

The Believer's Union with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit – Part 1

Recap – Last meeting we discussed several aspects of faith and the testing of our faith and how the testing of our faith produces maturity of character and shows that your faith is genuine. We discussed where faith comes from. (Christ being the author and finisher of our faith. **Heb.12:2 (KJV/AMPC)**). We discussed true believers having a confident hope that will not be shaken in times of trouble or persecution. We discussed the immeasurable, unlimited and surpassing greatness of His power in and for those who believe in Him. I want to briefly go over again the proving and testing of our faith and what it (the testing) produces.

- Pressure, affliction, hardship, trials, testing and proving of your faith brings out endurance, steadfastness, patience and maturity of character. **Rom. 5:3-5 (AMPC)** .
- **1 Pet. 1:3-7 (AMPC)**, I want to specifically point out again the following in verses **3-4**; "*Born anew (through genuine saving faith) into an inheritance which is beyond the reach of change and decay [imperishable]*" and in vs. **6-7**; "*the genuineness of your faith being tested*". Verses **4 & 5** is why you should be glad as noted in vs. **6**. Let's read through these in **1 Pet. 1:3-7 (AMPC)**.
- Read "*Believer's Bible Commentary by William McDonald*" for vs. 1:7. (See below).

1. This testing and proving of our faith, produces the ability to stand without wavering in the confident hope of eternal salvation we have in Christ.

- a) **Heb. 10:23 (AMPC)** "Our union with Father, Son and Holy Spirit because we believe in Christ"
- b) I want to talk about our union with Christ and our ongoing relationship with Christ.
- c) Those who believe in Christ are "In Christ"/"abide in Christ and He in them"/"are in union with Father, Son and Holy Spirit". **Note on abiding in Christ:** We will discover in future studies that abiding in Christ is something that happens at salvation, e.g. the believers position changes to now being "in Christ" and at the same time is an ongoing process/choice through intimate relationship with Christ, similar to a believer having been sanctified (set apart) at salvation and is being sanctified, an ongoing process.
- d) "Being in Christ" and "abiding in Christ" are closely related concepts in John's Gospel, often used interchangeably to describe the vital union between Jesus and true believers, but some interpretations make a subtle distinction in their practical application. **Example:**
- e) **Being in Christ (John 14:19-20):** Jesus says in **Jn. 14:20**, "*On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.*" This speaks to a permanent, secure spiritual union that all true believers enter into at salvation through the Holy Spirit. It is a statement of our position in Christ and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, which is the foundation of the Christian life. It is a completed work of God that makes a person righteous and gives them eternal life.

f) **Abiding in Christ (John 15:4-7):** In the very next chapter, the "Vine and Branches" passage (John 15:4-7) uses the term "abide" (Greek menō, meaning to stay, remain, or dwell) to describe an active, ongoing, and intimate fellowship with Christ. While all true believers are "in Christ" positionally, Jesus' command to "abide in me" is an invitation to a deep, conscious, moment-by-moment dependence on Him for spiritual vitality and fruitfulness. In this application abiding is an ongoing daily choice. Abide in Christ or wither.

2. More on our union that happens at salvation as a result of faith in Christ:

- a) **Col. 1:25-28 (NLT) vs. 25** "God's entire message." (**AMPC**) "make the Word of God fully known"; What is God's entire message that Paul want to make fully known? **Christ in you!**
- b) Let's dig through **Rom. 8:1-16 (AMPC)** note the following:
 - v. 3: the definition of "flesh" "[the entire nature of man without the Holy Spirit]." and "all who accept His sacrifice."
 - v. 6: "mind of the Holy Spirit.",
 - v. 8: "The Spirit of God [really] dwells within you [directs and controls you]."
 - v. 9: "but", "however".
 - v. 11: "the Spirit of Him Who raised up Jesus from the dead dwells in you."
 - v. 15: "For [the Spirit which] you have now received."
 - v. 16: "Holy Spirit testifies with our Spirit", **NLT** says "His Spirit joins with our spirit."

3. A continued list of the believers amazing union with the Father, Son, and The Holy Spirit

- a) **Heb. 3:12-14 (AMP)** "Partakers of Christ", "firm and unshaken to the end".
2 Pet. 1:3-4 (NLT) "Partakers of His divine nature."
Gal. 2:19-21 (AMP) "Christ lives in me."
3:26-28 (AMP) "Spiritual union with Christ."
Eph. 3:17-19 (AMP) "Christ dwelling in your heart through faith", "completely filled and flooded with God Himself."
Jn. 14:20, 26-28); Eph. 1:13-14 (NLT) "Identified us as His own by giving us the Holy Spirit, He purchased us." (we belong to Him)
1 Cor. 6:19-20 (NLT) "You (believer) are the temple of the Holy Spirit, you do not belong to yourself, you have been bought with a high price!"
2 Cor. 1:22 (NLT) "He put His seal upon us (believers) by giving us the Holy Spirit."
Jn. 7:37-39 (NLT) "Holy Spirit given to everyone who believes in Christ."
Gal. 3:1-4 (NLT) You "receive" the Holy Spirit when you believe.
Eph. 3:14-19 (AMPC) "May Christ through your faith [actually] dwell (settle down, abide, make His permanent home) in your hearts" ... "the [Holy] Spirit [Himself indwelling your innermost being and personality]."
1 Cor. 6:17 (NLT) "But the person who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with him."
Barne's notes on the Bible: "The true Christian, united by faith to the Lord Jesus"
- b) Our union and fellowship with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit is only possible because we (believers) have the Spirit of Christ and the Spirit of God, this same Spirit, the Holy Spirit living in us (those who believe in Christ).

