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## The Gift of the Spirit

*By Shannon Ford on March 11, 2021*

### **TODAY'S READING:** Galatians 4

Imagine moving back to your parents' house, asking their permission for everything, and expecting them to provide for you. A full-grown adult who wants to live like a child is a shame to his parents. Spiritually speaking, that is exactly what the Galatian believers were doing. Paul was ashamed of how they were acting. They were full-grown sons and daughters of God, but they were living like spiritual children by trying to keep rules and regulations. Unfortunately, there are many Christians today who want to live like children. Rather than enjoying their status as God's full-grown sons and daughters, rather than enjoying their spiritual wealth as God's "heirs," rather than pursuing the intimacy with God that is available because of the gift of "the Spirit" in their hearts, they are content with religious legalism, keeping certain rules, rituals and regulations. Sadly, they exchanged the Spirit-filled life for lifeless religion.

There is a double "sending" in Galatians 4:1-6. First, God sent "His Son" into the world (v. 4). Second, He sent "the Spirit of His Son into our hearts" (v. 6). The Holy Spirit confirms to us that we are indeed the sons and daughters of God. Many of you know that I have two adopted sons. My wife and I adopted our two sons into our lives and gave them love, acceptance, a home, a family and a future. However, the one thing we cannot give them is a new nature. When God adopted us into His family, He not only provided for our every need, but He gave us a new nature by sending His Spirit to live within us!

Paul is telling us to live like sons and daughters, not slaves. Live as those who have an inheritance through God. Be identified with your future and not trapped by this temporal world. Understand that no matter what you face in this life, there is an inheritance laid up for you that is grander than anything you can imagine.

**PRAYER:** Dear Lord, show me how I may be living like a slave, not an heir. Show me ways that my attitudes and actions can demonstrate to others the freedom and security found only in Christ. Amen.

### **TOMORROW'S READING:** Galatians 5

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