



Can I ***REALLY*** Change?

The Family of God

Romans 8:12-17



insecurity

A Place to Belong

Just as children who do not feel loved and do not feel that they belong, have enormous emotional, social, and behavioral problems; so also people who doubt that their heavenly Father really loves them or that their place in God's family is secure, have much greater difficulty with sin.

Our passage teaches some of the significant benefits of belonging to the family of God, but what exactly does that mean?

1. God has a spiritual family, but not everyone belongs to it.



John 1:12

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.

Galatians 3:26

You are the children of God
through faith in Christ Jesus.

Notes on Romans 8:12-13

- 1) It is possible to be a Christian and still be living a carnal life.
- 2) God means business concerning carnal/sinning Christians.
- 3) It is dangerous to willfully persist in ungodly behavior patterns!

1. God has a spiritual family, but not everyone belongs to it.
2. One significant test of our spiritual *“familyship”* is the leading of the Holy Spirit.



How does the Holy Spirit lead us?

1. The Spirit's leading is common to all believers
2. The Spirit's leading is continuous
3. The Spirit's leading is not a supernatural shortcut for making wise decisions in life
 - *read the Scripture*
 - *pray*
 - *seek Godly counsel*
 - *examine all the circumstances*
 - *make a list of pros and cons*
 - *evaluate your motives*

Where is the Holy Spirit in all that?

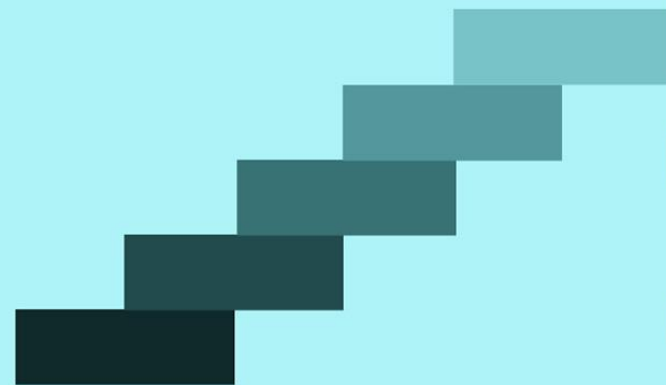
- He's been there leading the whole time.
- Most of the time, it's only when we look back that we gain certainty that our decision was a wise one.



1. God has a spiritual family, but not everyone belongs to it.
2. One significant test of our spiritual *“familyship”* is the leading of the Holy Spirit.
3. Entrance into God’s family is by adoption (*vv. 15-17*).



- 1. Do you know for sure that you are a child of God?**
- 2. Have you been walking in the leading of the Holy Spirit?**



**NEXT
STEPS**



Someday life's journey will be o'er,
And I shall reach that distant shore.
I'll sing while ent'ring Heaven's door,
"Jesus led me all the way!"



Jesus led me all the way;
Led me step by step each day.
I will tell the saints and angels
As I lay my burdens down,
“Jesus led me all the way!”