

**King James Bible Study Correspondence Course**

An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries  
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**ADOPTION**

## Lesson 5

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Lets start by comparing Adoption with Regeneration and Justification. A clear definition of each doctrine in this series is very important. Noting the particular differences in the various definitions will help to firmly fix them in your mind. Although each doctrine deals with a different phase of the complete work of salvation, they cannot be separated by time nor one given preeminence over another. Each Step in our salvation experience is equally essential and so closely related in the time element that their distinctions are sometimes missed. For instance, adoption is so closely interwoven with justification that some students tie the two doctrines together as simply two steps in one phase of this redemptive work.

When new life is implanted in the soul it is called regeneration; the change in God's attitude toward that soul is justification; and acceptance into the family of God as a son/daughter is adoption. Regeneration deals with the change in our nature, as the Bible says, we are made "*partakers of the divine nature*" II Peter 1:4. Justification deals with the change in our standing before God so that we are now "*accepted in the beloved*" that is to say in Christ Ephesians 1:6. Adoption deals with the change in our position whereby we are admitted into the family of God with all of the privileges of a son Galatians 4:6,7.

- **Adoption defined**

The definition of Adoption is, "**the placing of a son.**" Regeneration is a physical term, a birth, or more accurately, re-birth or new birth; whereas, justification and adoption are legal terms.

The term adoption is never used concerning Christ, but it is always used of the believer when the question of his rights, privileges and position as joint-heir with Christ are involved. In Galatians 4:5, the Bible says that God sent His son into the world "*To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.*" In Romans 8:15, the scriptures show the correlation of adoption in prayer, saying "*For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.*"

In regeneration the believer becomes a child of God, "*For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus*" Galatians 3:26 In adoption, the believer, already a child of God through the new birth, receives his place as an adult or full grown son, as seen in Galatians 4:1-7:

- **When adoption happens in your life**

We must emphasize here again that we cannot separate the different phases of salvation by time. They are all so closely woven together that they are manifested as one continuous act that occurs in a moment. However, for the sake of understanding them better, we will separate them for this study.

- **Adoption eternal in nature, not subject to time**

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*"According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,"* Ephesians 1:4,5. (Please note that the word predestinated is only used in the Bible when referring to the believer, **it is never used in relation to the lost or unsaved**). The Bible says that before the foundation of the world God had chosen those who are in Christ to be adopted as His children. However, we need to distinguish between this foreordaining to adoption, which is timeless, and the actual act of adoption which took place when we believed in Christ. This eternal time element is mentioned here to eliminate every possibility of works and to show that our salvation had its foundation completely in the free grace of God. The Bible said that God had ordained adoption, *"(For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;)"* Romans 9:11 and that *"Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work."* Romans 11:5,6.

It is simply this, if a man should adopt a child whose parents had died or forsaken him, it would be wholly a gracious act on that man's part, because no man is obligated to do such a thing. It would be a free choice of his own will. So it is with God; it is all of His grace and through nothing that we deserve.

- **Adoption begins the moment someone trusts Jesus Christ to be their Saviour and is born again.**

Assurance of salvation is not, as some think, a hidden truth to be revealed in some distant day in the dim future but a blessed reality to be fully realized and enjoyed in the present moment through adoption. *"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is".*

I John 3:2 see also Galatians 3:26.

Son-ship is, therefore, a present reality to be enjoyed by, every believer. We may not be able to understand it or explain it; nevertheless, it is true. Adoption is only understood and appreciated by those who have experienced it through the new birth. Those who previously have been bond slaves to sin can appreciate more the glorious liberty and freedom of an adopted son.

- **Adoption is consummated at the resurrection of our bodies**

We are not now recognized as sons of God by the world. Such a truth is only comprehended by faith, faith of which the world knows, nothing; but in the day of resurrection when our body shall be redeemed, this blessed truth will be openly revealed to the amazement of the world. *"And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body."*

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Romans 8:23. Therefore, adoption is closely interwoven with our final redemption and the resurrection of the body. The body shall be redeemed in order that we might receive our full inheritance which has been promised through adoption. *"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."* II Corinthians 5:10. See also I John 3:1—3. The blessed truth of adoption is fully enjoyed immediately by faith when the child of God puts his trust in Jesus Christ.

- **The results of adoption**

Although the blessings of adoption embrace all of heaven itself, our new relationship with God and with His family gives us many special privileges as adopted sons. It is true that God is the Father of the whole earth by creation, but this in no way provides for our salvation. Through faith in Jesus Christ, God's beloved son, we come into a new relationship with God and His love. Until we have been born again we are children of disobedience and are under the wrath of the Father. The Scripture says, *"Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience."*

Ephesians 5:6); and that because of sin *"For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:"* Colossians 3:6. Our Lord said, *"Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me."* John 17:20-23.