Excerpt from the “[Believer's Bible Commentary by William McDonald](#)” for vs. 1:7.

“There is further comfort for suffering saints in knowing that their sufferings are neither purposeless nor fruitless. The suffering of the ungodly are only a foretaste of the pangs of hell which they will endure eternally. This is not true for the Christian (The Believer). One of the many beneficial purposes of afflictions in this life for the child of God is to test the genuineness of his faith. Peter contrasts our faith with gold. Of all the substances known to man, gold is one of the most imperishable. It can be subjected to intense heat and might seem to be indestructible. But the truth is that gold parishes through use, pressure and fire. True faith is indestructible. The believer may undergo severe tests and trials, but instead of destroying his faith, they become food for faith to feed on.

... The genuineness of faith can be proved only by fire. When prevailing conditions are favorable it may be easy to be a Christian. But when public confession of Christ brings persecution and suffering, then the casual followers drift away and are lost in the crowd. A religion that costs nothing is worth nothing. Faith which refuses to pay the price is spurious (Fake of false). It is the kind of say-so faith that James condemns. (*See James 2:14-26 “Faith Without Works Is Dead”, In full context, James is talking about a dead faith in this passage, not faith + works.*)
Genuine faith will result in praise, honor, and glory when Jesus Christ is revealed. This simply means that God will reward every instance of faith that stood the test.”

Homework:

Read/study **John chapters 14-17**.

Slowly dig into **Rom. 8:1-16** and the **continued list** of the believers amazing union with the Father, Son, and The Holy Spirit noted above.

My notes on Rom. 8:1-16

I WANT TO AMPLIFY THE AMPLIFIED.

Rom. 8:1-16 (AMPC)

8 Therefore, [there is] now no condemnation (no adjudging guilty of wrong) for those who are in Christ Jesus, who live [and] walk not after the dictates of the flesh, but after the dictates of the Spirit.
*"BELIEVERS."
"THOSE WHO BELONG TO CHRIST" (NLT)*

2 For the law of the Spirit of life [which is] in Christ Jesus [the law of our new being] has freed me from the law of sin and of death.
"NEW CREATION" *GREAT DEFINITION OF SINFUL NATURE PRIOR TO SALVATION*

3 For God has done what the Law could not do, [its power] being weakened by the flesh [the entire nature of man without the Holy Spirit]. Sending His own Son in the guise of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, [God] condemned sin in the flesh [subdued, overcame, deprived it of its power over all who accept that sacrifice], *WHO ARE THOSE THAT ACCEPT THAT SACRIFICE?* *BELIEVERS.*

4 So that the righteous and just requirement of the Law might be fully met in us who live and move not in the ways of the flesh but in the ways of the Spirit [our lives governed not by the standards and according to the dictates of the flesh, but controlled by the Holy Spirit].

5 For those who are according to the flesh and are controlled by its unholy desires set their minds on and pursue those things which gratify the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit and are controlled by the desires of the Spirit set their minds on and seek those things which gratify the [Holy] Spirit.

6 Now the mind of the flesh [which is sense and reason without the Holy Spirit] is death [death that comprises all the miseries arising from sin, both here and hereafter]. But the mind of the [Holy] Spirit is life and [soul] peace [both now and forever].

MIND OF CHRIST = MIND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WHO IS THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST AND THE FATHER

7 [That is] because the mind of the flesh [with its carnal thoughts and purposes] is hostile to God, for it does not submit itself to God's Law; indeed it cannot.

8 So then those who are living the life of the flesh [catering to the appetites and impulses of their carnal nature] cannot please or satisfy God, or be acceptable to Him. *OUCH!*

BUT BELIEVERS W/GENUINE FAITH.

9 But you are not living the life of the flesh, you are living the life of the Spirit, if the [Holy] Spirit of God [really] dwells within you [directs and controls you]. But if anyone does not possess the [Holy] Spirit of Christ, he is none of His [he does not belong to Christ, is not truly a child of God].

IF YOU BELIEVE IN CHRIST, HE "IS" IN YOU!

10 But if Christ lives in you, [then although] your [natural] body is dead by reason of sin and guilt, the spirit is alive because of [the] righteousness [that He imputes to you].

HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS IN YOU!

11 And if the Spirit of Him Who raised up Jesus from the dead dwells in you, [then] He Who raised up Christ Jesus from the dead will also restore to life your mortal (short-lived, perishable) bodies through His Spirit Who dwells in you.

