

Living as a Son, Not a Slave

Theme: Identity in Christ

Key Scripture: *"Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ."* — Galatians 4:7 (NKJV)

Opening Story

During my years in the Air Force, rank carried authority, responsibility, and privilege. New Airmen quickly learned that they couldn't simply walk into certain offices or make certain decisions. There was a chain of command, and with each level came different responsibilities and access.

I remember watching young Airmen who doubted themselves. Even after earning promotions, they still carried themselves like they didn't belong. They hesitated to speak, questioned every decision, and waited for someone else to tell them what to do. On paper, they had authority. In practice, they were still thinking like they hadn't earned it.

I've seen the same thing happen in our walk with Christ.

Many believers have accepted Jesus as Savior, yet they continue living as though they're still prisoners to their past. They carry guilt that Christ has already forgiven. They live in fear when God has promised His presence. They constantly wonder if they've done enough to earn God's love, forgetting that His love was never earned in the first place.

Spiritually speaking, they're living like slaves when God has already called them sons and daughters.

Scripture Focus

Galatians 4:7

"Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ."

Additional Scriptures:

- Romans 8:15–17
- John 1:12
- Ephesians 1:5

- Hebrews 4:16
-

The Lesson

Slaves and sons live very differently.

A slave works out of fear.

A son serves out of love.

A slave wonders if he's done enough.

A son knows he belongs.

A slave is driven by performance.

A son rests in his Father's acceptance.

Before many of us came to Christ, we were slaves to sin, fear, pride, selfishness, and shame. Those chains were real. But when Jesus died and rose again, He didn't simply forgive our sins—He adopted us into God's family.

That means your relationship with God is no longer based on trying to earn His approval.

It's built on what Christ has already accomplished.

This doesn't make us careless about obedience. It transforms why we obey.

We don't obey to become God's children.

We obey because we already are His children.

As men, we often tie our identity to what we accomplish. We believe God is pleased with us only when we're succeeding, leading well, or checking every spiritual box.

But a loving father doesn't stop loving his son because he stumbles while learning to walk.

Neither does our Heavenly Father.

His discipline is real.

His correction is loving.

His expectations are holy.

But His love is unwavering.

When you understand that you're God's son through Christ, you stop approaching Him as someone trying to earn a place at the table.

You come boldly because your Father has already prepared a seat for you.

Living as a son changes everything.

You pray with confidence.

You worship with gratitude.

You repent without hiding.

You serve with joy.

And you walk through life knowing you're never alone.

Reflection Questions

1. Do you approach God more like a slave trying to earn His approval or like a son who knows he belongs?
 2. What fears or insecurities keep you from fully embracing your identity as God's child?
 3. How would your relationship with God change if you truly believed He delights in you as His son?
 4. What areas of your life still need to be surrendered to your Heavenly Father?
-

Today's Challenge

The next time you pray, begin by simply saying,

"Father, thank You that I belong to You."

Spend a few minutes thanking God—not for what He gives you—but for inviting you into His family through Jesus Christ.

Then ask Him to help you live with the confidence, peace, and freedom of a son instead of the fear of a slave.

Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for adopting me into Your family through Jesus Christ. Thank You that I no longer have to earn what You have freely given through Your grace. Forgive me for the times I've lived as though Your love depended on my performance instead of Christ's finished work.

Help me to trust You more deeply, obey You more faithfully, and walk each day with the confidence that I am Your child. Teach me to serve You from love rather than fear and to rest in the security of Your promises.

May my life reflect the joy, freedom, and hope that come from belonging to You.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

This Week's Takeaway

You don't have to spend your life trying to earn a place in God's family. Through Jesus Christ, you already belong. Live each day with the confidence of a son, not the fear of a slave.