave the authority to become ²children of God, to those who believe into His name,
John 1:13 Who were begotten not ¹of ²blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.
John 3:15 That every one who believes into Him may have ¹eternal life.
2 Pet 1:4 ¹Through ²which He has granted to us precious and ³exceedingly great ^apromises that through ⁴these you might become ^bpartakers of the divine nature, ⁵having ^cescaped the ⁶corruption which is in the ^dworld ⁷by ^elust.
- B. The greatest wonder in the entire universe is that human beings could be begotten of God and sinners could be made children of God—1 John 2:29—3:1; Rom. 5:19; 8:16, 21, 23.
1 John 2:29 If you ¹know that ²He is ^{3a}righteous, ⁴you ⁵know that everyone who ^{6b}practices ^crighteousness also has been ⁷begotten of Him.
1 John 3:1 ¹Behold what manner of ^{2a}love the ³Father has given to us, that we should be called ^{4b}children of God; and we are. ⁵Because of this the world does not ^{6c}know us, ⁷because it did not know Him.
Rom 5:19 For just as through the disobedience of one man the many were ¹constituted sinners, so also through the ²obedience of the One the many will be constituted righteous.
Rom 8:16 The Spirit Himself ^awitnesses ¹with ²our ^bspirit that ³we are ^cchildren of God.
Rom 8:21 In hope that the creation itself will also be ¹freed from the slavery of corruption into the freedom of the ^aglory of the children of God.
Rom 8:23 And not only *so*, but we ourselves also, who have ¹the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves ²groan in ourselves, eagerly awaiting ^{3a}sonship, the ^bredemption of our body.
- C. The Spirit witnesses with our spirit that we who were once children of the devil are now the children of God—John 8:44; 1 John 3:1-2, 10; Rom. 8:16:
John 8:44 ^aYou are of *your* ¹father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a ^bmurderer from the beginning and does not stand in the ^ctruth, because there is no truth in him.

When ^dhe speaks the lie, he speaks *it* out of his own ²*possessions*; for he is a liar and the ³father of it.

1 John 3:1 ¹Behold what manner of ^{2a}love the ³Father has given to us, that we should be called ^{4b}children of God; and we are. ⁵Because of this the world does not ^{6c}know us, ⁷because it did not know Him.

1 John 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and ¹it has not yet been ^amanifested what we will be. We ²know that if ³He is manifested, we will be ^blike Him because we will ^{4c}see Him even as He is.

1 John 3:10 ¹In this the ^achildren of God and the ^bchildren of the devil are manifest. Everyone who does not ^cpractice righteousness is not of God, neither he who ^ddoes not ²love his brother.

Rom 8:16 The Spirit Himself ^awitnesses ¹with ²our ^bspirit that ³we are ^cchildren of God.

1. Even when we are weak or backsliding, we still have the deep conviction that we are children of God, for once we have been born of God, we have eternal life and are His children forever—John 1:12-13; 3:6, 15; 10:28-29.

John 1:12 But as many as ^{1a}received Him, to them He gave the authority to become ²children of God, to those who believe into His name,

John 1:13 Who were begotten not ¹of ²blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

John 3:6 That which is ^aborn ¹of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the ²Spirit is spirit.

John 3:15 That every one who believes into Him may have ¹eternal life.

John 10:28 And I give to them ^{1a}eternal life, and they shall by ^bno means perish forever, and no one shall ^csnatch them out of My hand.

John 10:29 My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all, and no one can ^asnatch *them* out of My ¹Father's hand.

2. The Spirit witnesses with our spirit; the two spirits are one and witness together that we are children of God—Rom. 8:16:

Rom 8:16 The Spirit Himself ^awitnesses ¹with ²our ^bspirit that ³we are ^cchildren of God.

a. Such a witnessing testifies to us and assures us that we are children of God, who possess His life—1 John 3:1-2.

1 John 3:1 ¹Behold what manner of ^{2a}love the ³Father has given to us, that we should be called ^{4b}children of God; and we are. ⁵Because of this the world does not ^{6c}know us, ⁷because it did not know Him.

