

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.

Romans 8:16-17

The Church Under (and On) Fire

The Church Under (and On) Fire

A review of the church under attack and how the Lord responded to those attacks.

The Church Under (and On) Fire

External Attack

The Church Under (and On) Fire

External Attack

Response

The Church Under (and On) Fire

External Attack – Peter and John threatened.

Acts 4

Response

The Church Under (and On) Fire

External Attack – Peter and John threatened.

Acts 4

Response – The church remained unified.

Acts 4:24-33

The Church Under (and On) Fire

External Attack – Peter and John threatened.

Acts 4

Response – The church remained unified.

Acts 4:24-33

They spoke the Word of God with boldness.

Acts 4:31

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Acts 4:24-33

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Acts 4:31

Power Evangelism

Acts 5:12-16

The Church Under (and On) Fire

The Church Under (and On) Fire

Internal Attack

The Church Under (and On) Fire

Internal Attack

Response

The Church Under (and On) Fire

Internal Attack – Ananias and Sapphira

Acts 5:1-11

Response

The Church Under (and On) Fire

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Response – God quickly judged those who were threatening the unity and trust of the church.

Acts 5:5, 10

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Great fear came upon (1) all the church and upon (2) all those who heard these things (lost and saved).

Acts 5:11

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External Attack

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External Attack

Response

The Church Under (and On) Fire

External Attack – Apostles threatened with death and beaten for speaking in the name of Jesus.

Acts 5:17-18, 33, 40

Response

The Church Under (and On) Fire

External Attack – Apostles threatened with death and beaten for speaking in the name of Jesus.

Acts 5:17-18, 33, 40

Response – God miraculously delivered them, and they spoke with even more boldness.

Acts 5:41-42

The Church Under (and On) Fire

The Church Under (and On) Fire

So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name.

And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.

Acts 5:41-42

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The Church Under (and On) Fire

The Church Under (and On) Fire

Internal Attack

The Church Under (and On) Fire

Internal Attack

Response

The Church Under (and On) Fire

Internal Attack – Church unity and trust threatened
by factions, prejudice, and selfishness.

Acts 6:1

Response

The Church Under (and On) Fire

Internal Attack – Church unity and trust threatened by factions, prejudice, and selfishness.

Acts 6:1

Response – Greater church responsibility and structure to ensure unity, transparency, and trust.

Acts 6:3-6

The Church Under (and On) Fire

Internal Attack – Church unity and trust threatened by factions, prejudice, and selfishness.

Acts 6:1

Response – Greater church responsibility and structure to ensure unity, transparency, and trust.

Acts 6:3-6

And the church continued to grow.

The Church Under (and On) Fire

The Church Under (and On) Fire

Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

Acts 6:7

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The Church Under (and On) Fire

The Church Under (and On) Fire

External Attack

The Church Under (and On) Fire

External Attack

Response

The Church Under (and On) Fire

External Attack – Stephen was killed by a mob.

Acts 6:8 – 7:60

Response

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Acts 6:8 – 7:60

Saul persecuted the church in Jerusalem.

Acts 8:1

Response

The Church Under (and On) Fire

External Attack – Stephen was killed by a mob.

Acts 6:8 – 7:60

Saul persecuted the church in Jerusalem.

Acts 8:1

Response – The church continued to grow as they were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria preaching the Word wherever they went.

Acts 8:1, 4

The Church Under (and On) Fire

The Church Under (and On) Fire

Now Saul was consenting to his death.
At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.

Acts 8:1

The Church Under (and On) Fire

Now Saul was consenting to his death.

At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.

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The Church Under (and On) Fire

The Church Under (and On) Fire

Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.

Acts 8:4

The Church Under (and On) Fire

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What did the early church have that maybe we don't?

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What did the early church have that maybe we don't?

Or what can we learn from them about spiritually thriving under extreme adversity?

The Church Under (and On) Fire

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What did the early church have that maybe we don't?

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But first, a little background on the preaching of Jesus.

