

## **Becoming an Heir of God Galatians 3:24-4:7**

### **Introduction:**

1. The word “heir” means, “one who is entitled to possess.”
2. There have been some famous heirs in history who inherited billions of dollars from a dead family member. But, I want you to imagine for a moment being an heir of **God**.
  - The God who created the heavens and the earth (Psalm 24:1; 1 Chronicles 29:11). “He owns the hills and the tators under the hills.”
  - We learn in the New Testament that it was Jesus Christ that created everything, and that He is the center of it all (the bull’s-eye). Colossians 1:16-17
3. It was **this** Jesus that appeared to Paul from heaven, saved Him, and gave him a heavenly commission. Christ sent Paul to the nations with a glorious message. Through the finished work of Christ, their eyes could be opened. Read Acts 26:18.
4. Not only could they possess the total and complete forgiveness of all of their sins, they also would receive an “inheritance.” They would be “sanctified” (set apart) to receive this inheritance from Jesus Christ.
  - There are two sides of the coin, here. If someone offends me and I forgive him, that's great, but what if I then give him a hundred-dollar bill?
  - God not only forgave us all our sins, but made us His heirs!
5. Did you know that every person can become an heir of God? Titus 3:7; Romans 8:16-17; Galatians 4:7
6. It doesn't get any better than this! If you are an heir of God, what an inheritance! But, what exactly does it entail? If I am an heir of God, what exactly does this mean?
7. If I am an heir of God, it means:

### **I am part of the family of God. 4:5-7**

1. This is amazing. Four times in three verses, God declares these believers to be His sons. If I say something four times in three sentences, I want to make a point.
  - Of course, “*sons*” is used in a generic sense, referring to men and women, because in the body of Christ there is no male or female. 3:28
2. Can you imagine that we are members of the royal family? We have a personal relationship with God; therefore, I can now call God, “Father.” verse 6
  - In Jewish culture, “*adoption*” (verse 5) did not speak of **entrance** into the family (that happened at birth), but rather a **position** within the family (verse 1-2). It would usually occur at a certain age in that culture.
3. What does the Christian's adoption into the family of God mean?
  - We gain **entrance** into the family by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. Galatians 3:26

- But adoption means the Christian is also given the **position** of a full-grown adult son in the family of God. We are not under the tutelage of the law, but we are viewed as adult sons within the family.
4. This is what it means to be an heir of God. I am part of His family and possess all the rights, privileges, and blessings of a full-grown adult son within God's family.

#### **I will live forever with God. 3:21-22, 29**

1. Let's look at Galatians 3:29. We are heirs according to the promise. What promise is Paul speaking of? Look back at verses 21-22. It is the promise of **life**!
  - The Old Testament law could not impart righteousness to people (it showed us to be sinners—Romans 6:23a), therefore it could not impart **life** to people.
  - It *“hath concluded all under sin, that the promise [of life] by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.”* verse 22
2. But if you are the heir of God, it means you now have the promise of eternal life! Titus 1:2; 1 John 2:25; Romans 6:23b
3. If you are an heir of God, it means that God has an eternal, never-ending commitment to you. God is in it for the long haul with you. Philippians 1:6

#### **I am indwelt by God's Spirit. 4:6**

1. As adult sons, we deal directly with the Father. There are no secretaries or gatekeepers to get through. We have complete access to Him by virtue of the fact that He has placed the spirit of His Son into our hearts. Ephesians 2:18
  - The presence or absence of the Spirit is what determines whether or not a person is in the family of God. Romans 8:9-10
2. *“Abba”* is a title of affection, intimacy, and tenderness. Jesus is the only one who used this title. Mark 14:36
3. The same level of intimacy that Christ has with the Father, you and I now have by virtue of Christ's spirit that lives within us. No servant could call his master, *“father,”* but because of our standing as sons, we can call God, *“Abba, Father.”*
4. We do not have to go through another person to fellowship with God. You do not have to keep a list of rules in order to fellowship with God. We are sons; we are heirs of God, and we are indwelt by God's very Spirit.

#### **I am justified in God's sight. 3:24**

1. The word *“justified”* means, *“to render just or innocent; to pardon or clear from guilt.”* The judge justifies a person by saying, *“Not guilty.”*
2. So, if we have all sinned (and we surely have), how can God (Who is honest and just), justify us (who have done ungodly deeds)? Look back at verse 22.
  - Christ shed His blood to pay the debt of our sin. Romans 5:9
  - Christ took our place. He paid the debt of our unrighteousness. Romans 5:6

- But the obedience of Christ provides the righteousness we need to be justified in God's court. Romans 4:5
3. The moment we trust Christ, His death cancels our unrighteousness. But then He imputes to us **His** righteousness. We are now justified; we are righteous in God's eyes. Why? Because God sees the righteousness of His Son, Jesus Christ.
  4. We are now made fit to be heirs of God. Go back to Titus 3:7.

**I received this position through faith in Jesus Christ. 3:26**

1. This verse is very direct. It shoots as straight as an arrow. 3:22, 24; 2:16
2. What are the last two words of 4:7? "*Through Christ.*"
3. We are what we are (heirs of God) because God sent forth His Son. Christ has done it all. He accomplished it all through His death on the cross and resurrection from the dead.
4. All that is left is for us to believe; to place our total faith in Christ.
  - You cannot work for this position of being an heir of God. It comes by faith alone in Jesus Christ.
5. Are you an heir of God? You **can** know. Believe on Jesus today and become part of God's family and Christ's inheritance in the heavens for eternity.