

Galatians 4:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

Analysis

And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. Paul reveals the evidence of sonship: the indwelling Spirit. "And because ye are sons" (hoti de este huiou)—the causal connection. Sonship precedes and causes Spirit-reception (contra Pentecostal ordo salutis). "God hath sent forth" (exapesteilen ho theos)—same verb as verse 4 for sending the Son. The Father sent both the Son and the Spirit on redemptive mission.

"The Spirit of his Son" (to pneuma tou huiou autou)—the Holy Spirit is identified as the Spirit of the Son, emphasizing Trinitarian unity. "Into your hearts" (eis tas kardias hēmōn)—the Spirit indwells believers' inner being. "Crying, Abba, Father" (krazon, Abba ho patēr). Krazon means crying out, shouting—spontaneous, confident address to God. "Abba" (Ἀββᾶ) is Aramaic for "father," an intimate term (like "daddy" or "papa"). The Spirit enables believers to address God with the same intimate confidence Jesus had. This internal testimony of the Spirit confirms sonship (Romans 8:15-16).

Historical Context

"Abba" was Jesus's characteristic way of addressing God (Mark 14:36), reflecting unique intimate relationship. Jewish practice typically used more formal address ("Our Father in heaven"). Paul's claim that Gentile Christians could address God as "Abba" through the Spirit was revolutionary. The Spirit's indwelling and testimony

wasn't subjective emotionalism but objective evidence of adoption. The presence of the Spirit—producing Christ-like prayer, fruit, and affections—verified sonship.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. Do you experience the Spirit prompting you to pray to God as 'Abba'—intimate, confident, child-like trust?
2. How does the Spirit's indwelling presence serve as ongoing assurance of your sonship and acceptance?
3. What hinders you from approaching God with the same intimacy and confidence that Jesus had and the Spirit enables?

Interlinear Text

Ὅτι	δέ	ἐστε	υἱοῦ	ἐξαπέστειλεν	ὁ	θεὸς	τὸ	πνεῦμα
because	And	ye are	Son	hath sent forth	G3588	God	G3588	the Spirit
G3754	G1161	G2075	G5207	G1821		G2316		G4151
τοῦ	υἱοῦ	αὐτοῦ	εἰς	τὰς	καρδίας	ὑμῶν,	κρᾶζον	Αββα
G3588	Son	G846	into	G3588	hearts	your	crying	Abba
	G5207		G1519		G2588	G5216	G2896	G5
ὁ	πατήρ							
G3588	Father							
	G3962							

Additional Cross-References

Romans 5:5 (Spirit): And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

Romans 8:9 (Spirit): But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

Philippians 1:19 (Spirit): For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,

Ephesians 2:18 (Spirit): For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

2 Corinthians 3:17 (Spirit): Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

Ephesians 4:30 (Spirit): And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

John 14:16 (Parallel theme): And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

John 16:7 (Parallel theme): Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

Luke 11:13 (Spirit): If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

Jude 1:20 (Spirit): But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,