

## Trinity Lutheran Church

Norman, Oklahoma – [www.tlcnorman.org](http://www.tlcnorman.org)

### The Book of Galatians

**Theme: “The True Gospel You Have Received”**

Date: 8-14-22

Lesson: 21 - Chapter 4:1-11



#### TEXT AND STUDY

(1) I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, (2) but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. (3) In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. (4) But when the fullness of time had come, (6) And because you are sons, **God has sent the Spirit of his Son** into our hearts, crying, "**Abba! Father!**"

(Mt 20:8; 27:50; Mk 1:15; Lk 2:27; 8:3; Jn 1:12-14; 3:16,17; Ac 16:7;  
Rom 1:1-6; 3:24; 5:5,6; 8:2,9,14,15; 1 Cor 14:20;  
Eph 1:5,10,13,14; Php 3:15; Col 2:8,16,20; 1 Jn 4:14)

(7) So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through **God**. (8) Formerly, when you did not know **God**, you were enslaved to those that by nature are not gods. (9) But now that you have come to know **God**, or rather to be known by **God**, how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world, whose slaves you want to be once more? (10) You observe days and months and seasons and years! (11) I am afraid I may have labored over you in vain.

(Ex 12: 18; Lev. 16:29-34; 23:10; 25:4; Num 28:11-15; 2 Chr 13:9;  
Is 1:13,14; 37:19; Jer 2:11; 5:7; 16:20;  
Rom 1:28; 8:17; 14:5; 1 Cor 1:21; 8:3-5; 12:2; 15:34; 1 Th 3:5; 4:5; 2 Th 1:8)

#### **Luther's Commentary – Vol. 26**

*So that we might receive adoption as sons.*

That is, divine sonship. Paul is embellishing the passage from Gen. 22:18: “In your **Offspring**, etc.” Earlier he had named righteousness, life, **the promise of the Spirit**, redemption from the Law, the covenant, and the promise as the blessing given to the offspring of Abraham. Here he names sonship and the inheritance of eternal life, for these things flow from the blessing. Once the curse that is sin, death, etc., has been removed by **this blessed Offspring**, its place is taken by the blessing that is righteousness, life, and everything good. Thus you see that when he wanted to, Paul could spill over with words and speak at length.

But by what merit have we received this righteousness, sonship, and inheritance of eternal life? By none. For what could be merited by men confined under sin, subjected to the curse of the Law, and condemned to eternal death? Therefore we have received all this freely and without deserving it, yet not without merit. What merit was it, then? Not ours, but that of **Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who was born under the Law, not for Himself but for us (as Paul said earlier [Gal. 3:13] that He was made a curse for us), and who redeemed us who were under the Law.**

Therefore we have received this sonship solely by **the redemption of Jesus Christ, the Son of God**, who is our most abundant and eternal merit, whether of congruity or of condignity. Together with this gift of sonship, moreover, we have also received **the Holy Spirit, whom God, through the Word**, sends into our hearts, “crying: ‘**Abba! Father!**’ ” as now follows.

Therefore we must not doubt that **the Holy Spirit** dwells in us; but we must be sure and acknowledge that we are, as Paul says; “a temple of **the Holy Spirit**” (1 Cor. 6:19). For if someone experiences love toward the Word, and if he enjoys hearing, speaking, thinking, lecturing, and writing about **Christ**, he should know that this is not a work of human will or reason but a gift of **the Holy Spirit**.

For it is impossible for these things to happen without **the Holy Spirit**. On the other hand, where there is hate and contempt for the Word, there the devil, “the god of this world” (2 Cor. 4:4), is reigning, blinding the hearts of men and holding them captive, to keep **the light of the Gospel of the glory of Christ** from shining upon them. This is what we see in the rabble today; they do not care about **the Word** at all but smugly despise it, as though it did not pertain to them at all.

Those in whom there is some glow and yearning for **the Word** should acknowledge with gratitude that this feeling has been infused into them by **the Holy Spirit**. For we are not born with this feeling; nor can we be instructed to acquire it by any laws. It is **the right hand of the Most High**, pure and simple, that has changed us (Ps. 77:10). Therefore when we are glad to hear the proclamation about **Christ, the Son of God**, who was made man for us and subjected Himself to the Law to redeem us, then with and through that **proclamation God** surely sends **the Holy Spirit** into our hearts. Therefore it is extremely profitable to the pious to know that they have **the Holy Spirit**.

Let everyone accustom himself, therefore, to believe for a certainty that he is in a state of grace and that his person with its works is pleasing to **God**. But if he senses that he is in doubt, let him exercise his faith, struggle against the doubt, and strive for certainty, so that he can say: “I know that I have been accepted and that I have **the Holy Spirit**, not on account of my worthiness or virtue but on **account of Christ**, who subjected Himself to the Law on our account and took away the sins of the world (John 1:29). In Him I believe. If I am a sinner, and if I err, He is righteous and cannot err. Besides, I enjoy hearing, reading, singing, and writing about Him. There is nothing I want more than to make **His Gospel** known to the world and to convert many people.”

“And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba!  
Father!"

What does it mean to you that you call out to God as “my Father?”