**Thursday 16th April**

Romans 8: 14 – 16

For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. **15**The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship.[[f](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+8&version=NIVUK#fen-NIVUK-28132f)] And by him we cry, *‘Abba,*[[g](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+8&version=NIVUK#fen-NIVUK-28132g)] Father.’ **16**The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.

Fear is a terrible master. I’m sure we have all had times in our lives when we have been gripped by fear and known the paralysis that it induces. Fear leads us to make bad decisions. It leads us to go into self-preservation mode. It can entice us to lash out at others. But when we are adopted into God’s family by putting our trust in Jesus and receiving His forgiveness, being filled with His Spirit, we are no longer slaves to fear! That doesn’t mean that we will never experience the emotion of fear again, but that we are no longer driven to react to it – we have a new master, a new reality! Instead we belong to a new family! We are chosen by God, called by name, loved by him for all eternity! What extraordinary grace – that Jesus paid the price for our adoption so that we can be His.

You know what song I’m going to direct you to today!! ‘I’m no longer a slave to fear. I am a child of God!’  <https://youtu.be/f8TkUMJtK5k>

*Father, what a gift – to be your children! Thank you so much for all that you have done for us to bring about our adoption. Thank you that in Jesus, everything has been paid for. Thank you for the joy of belonging to you. Thank you that you rescued us from slavery to fear and brought us into sonship instead. I pray that today I will experience the depth of your love, and to know the Holy Spirit’s assurance that I am your child. Lord, we lift to you today all those who are struggling with fear – those for whom it feels overwhelming. Would you bring freedom and peace and hope to them today. In Jesus name. Amen.*

