

A Child or Son?



The book of Galatians was written by the apostle Paul to a church that had been initially established in the grace of God and what God did for them through the person of Jesus, but they had fallen from Grace. Meaning, they were moving into legalism and what they could now do for God. The Galatians had started to base their acceptance or relationship with God off their own performance or behavior.

“Now I say that an heir, as long as he is a child, does not differ at all from a slave, though he is master of it all” (Gal 4:1). The Greek word for child in this verse is *nēpios* and means an immature Christian. An immature Christian is someone that is born again but is communing with God based off of rules and regulations. As children of God, we are joint- heirs with Jesus (Rom 8:17) and we have all that He has. All of Heaven’s resources are available to us and we have obtained an inheritance (Eph 1:11, Col 1:12) but we will never access or walk in what we have trying to earn something from God.

All of Gods promises are gifts to His children and we have to learn to receive (Rom 5:2, 5:17). A slave is in a constant state of doing and never has rest. They are always trying to earn. A child in the kingdom of God is someone who relates to God no different than a slave. He is trying to earn something and work towards the blessing. A child or slave is on a performance-based system, but a son is someone who learns to receive.

God’s grace has offered all that we need (2 Cor 9:8) and as sons of God we do not work to get anything from God, but we simply appropriate what Grace has already provided. A child may come home and try to work to get food out of the refrigerator, but a son walks straight in and knows that he has access because of his position. We now have access to the Father (Eph 2:18) and the Father has been pleased to give us the kingdom (Lk 12:32). Jesus has given us complete access because we are in Him and He is in us (Jn 14:20).