1 John 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and ¹it has not yet been ^amanifested what we will be. We ²know that if ³He is manifested, we will be ^blike Him because we will ^{4c}see Him even as He is.

b. The Spirit witnesses to our most basic and elementary relationship with God, namely, that we are His children, not that we are His sons or His heirs; therefore, this witnessing of the Spirit begins from the time of our spiritual birth, our regeneration—John 1:12-13; 3:3, 5-6; Rom. 8:16.

John 1:12 But as many as ^{1a}received Him, to them He gave the authority to become ²children of God, to those who believe into His name,

John 1:13 Who were begotten not ¹of ²blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

John 3:3 Jesus answered and said to him, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless one is ^{1a}born anew, he cannot ²see the ^{3b}kingdom of God.

John 3:5 Jesus answered, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless one is ^aborn ¹of ²water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

John 3:6 That which is ^aborn ¹of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the ²Spirit is spirit.

Rom 8:16 The Spirit Himself ^awitnesses ¹with ²our ^bspirit that ³we are ^cchildren of God.

D. As the children of God with the life and nature of God, we can live God, be the same as God in life, nature, and expression, and walk in a manner that is worthy of God, thus fulfilling the purpose of God's creation of man—Eph. 5:1-2, 8; Matt. 5:48; 1 Thes. 2:12; Gen. 1:26.

Eph 5:1 Be therefore ^{1a}imitators of God, as beloved children;

- Eph 5:2 And ^awalk in ^{1b}love, even as ²Christ also ^cloved ³us and gave Himself up for us, an ⁴offering and a ^dsacrifice to God for a ^{5e}sweet-smelling savor.
- Eph 5:8 For you were ^aonce ^{1b}darkness but are now ^clight ^din the Lord; ^{2e}walk as ^{3f}children of light
- Matt 5:48 You therefore shall be ^{1a}perfect ^bas your heavenly Father is perfect.
- 1 Thes 2:12 So that you might ^awalk in a manner worthy of God, who ^{1b}calls you into His own ^{2c}kingdom and ^{3d}glory.
- Gen 1:26 And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.

E. The children of God have been regenerated of God the Spirit to become God-men, belonging to the species of God to see and enter into the kingdom of God—John 3:3, 5-6:

- John 3:3 Jesus answered and said to him, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless one is ^{1a}born anew, he cannot ²see the ^{3b}kingdom of God.
- John 3:5 Jesus answered, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless one is ^aborn ¹of ²water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.
- John 3:6 That which is ^aborn ¹of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the ²Spirit is spirit.
1. God has a good pleasure to make us, His children, the same as He is in life and nature but not in the Godhead—Eph. 1:5, 9; 5:1-2, 8; 1 John 1:5; 4:8, 16.

Eph 1:5 ^{1a}Predestinating us unto ^{2b}sonship ³through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the ^{4c}good pleasure of His ^dwill,

Eph 1:9 ¹Making known to us the ^{2a}mystery of His ^bwill ³according to His ^cgood pleasure, which He ^{4d}purposed in Himself,

Eph 5:1 Be therefore ^{1a}imitators of God, as beloved children;

Eph 5:2 And ^awalk in ^{1b}love, even as ²Christ also ^cloved ³us and gave Himself up for us, an ⁴offering and a ^dsacrifice to God for a ^{5e}sweet-smelling savor.

Eph 5:8 For you were ^aonce ^{1b}darkness but are now ^clight ^din the Lord; ^{2e}walk as ^{3f}children of light

1 John 1:5 ¹And this is the ^amessage which we have heard from Him and announce to you, that ²God is ^{3b}light and in Him is no ⁴darkness at all.

1 John 4:8 He who ^adoes ¹not love has not ^bknown God, because God is ^{2c}love.

1 John 4:16 And we know and have ^abelieved the ¹love which God has ²in us. God is ³love, and he who ⁴abides in love ⁵abides in God and ⁶God abides in him.
 2. Because we have been born of God, we are the same as God in life and nature but not in the Godhead—Rom. 8:2, 10, 16; 2 Pet. 1:4.

