



*Fall 2025 Chapel Series*

# **GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT WITH US**

*Discussion Guide*

## **(PT. 6) THE ADOPTING SPIRIT**

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**KEY SCRIPTURES:** Romans 8:1–7; Galatians 4:1–7; 1 John 2:28–3:3

**SPEAKER:** Rev. Andrew Barber, Campus Minister, RUF at Northwestern University

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### **I. WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER**

### **II. RECALLING THE MESSAGE**

- **Message Summary:** This message focuses on the Holy Spirit's role in granting us the full rights and assurance of being adopted children of God. Drawing primarily from Romans 8, we will see that the Spirit frees us from the condemnation of the law (Romans 8:1-7) and empowers us to cry out to God as "Abba, Father" (Galatians 4:1-7). The Spirit eliminates the fear of slavery and replaces it with the confident hope of our future inheritance, confirming our identity as beloved children. This adoption transforms our present obedience and shapes our future anticipation of being fully like Christ (1 John 2:28-3:3).
- What resonated with you most about the Holy Spirit's role in affirming your identity as an adopted child of God?
- Before hearing this message, did you think of the Holy Spirit primarily as a gift of power, or as a gift of *relationship*? How has your understanding shifted?

### **III. DIVING DEEPER INTO SCRIPTURE**

- **The Spirit of Life and Freedom (Romans 8:1–7)**
  - Paul declares, "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" (v. 1). How does the Holy Spirit—referred to as the "Spirit of life" (v. 2)—actively secure this freedom from condemnation in the believer's life?
  - What does it mean to "set the mind on the flesh" versus "set the mind on the Spirit" (v. 5–6)? What practical difference does the Spirit make in choosing one over the other in daily decisions?

- How is the Spirit's work described here as a foundational difference between life before and life after conversion?
- **Crying Out, "Abba, Father" (Galatians 4:1–7)**
  - Galatians 4:6 says, "God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!'" Why is the use of the intimate term "Abba" significant in describing our relationship with God through the Spirit?
  - What is the difference between having the status of a "slave" and the status of an "heir" (v. 7)? How does the Holy Spirit guarantee this shift in status?
  - How does the Spirit remove the "fear of slavery" and replace it with the "confidence of sonship"?
- **The Hope of Full Likeness (1 John 2:28–3:3)**
  - John states, "we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is" (3:2). How does the Spirit, who has adopted us, serve as the guarantee or "down payment" of this final transformation?
  - Since "everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure" (3:3), what actions, prompted by the Holy Spirit, demonstrate that a person is truly anticipating Christ's return and their full inheritance?

#### **IV. PERSONAL REFLECTION & APPLICATION**

- What are the specific moments or circumstances in your life when you struggle to feel like an adopted, beloved child of God? How can you intentionally appeal to the "Adopting Spirit" in those moments?
- If you are an heir of God, what is one area of your life (time, money, talent) that the Spirit is prompting you to steward differently in light of this inheritance?
- How can you encourage another believer this week by reminding them of their secure adoption in Christ through the Spirit?

#### **V. GROUP PRAYER**

- Take a moment of silence, and then pray together, thanking God that through the Holy Spirit, we can cry out, "Abba, Father." Pray for a deeper sense of security in our adoption and hope in our future inheritance.
- Concluding remarks and encouragement.