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# The Highest Privilege

Jeff Rogers / Lamplighter Bible Study  
Selected Scriptures from Matthew 5, 6, 7

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The Order of Salvation—While salvation is a singular, miraculous event in a person's life, it is crucial to recognize the logical sequence of events that lead to this transformative experience. Understanding this order can provide a structured framework for believers to deepen their understanding of salvation and adoption.

- Election (John 10:16; 15:16; 15:19; Acts 13:48; Eph 1)
- The Gospel Call (Proclaiming the message of the Gospel) (Romans 8:28)
- Regeneration (being born again) (John 3:3, 5-6; Romans 6:4-6; Eph 2:5-6)
- Conversion (faith & repentance) (Eph 2:8-9; John 1:12; Col 2:6; John 3:16); John 6:35, 40; John 11:25-26)
- Justification (God's response to our faith; right legal standing before God) (Rom 5:1, 3:28, 3:26, Gal 2:16)
- Adoption (membership in God's family) (see below)
- Sanctification (right conduct in life)
- Perseverance (remaining a Christian)
- Death (going to be with the Lord).
- Glorification (receiving a resurrection body)

Adoption, a key aspect of the doctrine of salvation, is a concept that originated in the Old Testament and was fully revealed in the New Testament. It is a doctrine that holds immense significance for believers, as it signifies their spiritual adoption in Christ and their membership in God's family.

**Romans 8:15**, *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!"*

**Galatians 4:4-5**, *But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.*

**Ephesians 1:5**, *He predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will,*

More than fifty years ago, J. I. Packer wrote the book "Knowing God." It is a great read for every Christian as he lays out the attributes of God to know Him more intimately.

According to J. I. Packer, adoption is not just a privilege but the highest privilege the gospel offers. It's even higher than justification, which is the primary and fundamental gospel blessing without question. Adoption is not just a privilege; it's a high privilege for every Christian!

Twelve times in Matthew 6, Jesus refers to God as "*your Heavenly Father*" or something similar. This was revolutionary to that day. Being related to God in such an intimate way was unheard of. But we enjoy that relationship today through adoption into God's family at the moment of our regeneration!

How does He become our Father? What does it mean? What is the impact? What is our response?

## I. Our Adoption Should Impact Our Lives.

- A. The fact of sonship needs to be the controlling thought of the believer.
  1. Embrace the Father's affection.
  2. Submit to the Father's authority.
  3. Rest in the Father's security.
  4. Enjoy the Father's provision.
  5. Fulfill the Father's desire.
- B. Jesus thought of Himself as the Son of God and his followers as children of the Heavenly Father.
  1. **Mark 3:35**, *For whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother."*
  2. **Matthew 28:9-10**, *And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. 10 Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."*

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3. **John 20:17–18**, *Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’ ”* **18** *Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”—and that he had said these things to her.*
  4. **Hebrews 2:13–14**, *And again, “I will put my trust in him.” And again, “Behold, I and the children God has given me.”* **14** *Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil,*
- C. Nowhere is this teaching so clear as in the Sermon on the Mount.
1. Chapter 5 – Father occurs **three** times about God the Father.
  2. Chapter 6 – Father occurs **twelve** times.
  3. Chapter 7 – Father occurs **two** times.
- D. J. I. Packer, in “Knowing God,” refers to adoption as the “highest privilege.”
1. This is because of the rich relationship with God that it involves.
  2. Pardon, acceptance, and adoption are all privileges of the Christian life
    - a) The first two (pardon and acceptance) deal with our justification.
    - b) Adoption deals with our relationship based on the relationship of the Father and the Son.
      - (1) More than servants, we are friends (John 15:15)
      - (2) More than servants, we are heirs based on our sonship (Galatians 4:1-7)
- (a) **1 John 3:1**, *See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.*

## **II. Our Adoption Should Impact Our Conduct.**

- A. What the Sermon on the Mount is teaching us about our conduct.
1. Jesus is not teaching rules to be followed with mechanical precision but, more broadly, the “spirit of the law.” **FOR EXAMPLE, It is not just the act of murder, adultery, or disobedience; it is the heart attitude!**
  2. The Sermon on the Mount is family instruction from our Heavenly Father.
- B. The Principles of Conduct in the Sermon on the Mount.
1. Imitate your Heavenly Father (Matthew 5:44-45, 48) (Be holy, for He is holy)
  2. Glorify your Heavenly Father (Matthew 5:16) (Behave in such a way as to bring glory to your Father).
  3. Please your Father (Matthew 6:4, 6, 18)

## **III. Our Adoption Should Impact Our Prayer.**

- A. Jesus set the example **John 11:42**, *I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me.”*
1. The Father is always accessible and is never preoccupied.
  2. The Throne Room of God is open to every son to enter boldly.
- B. Prayer is not to be repetitious and mechanical (Matthew 6:7-8)
- C. Prayer is to be free and bold (Matthew 7:7-11)

## **IV. Our Adoption Should Impact Our Faith.**

- A. We can trust God for our needs (Matthew 7:7-11)
- B. We can trust God for our life (Matthew 6:25-26)
- C. We can trust God for tomorrow (Matthew 6:31-34)

Paul could have chosen several Greek words for adoption. The word he chose has the meaning “son.” It invokes the idea of “sonship,” Which carries with it the idea of community or family.