

# Bondslave To Inheritor

**Acts 20:28** [New King James] *“Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.”*

Every true Christian knows that they are a bondslave of Jesus Christ purchased by His sacrificed blood. The Greek word used is “*dōulōs*” meaning a bondslave who is owned by his master, with no personal rights only personal duties to perform for his master.

The apostles introduced themselves using the same word, “*dōulōs*,” [**Romans 1:1; James 1:1; 2 Peter 1:1; Jude 1; Revelation 1:1**].

**Out of gratitude for what God has done for us through the life, death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ, we should sacrifice our lives in service to Him.**

**Romans 12:1** [NIV] *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship.”*

The sacrifice mentioned is the sin offering which was completely burnt up on the altar.

The Greek word translated “*bodies*” is “*soma*” meaning whole life, the physical body, mind and “*human spirit*,” [**Job 32:8; Proverbs 20:27; 1 Corinthians 2:11**].

**Only when we take this step in our lives can the Holy Spirit begin to re-educate us [Romans 12:2] to prepare us for what will be part of our future life, our eternal life, which is a gift from God, [Romans 6:23] and a chance to know our Heavenly Father in a more intimate way, [John 17:3].**

**Eternal life is what every physical human being desires, we cannot imagine ourselves not existing, [Ecclesiastes 3:11].**

Paul mentions this first step that every true Christian must make in his letter to the Christians in Rome.

**Romans 6:1-4** [New King James] *“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”*

**Baptism by complete immersion is symbolic of the death of our old way of life, and being raised up to a new way of life, that is dead in sin, [1 John 3:8-9].**

**Romans 6:5-13** [New King James] *“For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, **that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.** For he who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.”*

We as true born-again Christians [**John 3:3-8**] with the active presence of the Holy Spirit in our new lives can begin to develop the “fruits” of the Holy Spirit.

**Galatians 5:22-25** [New King James] *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.”*

**These are the very characteristics of the Holy Eternal Creator God, the direction that our new life must follow if we are to receive our inheritance with Jesus Christ at His Second Coming.**

**Romans 8:12-17** [New King James] *“Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, ‘Abba, Father.’ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.”*

**The key to this future inheritance is our relationship with the Holy Spirit, [Who is one Person of the Triune God] as we are led by Him into all truth, [John 16:13]. If we do not grieve Him, [Ephesians 4:30-32] nor “quench” the burning desire that the presence of the Holy Spirit gives us for God’s way of life, [1 Thessalonians 5:13-22].**

**This relationship with God through the Holy Spirit must be renewed every day through prayer, and meditation on God’s Word, the Christian Bible.**

**Galatians 3:26-29** [New King James] *“For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptised into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.”*

Since Jesus Christ is the descendant of Abraham and we belong to Jesus Christ, then we are also descendants of Abraham and inheritors of the promise of salvation.

**Galatians 3:6-9** [New King James] *“just as Abraham ‘believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.’ Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham. And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, ‘In you all the nations shall be blessed.’ So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham.”*

**Faith in what God has done through Jesus Christ was why Abraham received the promise that his children would be a blessing to all nations in every generation.**

**James 2:14-26** [New King James] *“What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, ‘Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,’ but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? **Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.** But someone will say, ‘You have faith, and I have works.’ Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe, and tremble! But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead? Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, ‘Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.’ And he was called the friend of God. You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only. Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way? **For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.**”*

**Our faith in Jesus Christ must lead us to works of love and compassion for other human beings in our generation.**

**John 7:37-39** [New King James] *“On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, ‘If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’ But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.”*

**“Living waters” refers to eternal life that the active presence of the Holy Spirit in us is the guarantee of our eternal inheritance, [Ephesians 1:13-14].**