



Confidence in the Spirit

1. Confidence for today

2. Confidence for eternity

1. Review

On Sunday we looked at how we can get great confidence in our identity in Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit.

What doubts undermine our confidence in who we are in Christ?

2. Read

Romans 8:14-17, Ephesians 1:11-14

2.1 Confidence for today

- There is a battle for our mind – the world seeds doubts, fears and distractions that can undermine our confidence that God genuinely loves us and has forgiven us
- We have the Spirit that has bought about sonship/daughterhood
- We will not be jettisoned or abandoned – looked at the life of a poet who was adopted but, in his teens, he got into trouble and was then placed into care and abandoned by his adopted parents.
- We can call God Abba Father showing we have the same intimacy with God as Jesus who used the same term in the garden of gethsemane
- We can struggle through bad experience of our own parents to embrace this intimacy but the Holy Spirit can help us grow in this if we revel in our total acceptance as God's children

2.2 Confidence for eternity

- We are heirs of God
- Our promised inheritance is eternity with God
- This is not conditional – it is like an unconditional offer from University – we still have to wait be we know we have been totally accepted
- We can have doubts about what will happen to us when we die – the Holy Spirit can give us great assurance here through the word that we will spend eternity with Jesus in heaven.

3. Reflect

- What doubts do you have about how much God loves you and has forgiven you?
- How can the Holy Spirit help remove these doubts and give you confidence in being totally accepted by God? Do you believe this is a permanent adoption? Will you be rejected?
- How valuable is your inheritance compared to other treasures you have in your life?
- What fears do you have about what happens after you die?
- How can the Holy Spirit bring comfort here?

4. Respond

Spend time asking the Holy Spirit to give you confidence in how much you are loved by God and confidence that you have an eternal inheritance. What words can you take from our scripture to abide in you during the coming week.

5. Reach

How essential is this confidence in the way we outreach to non-believers?