

A banner with a light beige background and a dark green border. The text "Catechism: Foundations of the Faith" is written in a dark green, serif font. The background of the banner shows a wooden surface, a green book, and a keyboard.

Catechism: Foundations of the Faith

My Only Comfort (Part 3)

Key idea:

Knowing all of these things, what is your only comfort in life and death? That I with body and soul, both in life and death, am not my own, but belong unto my faithful Savior Jesus Christ; who, with his precious blood, has fully satisfied for all my sins, and delivered me from all the power of the devil; and so preserves me that without the will of my heavenly Father, not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, that all things must work together for my salvation, and therefore, by his Holy Spirit, He also assures me of eternal life, and makes me sincerely willing and ready, from this day forth, to live unto him.

Key text:

Romans 8:12–17

Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation — but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. ¹³ For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, ¹⁴ because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” ¹⁶ The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. ¹⁷ Now if we are children, then we are heirs — heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

Key points:

1. The entire Trinity - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - have planned and brought us salvation.
2. The Holy Spirit assures us that we are God’s children, and therefore have eternal life and will receive an eternal inheritance along with Jesus.
3. The Holy Spirit is God’s down payment of our inheritance, guaranteeing the full inheritance in eternity.

4. We respond to all that God has done for us with gratitude, having a sincere desire to live for God.
5. In response to God's amazing grace, Christians are to be willing to suffer and die for God, knowing that He will work everything to our good and has promised us an eternal, glorious inheritance.

Questions for discussion/application:

1. Note: this is BRCC Catechism Question 98. It is the final question in our catechism and is intended as a summary response to all that has preceded it.
2. What part of Sunday's text and teaching stood out most to me? Why?
3. Do the Father, Son, and Spirit do the same thing to bring me salvation? If not, what specific things does Scripture teach that each Person in the Trinity does for my salvation?
4. Why is it important to know that the Holy Spirit testifies to my spirit that I am God's child? Is Christianity merely a philosophy, or is there an experiential side to the Christian faith? Why is this important? Am I experiencing this ministry of the Holy Spirit?
5. Paul says the Holy Spirit causes me to cry out "Abba, Father" as Jesus did. He also tells us in Romans 8:26 that the Spirit intercedes for us with groans that words can't even express. Have I experienced the Spirit's Presence and help in my prayer life? How can I grow in this area?
6. Paul says that I am now God's child, that I can call God "Abba, Father" like Jesus did, and that I am a co-heir with Christ. How is my status as God's child similar to Jesus' status as God's Son? How is it different?
7. This catechism answer says that the Spirit makes me sincerely willing and ready, from this day forth, to live unto God. Is it possible for someone to be a Christian and to NOT have a desire to live for God? Why or why not?
8. How does Paul describe sanctification in Romans 8:12-14? What metaphors does he use to describe my life as a Christian? What part does the Holy Spirit play in my sanctification?
9. In Romans 8:17 Paul says that I must share in Christ's sufferings in order that I might also share in His glory. Why does Paul link suffering and glory like this? Can I think of other places in the Scripture where suffering and glory are linked like this? What does this order of suffering and then glory tell me about the Christian life?

10. Bret encouraged everyone to actually memorize this catechism question and answer. What is the benefit of memorizing something like this? Is it really worth the effort? Have I started memorizing it yet?
11. Who will I call to encourage this week? What specific members of BRCC will I commit before God to call?

Preview of next week: Jesus Christ: The Victor (Mark 5)