



Who You Say I Am *Day 3: Chorus 1*

Who the Son sets free
Oh is free indeed
I'm a child of God
Yes I am

Scripture Reference

Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God — children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

– *John 1: 12-13*



Yesterday we focused in quite a bit on the freedom Jesus gives us. Today, let's settle in on the precious place in His family that God gives us – His child. We'll begin today thinking again of our earthly family. You may not have received many of the "rights" or privileges from your parents that others received like love, encouragement, protection, or provision. In addition, you may have endured more responsibilities than many children including obedience, submission, unrealistic chores, and even caring for other siblings in a parental role. Nevertheless, you are your parents' child. Even if your parents did not graciously provide a strong childhood, you can take comfort knowing that God's family comes with rights and responsibilities that are better than imaginable.

What "rights" did your parents give you as their child growing up? What "rights" do you feel they withheld or were unable to provide? Have those "rights" evolved as you transitioned to adulthood? What responsibilities have you had as their child both growing up and as an adult? How do you think your place in God's family can provide even greater privileges to you?

Our scripture tells us those who received Him and believe in His name were given the right to become God's child. Unlike being a child of your parents, you have a choice to be God's child. You get to receive Him and believe in Him. God will not force His family upon you. We must embrace Him and welcome Him into our lives. Just as we choose whether to welcome or reject our parents into our lives, we also choose to welcome or reject God into our daily lives.

Reflect on the moment when you welcomed Jesus into your life, when you surrendered it to Him. How did that decision immediately impact your life and how does it continue to impact your life? How do your choices, actions, and thoughts continue to reflect that invitation to God to be a part of your life?



Rhythms of Faith

Daily Devotionals Based on Songs

Although we choose to welcome God, the scripture also tells us it is not of human decision that we are born to God. The KJV translation puts it as “nor of the will of man”. We are reminded that our adoption is not through our own efforts, achievements, or actions. Rather, it’s God’s gift of love and grace to each of us. We choose to believe and receive Jesus, and God gives us the gift of being His child. What a challenging but oh so precious paradox.

*Perhaps similarly to your childhood, are you trying to **earn** your place in God’s family? How can you instead focus your thoughts on **receiving** the gift that God has already given you as a believer in His Son? Pray today that the Holy Spirit would help you receive God’s gift of adoption, not of your own efforts or achievements, but through His love.*

We are born of God. Just as we often reflect or resemble our earthly parents (or we fight really hard not to resemble them), God’s children reflect Him. When we accept Christ, we become new people in our hearts, actions, and choices. It doesn’t matter that our own earthly parents didn’t live up to our expectations – we have a new perfect Father. We desire to obey and follow Him. We desire His will. We can trust in His love for us. We are born again in the image of our Heavenly Father. Isn’t that a beautiful promise?

End today in prayer with your Heavenly Father. Thank Him for all the love He has given you through His adoption of you. Thank Him for giving you the right to be His child, giving you the choice to receive and believe in Him, and giving you a new life. Ask Him to continue shaping you in His image. Praise Him for His love and His grace.
