

Bay City Wesleyan Church
September 18, 2016

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Sunday Morning 09-18-2106

The Holy Spirit reveals our progress on our spiritual journey.
<http://bible.com/events/98200>
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Mile Markers on Your Spiritual Journey

Are you making progress on your spiritual journey? Are you headed the right direction? How do you know?

Starting today, September 18th, we will look for a few of the "Mile Markers on Your Spiritual Journey." There are several shifts in our souls that develop on our spiritual journeys. Bring a friend next week so he or she can discover the mile markers too.

All of us are on a spiritual journey in this life. You are all headed somewhere; but how do you know which direction you're going? How did you choose your destination? How can you tell if you're making progress? Over the next few Sundays, we will be spotting four important mile markers on the way to knowing Jesus better.

Ways We Are Slaves:

- Slaves to rules - struggling to be good enough to impress Jesus
- Slaves to excuses - painting over our brokenness with justifications so Jesus won't know the truth
- Slaves to expectations - focusing on approval from friends, family, and society, in order to feel good about us
- Slavery to addictions - start out seeking pleasure and end up needing it

Romans 8:15-17 NLT

So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, "Abba, Father." For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children. And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering.

Sermon in a Sentence:

I am no longer a slave to fear; I am a child of God.

A NEW WAY TO LOOK AT US

Left to ourselves, we are slaves to fear. Fear of God's judgment rules our lives. This slavery takes many forms, but there is only one solution. Jesus offers us the gift of grace. He can set us free to be children of God.

INVITATION:

Do you sense the Holy Spirit prompting you to receive the freedom of being adopted into God's family? Are you wondering if it could be true? Do you feel a glimmer of hope deep inside? Is there a part of you that longs for release from whatever enslaves you?

Will you receive Jesus' love and forgiveness? If not now, when? If not here, where?

Will you pray a simple pray receiving Jesus' gift of freedom and adoption?

"Jesus, here I am. Thank you for loving me. Forgive my sins. Take control of my life and make me a child of God. Amen."