- **Why Worry**

For most our primary motive in life is to provide things abundantly for themselves and their families. We toil hard and ceaselessly for the things that pass away with their using, food, clothing, and shelter. But the person who puts their trust in Jesus Christ finds that God's watchful eye is always over them in tender care so that they need never be concerned about their physical needs that God through His gracious providence will freely give. Such provident care never ceases to utterly amaze the world. Speaking about this very subject, our Lord told His disciples to *"Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. If then God so clothe the grass, which is to day in the field, and to morrow is cast into the oven; how much more will he clothe you, O ye of little faith? And seek not ye what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, neither be ye of doubtful mind For all these things do the nations of the world seek after: and your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things. But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you. Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not*

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*old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth.* Luke 12:27-33.

- **Disobedience is not an option**

Chastisement is punishment given for the purpose of correcting and bringing back a wayward person. Men who have never been born again are not sons of God and therefore are permitted to go on in their sin and disobedience without the Father's correction. This is not so with the adopted son, for with his privileges as a son come his duties and obligations as a son. The disobedient son is punished that he might learn obedience and be brought back to the place of blessing in the Father's household. Just as one man does not correct another's child for disobedience, neither does the Lord chasten or punish the children of the world. They are not His children, and He chastens only those who are His children by the new birth and adoption. See Hebrews 12:5-11.

- **We have comfort**

In this world of constant distress, men everywhere are taking their own life as an easy way out. They look everywhere for the answer to life's problems except to the Lord. The hopelessness of world conditions seems to weigh men down with despair, but our Lord said, *"These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."* John 16:33. God the Father spoke through the prophet Isaiah, saying, *"As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you; and ye shall be comforted in Jerusalem."* Isaiah 66:13 and see *"Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God."* II Corinthians 1:3-4.

- **Rewards**

The believer has both a present and a future reward, which is a constant challenge to every follower of Christ to be faithful. Both the Apostle Peter and the Apostle Paul wrote under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit that they, through Christ, we have been made heirs to a vast inheritance for which they praised God. Peter wrote saying, *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. I Peter 1:3-5* Paul had real assurance of a future inheritance, who wrote saying: *"The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together."* Romans 8:16-17.

- **Blessings**

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Adoption is primarily a matter of relationship, a relationship of new closeness, fellowship and privileges. The adopted son who has been received into the family shares in all of the privileges and rights of a natural-born son. These privileges and rights are outlined clearly in the Word of God.

- **Privileges**

Some people would perhaps like to change their name, some names carry more prestige and rights than others, but to share the *"name which is above every name"* Philippians 2:9 is an immeasurable privilege. *"For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,"* Ephesians 3:14,15. *"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not."* 1 John 3; 1.

Here is where spiritual adoption into the family of God far excels the physical act of adoption as we know it. No real parallel can be drawn between the two. Though an adopted son may be given all of the privileges of a natural born son, he still bears the likeness of his real parents, but in the spiritual sphere of adoption, the believer is completely transformed II Corinthians 5:17 so that he even receives the very nature of God II Peter 1:4.

- **Love**

Love demands love in response. No adopted son would be happy in a home where there was no love shown toward him, and his unhappiness would be greatly aggravated if there were natural-born sons in that family, also; who received all of the love and affection of the parents. God loves equally each of his sons and shows no partiality. Adoption is a gracious act of love that finds a real response in the heart of the adopted son. Love so begotten is not easily quenched. In the family of God, the adopted son is not only loved by the Father but also by his brethren. *"We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death."* John 3:14. See also *"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another."* John 13:34.

- **Freedom**

God is not a dreaded fearful being to the adopted son, but a beloved Father, and the son who comes into the family fellowship enjoys great freedom. The Bible says *"For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father."* Romans 8:15), and, again, says, *"And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father."* Galatians 4:6.

- **Sharing in service**

There is no limit to what a man will do for one he loves; in fact, love knows no bounds. Jesus said, *"Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word*

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*which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me."* John 14:23, 24, see also John 15:8.

- **Evidences of adoption**

Adoption, like justification, is primarily a transaction that takes place in the courts of heaven. It also has a certain legal or judicial aspect; that is, it is a sovereign act of God of which He bears witness in the heart of the adopted son through the work of the Holy Spirit. However, adoption also has certain outward signs to prove this work of God to an unbelieving world. The children of God have certain definite characteristics that distinguish them from the children of the world.

Everyone who has been born again by the Spirit of God comes under His leadership and guidance. The degree of yielded-ness to the Spirit's leading determines how great work that person can do. The Bible says that Christ died to condemn sin *"That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."* Romans 8:4. In the letter to the saints at Galatia, The Bible says: *"But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law."* Galatians 5:18.