Rom 8:2 For the ^{1a}law of the ²Spirit of ³life has ⁴freed ⁵me in Christ Jesus from the ⁶law of sin and of death.

Rom 8:10 But if ^{1a}Christ is ²in you, though the ³body is ⁴dead because of sin, the ⁵spirit is ⁶life because of ⁷righteousness.

Rom 8:16 The Spirit Himself ^awitnesses ¹with ²our ^bspirit that ³we are ^cchildren of God.

2 Pet 1:4 ¹Through ²which He has granted to us precious and ³exceedingly great ^apromises that through ⁴these you might become ^bpartakers of the divine nature, ⁵having ^cescaped the ⁶corruption which is in the ^dworld ⁷by ^elust.
 3. As children of God, we are God-men, we belong to the species of God, and we are in the kingdom of God, the realm of the divine species—John 1:12-13; 3:3, 5:

John 1:12 But as many as ^{1a}received Him, to them He gave the authority to become ²children of God, to those who believe into His name,

John 1:13 Who were begotten not ¹of ²blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

John 3:3 Jesus answered and said to him, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless one is ^{1a}born anew, he cannot ²see the ^{3b}kingdom of God.

John 3:5 Jesus answered, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless one is ^aborn ¹of ²water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

 - a. Our second birth caused us to enter into the kingdom of God to become the species of God—vv. 3, 5-6.

John 3:3 Jesus answered and said to him, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless one is ^{1a}born anew, he cannot ²see the ^{3b}kingdom of God.

John 3:5 Jesus answered, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless one is ^aborn ¹of ²water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

John 3:6 That which is ^aborn ¹of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the ²Spirit is spirit.

b. Now as children of God with the life and nature of God, we are God-men in the kingdom of God—vv. 3, 5; Rom. 8:16; 14:17.

John 3:3 Jesus answered and said to him, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless one is ^{1a}born anew, he cannot ²see the ^{3b}kingdom of God.

John 3:5 Jesus answered, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless one is ^aborn ¹of ²water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

Rom 8:16 The Spirit Himself ^awitnesses ¹with ²our ^bspirit that ³we are ^cchildren of God.

Rom 14:17 For the ^{1a}kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but ^{2b}righteousness and ^cpeace and ^djoy in the Holy Spirit.

III. "As many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God"—8:14:

A. God's eternal purpose is to have many sons for His corporate expression; the New Jerusalem is the aggregate of the divine sonship for the eternal, corporate expression of the Triune God—Eph. 1:5; Rom. 8:14; Gal. 3:26; 4:7; Rev. 21:7:

Eph 1:5 ^{1a}Predestinating us unto ^{2b}sonship ³through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the ^{4c}good pleasure of His ^dwill,

Rom 8:14 For as many as are ¹led by the ²Spirit of God, these are ^{3a}sons of God.

Gal 3:26 For you are all ^{1a}sons of God through ^{2b}faith ^cin Christ Jesus.

Gal 4:7 So then you are ¹no longer a ^aslave but a ²son; and if a son, an ^{3b}heir also ⁴through God.

Rev 21:7 He who ^{1a}overcomes will inherit these things, and ^bI will be God to him, and he will be a ^{2c}son to Me.

1. According to the revelation of the entire New Testament, God's economy is to produce sons by dispensing Himself in His Divine Trinity into His chosen and redeemed people; Christ's redemption brings us into the sonship of God—Eph. 1:5, 7, 10; 3:9; Rom. 8:11, 14.

Eph 1:5 ^{1a}Predestinating us unto ^{2b}sonship ³through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the ^{4c}good pleasure of His ^dwill,

Eph 1:7 In whom we have ^{1a}redemption through His ^bblood, the ^{2c}forgiveness of ^doffenses, according to the ^eriches of His grace,

Eph 1:10 Unto the ^{1a}economy of the ²fullness of the times, to ^{3b}head up all ^cthings in ⁴Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth, in Him;

Eph 3:9 And to enlighten all *that they may see* what the ^{1a}economy of the ^{2b}mystery is, which ³throughout the ages has been ^chidden in God, who created all things,

Rom 8:11 And if the ¹Spirit of ²the One who raised Jesus from the dead ^{3a}dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also ^{4b}give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.