The Message of Jesus

The Message of Jesus

From that time Jesus began to preach and to say,
“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Matthew 4:17

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From that time Jesus began to preach and to say,
“Repent, for the **kingdom of heaven** is at hand.”

Matthew 4:17

And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their
synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom,
and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of
disease among the people.

Matthew 4:23

The Message of Jesus

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Matthew 4:23

The Message of Jesus

The Message of Jesus

“Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

Matthew 5:3

The Message of Jesus

“Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the **kingdom of heaven.**”

Matthew 5:3

The Message of Jesus

“Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the **kingdom of heaven.**”

Matthew 5:3

“But seek first the kingdom of God and His
righteousness, and all these things
shall be added to you.”

Matthew 6:33

The Message of Jesus

“Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the **kingdom of heaven.**”

Matthew 5:3

“But seek first the **kingdom of God** and His
righteousness, and all these things
shall be added to you.”

Matthew 6:33

The Message of Jesus

The Message of Jesus

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

Matthew 9:35

The Message of Jesus

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, **preaching the gospel of the kingdom**, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

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Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, **preaching the gospel of the kingdom**, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

Matthew 9:35

“And as you go, preach, saying,
‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’”

Matthew 10:7

The Message of Jesus

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, **preaching the gospel of the kingdom**, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

Matthew 9:35

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Matthew 10:7

The Message of Jesus

The Message of Jesus

Kingdom Parables – Matthew 13

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Peter's Confession of Christ – Matthew 16

The Message of Jesus

Kingdom Parables – Matthew 13

Peter's Confession of Christ – Matthew 16

“And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

Matthew 16:17

The Message of Jesus

Kingdom Parables – Matthew 13

Peter's Confession of Christ – Matthew 16

“And I will give you the keys of **the kingdom of heaven**, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

Matthew 16:17

The Message of Jesus

The Message of Jesus

At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying,
“Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”

Matthew 18:1

The Message of Jesus

At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying,
“Who then is greatest in **the kingdom of heaven?**”

Matthew 18:1

The Message of Jesus

At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying,
“Who then is greatest in **the kingdom of heaven?**”

Matthew 18:1

“Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain
king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants.”

Matthew 18:23

The Message of Jesus

At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying,
“Who then is greatest in **the kingdom of heaven?**”

Matthew 18:1

“Therefore **the kingdom of heaven is like** a certain
king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants.”

Matthew 18:23

The Message of Jesus

The Message of Jesus

But Jesus said, “Let the little children come to Me,
and do not forbid them; for of such is
the kingdom of heaven.”

Matthew 19:14

The Message of Jesus

But Jesus said, “Let the little children come to Me,
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Matthew 19:14

The Message of Jesus

The Message of Jesus

Then Jesus said to His disciples,
“Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man
to enter the kingdom of heaven.
And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go
through the eye of a needle than for a rich man
to enter the kingdom of God.”

Matthew 19:23-24

The Message of Jesus

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Matthew 19:23-24

The Message of Jesus

The Message of Jesus

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard.”

Matthew 20:1

The Message of Jesus

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“For **the kingdom of heaven is like** a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard.”

Matthew 20:1

“The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son.”

Matthew 22:2

The Message of Jesus

“For **the kingdom of heaven is like** a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard.”

Matthew 20:1

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Matthew 22:2

The Message of Jesus

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“Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.”

Matthew 25:1

The Message of Jesus

“Then **the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to**
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The Message of Jesus

“Then **the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to** ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.”

Matthew 25:1

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them.”

Matthew 25:14

The Message of Jesus

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The Message of Jesus

The Message of Jesus

Even the message of salvation secured by Jesus was tied to the kingdom of God.

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Remember the conversation with Nicodemus?

The Message of Jesus

The Message of Jesus

Jesus answered and said to him,

“Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again,
he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you,
unless one is born of water and the Spirit,
he cannot enter the kingdom of God.”