One of the most outstanding characteristics of men who have never been born again is their proud feeling of self-sufficiency. Until men come face-to-face with their sin and realize that it is a terrible crime against God Himself, they feel perfectly capable of meeting all of the problems of life and even death alone. It is when men see their sin and acknowledge it before God that they are humbled and made to realize their need of a Saviour. When they realize, then, that there is no way out except God provides that way, faith takes hold of their hearts and gives them that simple child-like faith to trust God just as the children of the flesh trust their fathers without the slightest shadow of doubt. See Galatians 4:4-6. This is one of the most sure signs of genuine conversion, when men lose all confidence in self and simply look to the Lord in absolute surrender to Him.

- **Access to THE FATHER**

The child of God who has been cleansed from sin in the precious blood of Christ and clothed in His righteousness can at any moment, without fear, come into the very presence of God, but those who have never been cleansed of sin must first be made pure and holy. No greater privilege could be given to man than to give him free access into the presence of the infinite God who will do anything that is asked in His name. Having once been at war with God and barred from His presence, we now have peace *"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God."*

Romans 5:1,2. *"In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him."* Ephesians 3:12. *"Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of*

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need." Hebrews 4:14-16 When children of God meet problems, they go to THE FATHER, Who is the absolute authority and Who can answer every problem.

- **Love one toward another**

This characteristic of children of God is probably more lacking than any of the others, and yet Christ gave great prominence to it. These characteristics are closely related and interwoven, because those whose lives are really dominated by the Holy Spirit and whose every move is under His direction will manifest great faith and confidence in God. The man of faith will be a man of prayer and will come often to the throne of Grace, and it is impossible to honestly pray for someone without soon developing a genuine love for them. In the famous love chapter, the Bible says, *"And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity"* I Corinthians 13:13. The Bible uses the word charity to define love, this is because true love involves giving, service and offering. This important characteristic cannot be over-emphasized in the life of the believer. The Holy Spirit considers this theme so important that he centered the whole first epistle of John around it. *"He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now. He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him. But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes."* I John 2:9-11 *"Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him."* I John 5:1. *"By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous."*

I John 5:2-3 This, therefore, becomes the real test of true son-ship. It is useless and vain to say that we love God if we are not willing to obey Him in all things. His commandments are clear and definite and certainly not hard, when with every command He gives power to fulfill that command. Every child of God should show all of these characteristics in some measure, and there should also be a steady growth in these graces. Every healthy spiritual life should produce much fruit. Our Lord said the secret is this: *"Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing."* John 15:4,5.

Read I John completely.

Notes

KJV

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### ADOPTION

#### Lesson 5

Name \_\_\_\_\_

1. When was the doctrine of adoption developed?
2. With what does adoption primarily deal?
3. How is the term "adoption" always used in the Scripture?
4. When is the act of adoption completed?
5. To what does the Scriptural term "adoption" refer?
6. Does adoption affect our relation to God?
7. What are the benefits of adoption?
8. What about the fact of our spiritual (heavenly) inheritance?
9. What relationships are involved when we become adopted sons of God?
10. What are the evidences of adoption?
11. What is one of the main signs of adoption?
12. Where does the transaction of adoption take place?
13. What about God's providential care?
14. What does adoption have to do with assurance of salvation?
15. How does Moses illustrate the Scriptural sense of adoption?
16. What two doctrines are often treated as one?
17. What is the difference between regeneration, justification and adoption?  
(Compare the three.)

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18. What is adoption?
19. When does adoption take place?
20. When will adoption be recognized by the world?
21. What are five blessings we receive through our new relationship with God as adopted sons?
22. What are five privileges we have through our new family relationship as being in God's family with other Christians?
23. What are four evidences of son-ship?
24. What is our responsibility to God? To each other?

### True/False

- Adoption means that we are admitted into the family of God with all of the privileges of a son.
- Adoption is a legal term
- In adoption, the believer, already a child of God through the new birth, receives his place as an adult or full-grown son.
- Since adoption is an act of God, it has no element of faith.
- Adoption is a spiritual truth and, therefore, has no connection with the physical body.
- The chastisement of God is one proof of son-ship.
- The family likeness refers only to the physical appearance.
- Though the believer receives all the rights and privileges of a natural-born son, adoption can never take away his thought of God as a dreaded fearful being.
- The Holy Spirit has no part in adoption.
- With every command of God, He gives power to fulfill that command.

Scripture memorization: II Peter 1:4; Galatians 4:5; Romans 8:15, Write out these verses on the back page they must be in KJV

Any questions?