Rom 8:14 For as many as are ¹led by the ²Spirit of God, these are ^{3a}sons of God.

2. God's economy is to make us sons of God, inheriting the blessing of God's promise, which was given for His eternal purpose to have sons for His corporate expression—Heb. 2:10; Rom. 8:29.

Heb 2:10 For it was fitting ^afor ¹Him, for whom are all things and through whom are all things, in leading ^{2b}many sons into ^{3c}glory, to make the ^{4d}Author of their ^esalvation ^{5f}perfect through sufferings.

Rom 8:29 Because those whom He ¹foreknew, He also ^{2a}predestinated *to be* ³conformed to the ^bimage of His Son, that He might be the ^{4c}Firstborn among ⁵many ^dbrothers;

B. The central thought of the book of Romans is that in His salvation God is making sinners His sons with His life and nature so that they may become constituents of the Body of Christ for His corporate expression—3:23; 8:14, 29; 12:4-5.

Rom 3:23 For ^aall have sinned and fall short of the ¹glory of God,

Rom 8:14 For as many as are ¹led by the ²Spirit of God, these are ^{3a}sons of God.

- Rom 8:29 Because those whom He ¹foreknew, He also ^{2a}predestinated to be ³conformed to the ^bimage of His Son, that He might be the ^{4c}Firstborn among ⁵many ^dbrothers;
- Rom 12:4 For just as in ^aone body we have ^bmany members, and all the members do not have the ^csame ¹function,
- Rom 12:5 So we who are many are one Body ¹in Christ, and individually ^{2a}members one of another.
- C. We, the believers in Christ, are first children of God, and then we gradually grow up to become sons of God—Gal. 3:26; 4:6:
- Gal 3:26 For you are all ^{1a}sons of God through ^{2b}faith ^cin Christ Jesus.
- Gal 4:6 And because you are ^asons, God has ^bsent forth the ^{1c}Spirit of His Son into our ²hearts, ³crying, ^{4d}Abba, Father!
1. Sons are the children of God who are in the stage of the transformation of their souls—Rom. 8:14; 12:2.

Rom 8:14 For as many as are ¹led by the ²Spirit of God, these are ^{3a}sons of God.

Rom 12:2 And do ¹not be ^afashioned according to ²this ^bage, but be ^{3c}transformed by the ^{4d}renewing of the ^emind that you may ^{5f}prove what the ^{6g}will of God is, that which is good and ^hwell pleasing and perfect.
 2. The sons of God not only have been regenerated in their spirit and are growing in the divine life, but they are also living and walking by being led by the Spirit—8:14.

Rom 8:14 For as many as are ¹led by the ²Spirit of God, these are ^{3a}sons of God.
- D. The sons of God have received the spirit of sonship with the sonship; they have the life, the position, the right, the privilege, and the blessings of a son—v. 15; Gal. 4:5-6.
- Rom 8:15 For you have not received a ^{1a}spirit of slavery *bringing you* into fear again, but you have received a spirit of sonship in which we ^bcry, ²Abba, Father!
- Gal 4:5 That He might ^{1a}redeem those under law that we might receive the ^{2b}sonship.
- Gal 4:6 And because you are ^asons, God has ^bsent forth the ^{1c}Spirit of His Son into our ²hearts, ³crying, ^{4d}Abba, Father!
- E. All the sons of God will be brought into glory; this is our destiny—Heb. 2:10; Rom. 8:21:
- Heb 2:10 For it was fitting ^afor ¹Him, for whom are all things and through whom are all things, in leading ^{2b}many sons into ^{3c}glory, to make the ^{4d}Author of their ^esalvation ^{5f}perfect through sufferings.
- Rom 8:21 In hope that the creation itself will also be ¹freed from the slavery of corruption into the freedom of the ^aglory of the children of God.
1. Glorification is the step in God's complete salvation in which He will completely saturate our body with the glory of His life and nature according to the principle of His regenerating our spirit through the Spirit—vv. 21, 23, 30.