PAUL IS ENCOURAGING FAITHFUL FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST. TELLING THEM

12 So then, brethren, we are debtors, but not to the flesh [we are not obligated to our carnal nature], to live [a life ruled by the standards set up by the dictates] of the flesh.

WHAT THEY HAVE IN CHRIST.

13 For if you live according to [the dictates of] the flesh, you will surely die. But if through the power of the [Holy] Spirit you are [habitually] putting to death (making extinct, deadening) the [evil] deeds prompted by the body, you shall [really and genuinely] live forever.

FLESH

14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

PAUL IS TELLING THE FAITHFUL FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST THAT THEY HAVE RELIEVED THE HOLY SPIRIT

15 For [the Spirit which] you have now received [is] not a spirit of slavery to put you once more in bondage to fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption [the Spirit producing sonship] in [the bliss of] which we cry, Abba (Father)! Father!

THE HOLY SPIRIT

16 The Spirit Himself [thus] testifies together with our own spirit, [assuring us] that we are children of God.

NLT -> HIS SPIRIT JOINS WITH OUR SPIRIT.

THE HOLY SPIRIT PRODUCES SONSHIP!

Deeper study:

In Rom. 8:1-17, Paul describes in these verses (no condemnation, life in the Spirit, adoption, inheritance, intimate union with God) is given to “those who accept that sacrifice” (Rom 8:3 AMPC)—that is, to everyone who, by faith, receives Jesus as Lord and Savior. V. 3 is crucial to this entire passage! This is not something believers gradually earn or grow into; it is a definitive, instantaneous reality received at the moment of salvation. “*those who accept that sacrifice.*”

1. The Foundation: Union with Christ by Faith Alone

The entire chapter rests on the phrase in verse 1: “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are **in Christ Jesus.**” Being “in Christ” is Paul’s favorite way of describing the believer’s new position. The moment a person trusts Christ’s death and resurrection as the full payment for their sin, God unites that person to Jesus in a profound, unbreakable way.

- This union means everything that happened to Christ now legally and spiritually applies to the believer:
 - Christ died for sin → the believer has died to sin’s penalty and power (Rom 6:2–7; 8:3).
 - Christ was raised → the believer is raised to new life (Rom 6:4; 8:11).
 - Christ is seated at God’s right hand → the believer is already seated with Him in the heavenly places (Eph 2:6).

Verse 3 is the hinge: God condemned sin **in the flesh** of Jesus, and everyone who accepts that sacrifice immediately receives the benefits—freedom from condemnation and the power of sin broken. The non-believer remains under condemnation (John 3:18) because they have not accepted the sacrifice; they are still “in the flesh” (Rom 8:8–9) and outside of Christ.

2. Union with the Holy Spirit: The Indwelling and Seal

At the very instant of faith, the Holy Spirit takes up permanent residence in the believer.

Key verses:

- Romans 8:9 – “You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, **if the Spirit of God really dwells in you.** Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.”
- Romans 8:11 – “If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.”

This indwelling is not gradual or partial; it is total and immediate. The Spirit is the down payment and guarantee of full future redemption (Eph 1:13–14; 4:30). The non-believer has none of this; they are spiritually dead and do not have the Spirit (Jude 19).

The Spirit also unites the believer to Christ (1 Cor 6:17: “He who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him”) and enables the believer to live out the righteous requirements of the law that the flesh could never achieve (Rom 8:4).

3. Union with the Father: Adoption and Intimacy

Through the work of the Son and the indwelling of the Spirit, the believer is brought into the very family of God.

- Romans 8:15 – “You have received the Spirit of **adoption as sons**, by whom we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’”
- Romans 8:16 – “The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are **children of God.**”
- Romans 8:17 – “and if children, then **heirs**—heirs of God and **fellow heirs with Christ.**”

“Abba” is an Aramaic term of deepest familial intimacy, like “Daddy.” No Old Testament saint ever addressed God this way; it is a privilege unique to those in the New Covenant who are in Christ. The Spirit gives the believer an inner assurance of sonship and direct access to the Father (Eph 2:18: “through him [Christ] we both have access in one Spirit to the Father”).

The non-believer remains outside this family—still an object of wrath (Eph 2:3) and alienated from God (Col 1:21).

Summary: What the Believer Receives at Salvation

At the moment of genuine faith:

- You are **placed into Christ** (union with the Son).
- The **Holy Spirit permanently indwells** you (union with the Spirit).
- You are **adopted as a child** of the Father with full inheritance rights (union with the Father).

This is often called the believer’s **mystical union** with the Trinity, or simply “union with Christ” (since Christ is the mediating person of the Godhead). It is irreversible (Rom 8:38–39), complete from day one, and the basis for every spiritual blessing (Eph 1:3). Sanctification (growing in holiness) flows out of this union, but the union itself is not something we grow into—it is received by faith alone, the instant we accept Christ’s sacrifice.

Non-believers have none of this. They remain in Adam (the old humanity under sin and death), not in Christ (the new humanity with life and righteousness). Until they repent and trust Christ, they are not yet in union with the Trinity.