

takes up residence in our lives, in our very bodies, and by doing so, He brings with Him a deep level of security.

We have been chosen, grafted, and adopted into the family of God. And now we are a part of the family. The Spirit causes us to call out, “Abba! Father!” It is like saying “Daddy.” As God’s Spirit speaks to our hearts, we can call out to God as our Abba.

God said to Israel, *“You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you, declares the Lord”* (Jer. 29:13-14). When is the last time you sought after God with all your heart? God still desires to be sought and found by His people. Ask the Holy Spirit to enable you to set everything else aside right now so that you can seek Him, no matter what. When this relationship with Him is as it should be, there is nothing more satisfying or meaningful.

### Questions for Reflection

1. What are the fears or concerns in your life?
2. What are the interruptions or disruptions preventing you from being alone or having a relationship with God?
3. Where is your place to find and meet God?
4. How does the Holy Spirit help to be a comfort to you and help you to be connected to God?

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Forgotten God (4)

**A Real Relationship**

Romans 8:15-17

Rev. Dr. Charles Yoon

So many people live in fear because they are uncertain about what comes next. Even though they believe in God, they are not sure that God is with them in their lives. We want to make sure that the most powerful Being in the universe adores us as His own child. This is the assurance that the Holy Spirit offers us.

It is the Holy Spirit who gives us confidence so we can enjoy intimacy with our Creator. One of the greatest aspects of being in a relationship with the Holy Spirit is the intimacy, security, and encouragement He brings us. The Holy Spirit guides us and empowers us to serve God as a beloved child rather than a stressed-out, guilt-ridden slave. Therefore, we can say that we are children of God. What does the word, ‘children of God’ mean for you? Can you say with confidence that you know God and are known by Him? Paul tells the Galatians that the Holy Spirit is the one who assures our hearts that we are His children: *“Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, ‘Abba, Father.’ So you are no longer slaves, but God’s children; and since you are his children, he has made you also heirs.”* (Gal. 4:6-7).

The Holy Spirit assures us that we are in right standing with and loved by God. He guarantees believers of the gift of new life in Christ. He assures us that we have nothing to fear because we are His children and He is powerful. He tells us that we are accepted, fully and unconditionally. And He reminds us of the victory that is coming when God’s kingdom is fully realized.

Paul emphasized these critical truths in his letter to the Romans: *For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but*

*you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs – heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. (Rom. 8:15-17)*

The Bible says that the Spirit comes through in situation where we would normally be afraid (Luke 12:11-12). We experience the Holy Spirit guiding us in desperate situations, such as when we are asked why we believe in a God that allows tragedies such as car accidents, school shootings, natural disasters to happen, or when we receive a totally unexpected phone call that a close family member has died.

Multitasking has become our life style. During my vacation I checked my emails, texts, and other social medias from time to time and responded to them if it was necessary. Even though I was away from the work place physically, I was still doing my work wherever I was. I drive a car while listening to news and I exercise in the gym while listening to music. It's so rare nowadays to be able to look someone in the eye without interruption or distraction. We need to carry our cell phones almost all the time. We check our cell phones any time during meetings, conversation, and even during worship service.

While Jesus didn't have to deal with emails, voice mails, or texts, He had a busy schedule from the demanding multitudes of people. At any given moment of the day, people were looking for Jesus. Because of the priority of His relationship with His Father, He found ways to escape. He took the time to focus and be quiet (Mark 1:35). He was willing to remove Himself from people's reach in order to pray and commune with God the Father. We need to unplug and shut off communication from all others in order to be alone with Him.

In the craziness of our world, it takes tremendous effort to find a quiet place. It takes time to quiet our minds and our hearts before the Lord. It means turning off the music, the television, or our cell phones. It might mean going outside to our favorite places. This place might be inside as the only place where we find privacy. It might mean heading to whatever wilderness is nearest to you, or booking a few days at a local retreat center. No matter what your personality, it is a spiritual discipline to be still, to listen, and to cut out the distractions of the world. As we practice this stillness, this waiting, this being, we can experience deep intimacy and relationship with the Holy Spirit.

Jesus desired His disciples to have peace and He comforted them with the truth that they are not left alone. Part of the ways to give them peace and comfort is through the provision of the Holy Spirit, the other Counselor. He promised the Holy Spirit would come once He left. After all, Jesus merely walked beside the disciples; the Spirit would actually enter their human bodies (John 14:17). This is not a distant, loose connection. This is the Spirit of God choosing us to be His dwelling place. The Spirit of the living God is inside each of us.

If we have received by faith the promise of the Holy Spirit, we are also His temple. As we drive our children to school, as we go to work every day, as we go to school, as we face tragedy and pain, as we buy groceries, as we walk the dog, as we make decisions, and as we live our lives, the Holy Spirit is dwelling in us. We are a temple of the Holy Spirit. We are not just a person living our lives by human power. The Spirit of God is in us. Jesus said it was better for Him to go and the Spirit to come. Don't walk away from this. Let the Spirit impact us deeply, first internally and then outwardly.

Galatians 3:13-14 says, *"Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us ... so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith."* This Spirit is not a remote force. He