Rom 8:21 In hope that the creation itself will also be ¹freed from the slavery of corruption into the freedom of the ^aglory of the children of God.

Rom 8:23 And not only *so*, but we ourselves also, who have ¹the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves ²groan in ourselves, eagerly awaiting ^{3a}sonship, the ^bredemption of our body.

Rom 8:30 And those whom He predestinated, these He also called; and those whom He called, these He also ^{1a}justified; and those whom He justified, these He also ^{2b}glorified.
 2. This is the last step of God's complete salvation, wherein God obtains a full expression, which will ultimately be manifested in the New Jerusalem in the coming age—Rev. 21:2, 7, 10-11.

Rev 21:2 And I saw the ^aholy city, ^{1b}New Jerusalem, ²coming down out of heaven from God, ^cprepared as a ^{3d}bride adorned for her ^ehusband.

Rev 21:7 He who ^{1a}overcomes will inherit these things, and ^bI will be God to him, and he will be a ^{2c}son to Me.

Rev 21:10 And he ^acarried me away ^bin spirit onto a ¹great and high mountain and showed me the ^choly city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,

Rev 21:11 Having the ^{1a}glory of God. Her ^{2b}light was like a most ^{3c}precious stone, like a ^{4d}jasper stone, as clear as ^ecrystal.

IV. "If children, heirs also; on the one hand, heirs of God; on the other, joint heirs with Christ"—Rom. 8:17; Gal. 3:29; 4:7; Titus 3:7; Eph. 1:11, 13-14, 18; 1 Pet. 1:3-4:

Rom 8:17 And ¹if children, ^aheirs also; on the one hand, heirs of God; on the other, joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we ^bsuffer with *Him* that we may also be ^cglorified with *Him*.

Gal 3:29 And if you are of ^aChrist, then you are ¹Abraham's ^bseed, ^cheirs according to ^{2d}promise.

Gal 4:7 So then you are ¹no longer a ^aslave but a ²son; and if a son, an ^{3b}heir also ⁴through God.

Titus 3:7 ¹In order that having been ^ajustified by ²His ^bgrace, we might become ^{3c}heirs according to the ^dhope of ^eeternal life.

Eph 1:11 In whom also we ¹were designated as an ^ainheritance, having been ^{2b}predestinated according to the ^{3c}purpose of the One who works all things according to the ⁴counsel of His ^dwill,

Eph 1:13 In whom you also, having heard the ^aword of the truth, the gospel of your salvation, in Him also believing, you were ^{1b}sealed with the ^cHoly Spirit of the ²promise,

Eph 1:14 Who is the ^{1a}pledge of our ^{2b}inheritance ³unto the ^{4c}redemption of the ⁵acquired ^dpossession, to the ^{6e}praise of His glory.

Eph 1:18 The ^{1a}eyes of your heart having been ^{2b}enlightened, that you may know what is the ^{3c}hope of His ^{4d}calling, and what are the ^{5e}riches of the glory of His ^{6f}inheritance in the saints,

1 Pet 1:3 ^{1a}Blessed be the ²God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great ^{3b}mercy has ^{4c}regenerated us ⁵unto a ⁶living ^dhope ⁷through the ^eresurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

1 Pet 1:4 ¹Unto an ^{2a}inheritance, ³incorruptible and undefiled and ^bunfading, ^{4c}kept in the heavens for you,

A. Christ is the Heir of all things, and we, the children of God, are destined to be joint heirs with Christ, for we are heirs with Him to inherit God in His glory as our inheritance—Heb. 1:2; Rom. 8:17; Acts 26:18:

Heb 1:2 Has at the ¹last of these days spoken to us in the ^{2a}Son, ³whom He appointed ^{4b}Heir of all things, ^cthrough whom also He made the ^{5d}universe;

Rom 8:17 And ¹if children, ^aheirs also; on the one hand, heirs of God; on the other, joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we ^bsuffer with *Him* that we may also be ^cglorified with *Him*.

