THE SPIRIT OF SONSHIP,
ROMANS 8:12-17.

INTRODUCTION,
This is an incredible Chapter that we are looking at.

So far we have seen that:
Because of what Jesus has done for us, and because he has united us with him, our sins are dealt with. And because our sins are dealt with in Jesus there will be no condemnation waiting for us on the day of judgement. No condemnation.

The Holy Spirit frees us from sin and death.
The Holy Spirit enables us to fulfill God's Law.
The Holy Spirit changes our nature and gives us a new mind set.
The Holy Spirit brings us life.

You cannot be a Christian and not have the Holy Spirit living in you.

1. OUR OBLIGATION.
Romans 8:12-13.
So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh-- for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

Because we have been given life through the Spirit, not to mention all the other benefits in the previous chapters, we have an obligation, we are debtors.

We owe him everything, not so as to purchase our salvation, that was a free gift of his grace through Jesus, but because he has given us everything we have, our very lives, and now eternal life as well.

This is not something that we can bring about by our own resources.
Note the words in v13 "By the Spirit." and in verse 6 "To set the mind on the Spirit."

Romans 12:2.
The only way we can have a renewed mind is by the power and activity of the Holy Spirit. Only the Holy Spirit gives us the power to fulfill our obligation to God to walk in his way.

Colossians 3:1-10.
That is the obligation we have as Christians to God.
To live the way he wants us to live, not the way the world would want us to live.
We can do it, because we now have the power and assistance of God's Holy Spirit.

2. OUR ADOPTION.
Romans 8:14-16.
For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God.

He's saying "You will live (v13) because you are children of God." (v14)

The idea of being adopted by God is a common one in Scripture but the strength of the meaning comes in understanding the cultural use and meaning of adoption at the time Paul wrote.

When the Bible says that we have become the adopted sons of God, it means that He has chosen us to bear his name and inherit his estate.

We don't become children of God by natural birth; we become his children because he sovereignly chooses us. John 1:12-13.

Unlike the Roman father he doesn't choose us on the basis of our character and talents but on those of Christ Jesus, through whom, by regenerative work of the Holy Spirit, he makes us what he want us to be.

How does the Holy Spirit confirm our adoption as children of God?

First. the Spirit confirms our Sonship and his presence by leading us to do God's will.

When we read God's Word, it is the Holy Spirit who enables us to understand it.

When we sin, it is the Holy Spirit who brings conviction of sin into our hearts causing us to want to say sorry to God.

It is the leading of the Holy Spirit that brings about new attitudes in our lives towards the Bible, Church, and others.

Jesus told his disciples that when the Holy Spirit came he would lead them into all truth.
(John 16:13)

*Ask yourself, "Am I allowing the Holy Spirit to lead me? Am I following his leading or rebelling against it?" It is a test of your adoption.
Secondly, We have been set free by the Holy Spirit. vs5.

The Holy Spirit can and does give us that sense of freedom and peace that this world could never give to the point that we are free to call God "Daddy" in the truest, not flippant, sense of the word.

We are free to enter God's presence without fear of judgement.

We can have confidence to come to him, as his children, in that filial love relationship.

As God's children, the Holy Spirit makes that relationship a reality for the Christian.

Thirdly, verse 16 When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God.

The Holy Spirit bears witness that you are a child of God. His very presence confirms our status and adoption as Children of God.

i. We have an obligation to God to live by the Spirit.
ii. If we live by the Spirit that proves we have his presence in our lives and so confirms that we are sons of God by adoption.
iii. Because we are indeed sons of God, his children, we have an inheritance.

3. OUR INHERITANCE.
Romans 8:17.
And if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ--if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

Here is the ultimate result of our justification.

Justification = No condemnation = Glory.

If we are justified before God through our Lord Jesus then we will be glorified.


It is very clear that if we have accepted Jesus as our Lord and Saviour then we have become children of God and so heirs in God's kingdom.

We are heirs OF God. It is His riches and resources that we are to inherit from. We will be "Joint-heirs with Christ."

The same inheritance that Christ received from his Father we will receive.

If Jesus is heir of all things, and we are joint heirs with Him, then we are heirs of all things.

The fact that we are joint heirs with Jesus is an act of pure grace because we will be receiving what Jesus already deserves by right.

We don't deserve it at all! We were of our father the Devil, we had to be adopted by God to become heirs, and he did that out of his own sovereign will.

Suffering and Glory always go together.
Nowhere in the Bible does it say that being a Christian is going to be easy.
Jesus said his followers would be persecuted and suffer for his names sake.
We should expect that as Christians we will suffer.

But we can endure it, by the power of the Holy Spirit, knowing that it is in direct relationship to the glory we will share with Jesus.
1 Peter 1:3-5.

CONCLUSION.
What does all this do for you, today? I think there are three possible responses.

Firstly. If you are truly a Christian, having accepted and acknowledged Jesus as your personal Lord and Saviour and you have the Holy Spirit living in you heart and you know it, then your response would surely have to be, "WOW, that's incredible, He's done that for me!!!!!" "Thank you Jesus." "Thank you."

A second response could be, "I'm not too sure." "I'm not sure if the Holy Spirit is really working in my life." "I'd like to be a child of God and co-heir with Christ, but I'm not sure if I am."

A third response could be "What a load of baloney." "It's impossible, It's not true, I don't believe a word of it."

If you are in the first category, Don't you dare keep it to yourself. Share it with someone else so that they can share the inheritance with you. You'll still get just as much.

But if you are in one of the later two categories come and talk to me.

L Gaulton.