

BY GRACE YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED – GOD ADOPTS US (II)!

*Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us,
that we should be called children of God!*

1 John 3:1

Adoption is the highest privilege and the greatest blessing of the gospel! Here are some of the blessings and privileges of being adopted into God's family:



YOU CAN PRAY. Prayer is one of the greatest blessings that a man can have. To be able to pray (talk) to God, is one of the highest enjoyments here on earth. Yet only those who are children of God can pray in a manner acceptable unto God. All man should pray, make no mistake about it. But only Christians can pray aright.

Consider this: Here is a very, very powerful king where everyone holds in great awe and trembles to draw near. And here is the son of that king, running towards the king, jumping unto his lap, sitting there and speaking to him. Yes, that king is still the powerful potentate, but more importantly to that child, he is *his* father. This is what we can do, and what we do, when we come to God in prayer!

YOU WILL BE PITIED AND PROTECTED. Psalm 103:13 tells us that as a father pities his children, as a father has compassion on his children, so likewise, God will pity and have compassion on His children. Look at a child, and he is crying, in misery. I am sure that is a sight that will evoke a sense of pity and compassion for that child in the hearts of most of us. I am absolutely sure that *that* will most certainly evoke a very strong sense of pity in the heart of the parents, a compassion which will lead them to do something. This is called a mother's heart, a father's compassion. And this is how God feels, when He sees us in misery, when He sees us crying. We may be crying because we have been bullied, and there is no one to help us. We may be in misery because we have foolishly sinned and are now reaping the bitter fruits for our sins. But whatever it is, God is moved with compassion, and He will act to relieve us, when He sees such misery in us.



Not only is the child of God pitied, but he is also being protected. **Proverbs 14:26** says, "In the fear of the LORD there is strong confidence, and His children will have a place of refuge." God's children will have God's protection -- that is the simple truth taught here and throughout the entire Bible. Only a bad father will see his child danger and leave him in danger, doing nothing to protect his child. But God is far from being a bad father; He is in fact the best Father, the Father for all fathers to imitate. God will not leave us in danger, He will protect us.



YOU WILL BE PROVIDED FOR. This is the message of **Matthew 6:25-34**. Imagine your little girl, instead of sleeping, is crying in her bedroom. As her father, you walk over and ask her, "Why are you crying, my dear girl?" And in between sobs, she said, "Daddy, I do not know how I am going to school tomorrow. I don't have the bus fare and I don't have any money for lunch!" What will you say?

"Child, I am your father. I will give you your bus fare tomorrow morning, and I will make sure that your lunch will be provided for. So do not worry, do not get all anxious, and there is no need to cry. I am your father. Trust me"

We worry about this and that, and we get white hair growing all over our head, or we lose our hair! But listen to what Jesus has to say to us in **verse 32**: *For after these things the gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.* It may be quite understandable that you will be worried about your future, if you do not have God as your heavenly Father. But for children of God, to worry about tomorrow is unthinkable, and an insult to your Father.

Who is God? He is our Heavenly Father. **What kind of Father is He?** He is a Father who loves His children so much that He is prepared to sacrifice His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to save them. **What else can we say about our Heavenly Father?** He not only loves us, He knows us and our needs. "*For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things,*" says Jesus. But you can have a father how loves His children and who knows the needs of His children, but who is unable to meet their needs. This is a very real possibility with every earthly father, but never our Heavenly Father, dear Christians. Our Father in heaven is the Omnipotent God, the God who can supply all our needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. What a Father! And how

blessed it must be to be a child of such a Father, to have such a Person to be your Father!!

YOU WILL NEVER BE FORSAKEN. “Why should You be like a man astonished, like a mighty one who cannot save? Yet You, O LORD, are in our midst, and we are called by Your name; do not leave us! (**Jeremiah 14:9**). Here is the argument by the prophet Jeremiah in his prayer, pleading with God that since they are called by the Name of God,



since they bear God's Name, therefore since they are His children, *do not leave them, do not forsake them!* It is a very powerful argument to be used in prayer, especially when we feel that we are being deserted, when we feel that God is far from us. God Himself has pledged that He will never, never, never leave the believer or forsake him. Once we are His children, bearing His very Name, He will be with us forever. Yes, even when we do terrible things after we have become His children. Remember that He does not accept us to be His children because we have done good and wonderful things. No, rather we are accepted because of Jesus. Our Heavenly Father is not going to chuck us out of His home simply because our bad behaviour. Yes, He will be very cross with us, and He will deal with us, but He will never point us to the door and tell us to get lost. We will never be forsaken by God.



YOU WILL BE DISCIPLINED. This is the message of **Hebrews 12:5-11**. This is something that many Christians may not have paid much attention to; certainly many will not be prepared to call it a privilege. But it is a blessing, a privilege to be disciplined by God. A privilege of sonship is to be chastened, to be taught by the father. Not to be taught and disciplined would imply that you are actually not the man's son. Similarly, if we are God's children, we can rightly expect our Heavenly Father to deal with us and to discipline us so that we might be what we should and ought to be!

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