Acts 26:18 To ¹open their ^aeyes, to turn *them* from ^{2b}darkness to ^clight and *from* the ³authority of Satan ⁴to God, that they may receive ^{5d}forgiveness of sins and ^{6a}an ^einheritance among those who have been ⁷sanctified by faith in Me.

1. As the designated Heir, Christ will inherit all things in God's economy, including the earth, the kingdom, and the throne; all that God is and has is for Christ's possession—Heb. 1:2; Psa. 2:8; Dan. 7:13-14; Luke 1:32; Matt. 11:27; John 16:15.

Heb 1:2 Has at the ¹last of these days spoken to us in the ^{2a}Son, ³whom He appointed ^{4b}Heir of all things, ^cthrough whom also He made the ^{5d}universe;

Psa 2:8 Ask of Me, And I will give the nations as Your inheritance And the limits of the earth as Your possession.

Dan 7:13 I watched in the night visions, And there with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming; And He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him.

Dan 7:14 And to Him was given dominion, glory, and a kingdom, That all the peoples, nations, and languages might serve Him. His dominion is an eternal dominion, which will not pass away; And His kingdom is one that will not be destroyed.

Luke 1:32 He will be ^agreat and will be called ^bSon of the ^{1c}Most High; and the Lord God will give to Him the ^dthrone of ^{2c}David His father,

Matt 11:27 ^{1a}All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one fully ^{2b}knows the Son except the Father; neither does anyone fully ^cknow the Father except the Son and him to whom the Son wills to ^dreveal *Him*.

John 16:15 ^aAll that the Father has is Mine; for this *reason* I have said that He receives of Mine and will declare *it* to you.

2. Christ, the firstborn Son of God, is the appointed Heir of God, and we, the many sons of God, have been saved to be joint heirs with Christ—Rom. 8:17.

Rom 8:17 And ¹if children, ^aheirs also; on the one hand, heirs of God; on the other, joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we ^bsuffer with *Him* that we may also be ^cglorified with *Him*.

B. An heir is one who is of full age according to the law (the Roman law is used by Paul as an illustration) and who is qualified to inherit the father's estate—Gal. 4:7:

Gal 4:7 So then you are ¹no longer a ^aslave but a ²son; and if a son, an ^{3b}heir also ⁴through God.