John 3:3, 5

The Message of Jesus

Jesus answered and said to him,

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John 3:3, 5

The Message of Jesus

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All this took place *before* the resurrection.

The Message of Jesus

All this took place *before* the resurrection.

What did Jesus teach His disciples *after*
His resurrection?

The Message of Jesus

The Message of Jesus

The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen,

Acts 1:1-2

The Message of Jesus

to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

Acts 1:3

The Message of Jesus

to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and **speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.**

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to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and **speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.**

Acts 1:3

What does it mean to have Jesus as King?

The Message of Jesus

to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and **speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.**

Acts 1:3

What does it mean to have Jesus as King?
And what does it feel like to be a child of the King?

Being a Child of Royalty

Being a Child of Royalty

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these (the ones led by the Spirit of God) 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.”

Romans 8:14-15

Being a Child of Royalty

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these (the ones led by the Spirit of God) 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.”

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Being a Child of Royalty

Being a Child of Royalty

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, (condition) if indeed we suffer with Him, (why) that we may also be glorified together.

Romans 8:16-17

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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, (condition) if indeed we suffer with Him, (why) that we may also be glorified together.

Romans 8:16-17

As children of God, we are not immune to suffering like Christ also suffered, yet He did not despair.

Being a Child of Royalty

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, (condition) if indeed we suffer with Him, (why) that we may also be glorified together.

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Romans 8:16-17

In fact, Peter tells us how to suffer like Christ, letting Jesus be our example when (not *if*) we suffer.

Being a Child of Royalty

Being a Child of Royalty

For to this (suffering and mistreatment) you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:

“Who committed no sin,
nor was deceit found in His mouth”;
who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return;
when He suffered, He did not threaten, but
committed Himself to Him who judges righteously;

1 Peter 2:21-23

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nor was deceit found in His mouth”;
who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return;
when He suffered, He did not threaten, but
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1 Peter 2:21-23

Being a Child of Royalty

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Being a Child of Royalty

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who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness— by whose stripes you were healed.

For you were like sheep going astray,
but have now returned to the
Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

1 Peter 2:24-25

Being a Child of Royalty

Being a Child of Royalty

As a child of royalty, our Father, the King, has power to do whatever He chooses in any situation.

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Why?

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Why?

Because He knows what is best for those He loves.

Being a Child of Royalty

Being a Child of Royalty

And we know that all things work together for good to (who) those (1) who love God, to those (2) who are the called according to His purpose (choice).

Romans 8:28

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The early church knew this and lived in that truth. Hence, they thrived under persecution and hardship. Their focus was on their Father's love, and not on the dire circumstances they were experiencing.

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They also understood the sovereignty of God.

Being a Child of Royalty

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They also understood the sovereignty of God. And they lived knowing that, as children of royalty, their Father, the King, was surprised by nothing.

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Being a Child of Royalty

Being a Child of Royalty

“For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined (when) before to be done.”

Acts 4:27-28

Being a Child of Royalty

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And finally, in the midst of hardship and death, they knew they were loved by their Father, the King.

Being a Child of Royalty

Being a Child of Royalty

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?
Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution,
or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

As it is written:

“For Your sake we are killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.”

Yet in all these things we are more than
conquerors through Him who loved us.

Romans 8:35-37

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Being a Child of Royalty

For I am persuaded that neither death nor life,
nor angels nor principalities nor powers,
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Being a Child of Royalty

Being a Child of Royalty

So what does all this mean for you, a child of royalty,
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Being a Child of Royalty

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What confidence do you have knowing you are a child
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(Rom. 8:16-17)

Being a Child of Royalty

So what does all this mean for you, a child of royalty, right now in your present situation?

What confidence do you have knowing you are a child of God, and as such, a joint-heir with Jesus?

(Rom. 8:16-17)

And how does it make you feel when you fully understand the fact that nothing, not even your sins, transgressions, failures, or shortcomings, can separate you from the love of your Father, the King?

Being a Child of Royalty

So rest this week in who you are in Him.

