***Romans 8:14-17 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. 15For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.” 16The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17and if children, then heirs - heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.***

The last three weeks, we’ve looked at who Jesus says we are. We learned that He calls us His disciple, His student. He is our hupo grammos, our Master Copy and we live our life seeking to become more like Him. He calls us His friend, meaning His dear one. Last week, we learned that He opened the door for us to become children of God. This week, He gives us another name, a title – joint heir, heir of God. Let’s make no prideful mistake here though. Jesus is heir by His being the only begotten Son of God. We are heir by God’s Grace. We are appointed heirs by our accepting Jesus as Lord and Savior.

Verse 14 says *For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.* Led or *g*uided through conviction in our sin, we are actuated to cry out to God, the spirit of Truth. When we repent and believe on His Son, we become sons of God. Last week in John 1:12 we read this- *But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name*. We’re afforded the privilege, not by our works, but by our Faith, to become children, sons of God. Ephesians 2:8 says - *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.* We are saved through Faith.

Verse 15 *For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.”* Through our belief in Jesus, we did not receive bondage. In John 15:15 Jesus said this - *No longer do I call you servants!* Through Christ, we are released from that spirit of bondage to sin and self, and we receive, we take hold of, the Spirit of adoption, the spirit of being God’s children. God makes us His children and we cry out, we exclaim with great joy, Abba Father. We were lost and without a home. Now, we are found and have an eternal home. How great our joy! In Galatians 4:6 we read - *And* ***because*** *you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!”* Jew and Gentile alike, when we cry out in belief in His name, we receive Him. This is assurance that we are now reconciled with God, and we have a new relationship with Him through our Savior Jesus Christ. Ephesians 1:13 says *In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise*. We are sealed as His possession.

Verse 16 *The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God****.*** Way back in September of last year, we talked about agreeing with God. Here, we see that THE SPIRIT bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God. We have truly believed and surrendered. We have taken hold of, received Jesus by belief in His name. We are in agreement, in one accord, with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit assures us that the special adoption has been finalized. We feel joy, gratitude, and peace in the absolute knowledge that we belong to God, through Jesus Christ His Son. We are His children, branches abiding in His vine, bound for our Eternal Home Jesus has gone to prepare.

Verse 17 - *and if children, then heirs - heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.* Here’s the next name Jesus calls us – He called us disciples, friends, children of God, and now… heirs of God, joint heirs with Christ. Hebrews 1:2 says *as in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds.* Jesus, heir of all things, now appoints us, by His Grace, joint heirs, sharing in the Kingdom of God. We are appointed. We are assured of our final inheritance with Him. If indeed we suffer with Him. How do we suffer with Him? John 15:18-19 *If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. 19 If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you*. The world loves its own. When we are in Jesus, when the Spirit Himself has born witness with our spirit that we are children of God, we are no longer of this world. The world hated Him, and the world will hate us, but be of good cheer, Christ has overcome the world.

This week, disciple, friend, child of God, joint heir with Christ – these are a few of the names Jesus calls us. Who do we say He is? The Christ. The Son of the Living God. The Resurrection. The Way, the Truth, the Life. Who does He say we are when we have given our life to Him? Disciple, dear one, child, appointed heir. Will we suffer when we surrender, submit, and serve? Most assuredly. Will it be worth it in eternity? Most definitely. We are God’s children. Let’s step forward boldly bearing witness, shining Light, that others might see th.t Light and glorify our Father in Heaven.