1. In order to become heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, we need to grow in life unto maturity—v. 7; Heb. 5:14—6:1; 2 Pet. 1:5-7.
 - Gal 4:7 So then you are ¹no longer a ^aslave but a ²son; and if a son, an ^{3b}heir also ⁴through God.
 - Heb 5:14 But solid food is for the ^afull-grown, who because of practice have their ¹faculties exercised for discriminating between both ²good and evil.
 - Heb 6:1 Therefore leaving the ¹word of the ^{2a}beginning of Christ, let us ³be brought on to ^{4b}maturity, not laying again a foundation of ^crepentance from ^ddead works and of ^efaith in God,
 - 2 Pet 1:5 And for this very reason also, ¹adding all ^adiligence, ²supply bountifully in your ^{3b}faith ^{4c}virtue; and in virtue, ^{5d}knowledge;
 - 2 Pet 1:6 And in knowledge, ^{1a}self-control; and in self-control, ^{2b}endurance; and in endurance, ^{3c}godliness;
 - 2 Pet 1:7 And in godliness, ^{1a}brotherly ^{2b}love; and in brotherly love, love.
 2. Heirs of God are the sons of God who are fully matured in every part of their being and thus are qualified as legal heirs to claim the divine inheritance—Rom. 8:17, 21, 23.
 - Rom 8:17 And ¹if children, ^aheirs also; on the one hand, heirs of God; on the other, joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we ^bsuffer with *Him* that we may also be ^cglorified with *Him*.
 - Rom 8:21 In hope that the creation itself will also be ¹freed from the slavery of corruption into the freedom of the ^aglory of the children of God.
 - Rom 8:23 And not only *so*, but we ourselves also, who have ¹the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves ²groan in ourselves, eagerly awaiting ^{3a}sonship, the ^bredemption of our body.
- C. We become heirs of God through the Triune God—the Father, who sent forth the Son and the Spirit; the Son, who accomplished redemption for sonship; and the Spirit, who carries out the sonship within us—Gal. 4:4-7.
- Gal 4:4 But when the ¹fullness of the ^atime came, God ^bsent forth His ^cSon, born of a ^{2d}woman, born under ^{3e}law,
 - Gal 4:5 That He might ^{1a}redeem those under law that we might receive the ^{2b}sonship.
 - Gal 4:6 And because you are ^asons, God has ^bsent forth the ^{1c}Spirit of His Son into our ²hearts, ³crying, ^{4d}Abba, Father!
 - Gal 4:7 So then you are ¹no longer a ^aslave but a ²son; and if a son, an ^{3b}heir also ⁴through God.
- D. The condition for us to be heirs is that we grow in life to become sons and then pass through suffering so that we may be glorified to become legal heirs—Rom. 8:17:
- Rom 8:17 And ¹if children, ^aheirs also; on the one hand, heirs of God; on the other, joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we ^bsuffer with *Him* that we may also be ^cglorified with *Him*.
1. Genuine growth in the divine life requires suffering—1 Pet. 2:19-21; 3:14, 18; 4:1, 12-13, 19; 5:1, 9; 2 Pet. 1:5-7.
 - 1 Pet 2:19 For this is ¹grace, if anyone, ²because of a ^aconsciousness of God, bears sorrows by suffering ³unjustly.
 - 1 Pet 2:20 For what ¹glory is it if, while sinning and being buffeted, you endure? But if, while doing good and ^asuffering, you endure, this is grace with God.
 - 1 Pet 2:21 For to ¹this you were ^acalled, because Christ also ^bsuffered on your behalf, leaving you a ^{2c}model so that you may follow in His steps;
 - 1 Pet 3:14 But even if you ^asuffer because of ^brighteousness, you are ^cblessed. And do not be ^dafraid *with* fear from them, nor be ^etroubled,
 - 1 Pet 3:18 For Christ also has suffered once for ¹sins, the Righteous ^{2a}on behalf of the unrighteous, that He might bring you ^bto God, on the one hand being put to death in the flesh, but on the other, made alive in the ³Spirit;
 - 1 Pet 4:1 Since Christ therefore has ^asuffered ¹in the flesh, you also ^{2b}arm yourselves with the ³same mind (because he who has ⁴suffered in the flesh has ceased from ^csin),
 - 1 Pet 4:12 Beloved, do not think that the ^{1a}fiery ordeal among you, coming to you for a ^{2b}trial, is ³strange, as if *it were* a strange thing happening to you;
 - 1 Pet 4:13 But inasmuch as you share in the ^asufferings of Christ, ^brejoice, so that also at the ^crevelation of His glory you may rejoice ^dexultingly.
 - 1 Pet 4:19 So then let those ¹also who ^asuffer according to the ^{2b}will of God ^{3c}commit their ⁴souls in ^{5d}well-doing to a faithful ^{6c}Creator.

- 1 Pet **5:1** ¹Therefore the ^{2a}elders among you I exhort, who am a ³fellow elder and ^{4b}witness of the sufferings of Christ, who am also a ⁵partaker of the ^cglory to be revealed:
- 1 Pet **5:9** Him ^{1a}withstand, being ^bfirm in your ²faith, knowing that the same ^{3c}sufferings are being accomplished among your ⁴brotherhood in the world.
- 2 Pet **1:5** And for this very reason also, ¹adding all ^adiligence, ²supply bountifully in your ^{3b}faith ^{4c}virtue; and in virtue, ^{5d}knowledge;
- 2 Pet **1:6** And in knowledge, ^{1a}self-control; and in self-control, ^{2b}endurance; and in endurance, ^{3c}godliness;
- 2 Pet **1:7** And in godliness, ^{1a}brotherly ^{2b}love; and in brotherly love, love.
2. The more we suffer with Christ, the more we grow and the faster we are matured to be joint heirs with Christ—Rom. 8:17.
- Rom **8:17** And ¹if children, ^aheirs also; on the one hand, heirs of God; on the other, joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we ^bsuffer with *Him* that we may also be ^cglorified with *Him*.