

## Abba Father

Les Dueck

Many years again Dr. Billy Graham wrote a book titled, *Born Free*. This book described the incredible and marvellous freedom that a person was born into when they invited Jesus to come into their life. I need to find that book again in some church library and allow the Holy Spirit to impact me again because of the wonders of the mercy and grace of my Lord Jesus Christ.

Born Free was not my spiritual experience when I was born into this world, nor was it yours! It doesn't matter that our parents might have been very loving and kind to us when we were growing up because our natural or first birth made us a slave to sin. There is nothing in the natural that could change that, our dads and moms were helpless in this area. You can hear it in the voice of Paul a spiritual dad, when he speaks to his Jewish family, "*for my people, my Jewish brothers and sisters I would be willing to be forever cursed- cut off from Christ- if that would save them.*"<sup>1</sup> There are so many times that I as a dad have felt so utterly helpless when it comes to helping my children struggle with spiritual bondage. I know we can talk to them and pray for them but that is not enough, you wish that you could crawl into their skin and give sin and the devil the boot! This is a spiritual problem and only our heavenly Father can release our children and others from the slavery of sin and make them free.

Before Jesus died on the cross the Jewish people who had the promises of deliverance were in the same spiritual condition as the rest of us, being born naturally as a Jew did not set them free from the slavery of sin. God gave them the law to be their guardian until Jesus could set them free.

*We were kept under control by Moses' laws until this faith came. We were under their control until this faith which was about to come would be revealed. Before Christ came, Moses' laws served as our guardian. Christ came so that we could receive God's approval by faith. But now that this faith has come, we are no longer under the control of a guardian.*<sup>2</sup>

The law was never meant to be sufficient; it was never good enough to set people free. Paul writes in his Roman letter that sin used the law to beat people up even more and made them feel even more under the bondage of sin.<sup>3</sup> Now they were not just slaves to sin but slaves to the law as well; double slavery! No wonder that Paul wrote, "*Oh what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death?*"<sup>4</sup>

The answer for us and our Jewish friends is Jesus. What us dads cannot do for our children our heavenly daddy loves to do. He is all about freedom from sin and any other kind of slavery our children have been in bondage to. What a thrill to see our *kids*

respond to their heavenly daddy and begin to walk in the freedom He brings. We need to be careful not to become jealous. It's just not in us to set our children free, there's nothing we can do. Except, give up our children for adoption making sure that the person who adopts our children is the Lord Jesus Christ.

God gave us the picture of adoption to illustrate several things. First of all adoption shows us how much He loves us. When we consented to this adoption for our own life and we agreed to make Jesus our spiritual dad, He put His Spirit in us. The Holy Spirit is always prompting us to call Jesus, Abba (daddy). In the natural an older child who is adopted into a family might find it difficult to call his new dad – dad. The feeling of not being wanted by his first earthly dad often carries into the new relationship. It might take years of loving that child before they actually begin to call their new dad – dad! But when it happens the heart of the new dad explodes with such love that he throws his arms around his child and hugs them to His breast. Have you been hugged lately? My natural, earthly dad passed into extreme glory about 15 years ago. Since that time there have been several occasions when I have needed him to be around just to talk over a problem. His absence has forced me to go to my spiritual dad and there I find the promptings of the Holy Spirit to call him *daddy!* For a grown man this is not natural and our ego wants to keep our spiritual dad at a distance – but who can resist the Holy Spirit. Then comes the hug and He says, *how can I help you?* Then you know you can share anything with Him.

To be adopted by Jesus means that we have been totally set free. In Paul's time there were some who adopted boys or girls for the purpose of making them work hard in the fields or in whatever trade they were in. Money was the reason they adopted children! In today's society there are some who *adopt out* their children for the sex trade so that dad and mom might have more income. In both of the above cases the adoption was to bring the child under more bondage, into more slavery. Paul says emphatically that when Jesus adopts us He does not give us the spirit of bondage to bring more fear into our lives but the spirit of adoption that says, Abba Father.<sup>5</sup> Sad to say but there are some pastors and Christians that promote a *spirit of bondage* more than the *spirit of adoption*. Yes we are to serve Jesus but the spirit of adoption will encourage this kind of service because of a love relationship we have with Jesus. Its love for God and love for one another that makes us want to serve, it's not being forced to serve. Jesus did not adopt us to force us into some kind of ministry; He adopted us so that we could have a love relationship with Him. If we did nothing for King Jesus or his kingdom He would be so happy just to have us as His child. The story of David and Mephibosheth<sup>6</sup> illustrates this truth so well.

To be adopted by Jesus brings us into our *heirship!* Paul teaches this truth in Galatians 4:1-7. Before we invited Jesus into our life the promise of blessing was given to the Jew and the Gentile but we couldn't receive the blessing or inheritance. The true riches of

God were held in trust for us. We were like children not old enough to receive the inheritance that belonged to us. However in the spiritual it is not age that prevents us from receiving our inheritance, it will come to us when we allow our self to be adopted by Jesus into God's family. These blessings and riches are more than having our sins forgiven and being free from the slavery of condemnation, guilt and shame. It is the inheritance of His name and the authority that goes with it. It is the inheritance of His nature that we clothe ourselves in like a person who would put on new clothes; called in the Bible, the garments of salvation. This inheritance we have received includes all the freedoms, authority and power of kingdom living. We have been made heirs of God which is exciting in itself but when the Bible says we are joint-heirs with Jesus, it blows our mind for now we have all that Jesus has, we can do what Jesus did, we can bless as He blessed. Check it out, our inheritance is great!

The spirit of adoption cries out, *Abba Father, daddy Father*. It can't get any better than that! Wouldn't it be great if we started treating one another with the same *spirit of adoption* that would set others free like Jesus set them free? I am convinced that all of our problems can be solved or dealt with if we could grow more and more in *loving the Lord God with all our heart, mind and strength* and to *love one another* as we should love ourselves.

Happy Father's day and don't forget to go to Jesus for your hug today and pass that hug to others who need your love!