

A PRELUDE TO *BIBLICAL* EVANGELISM

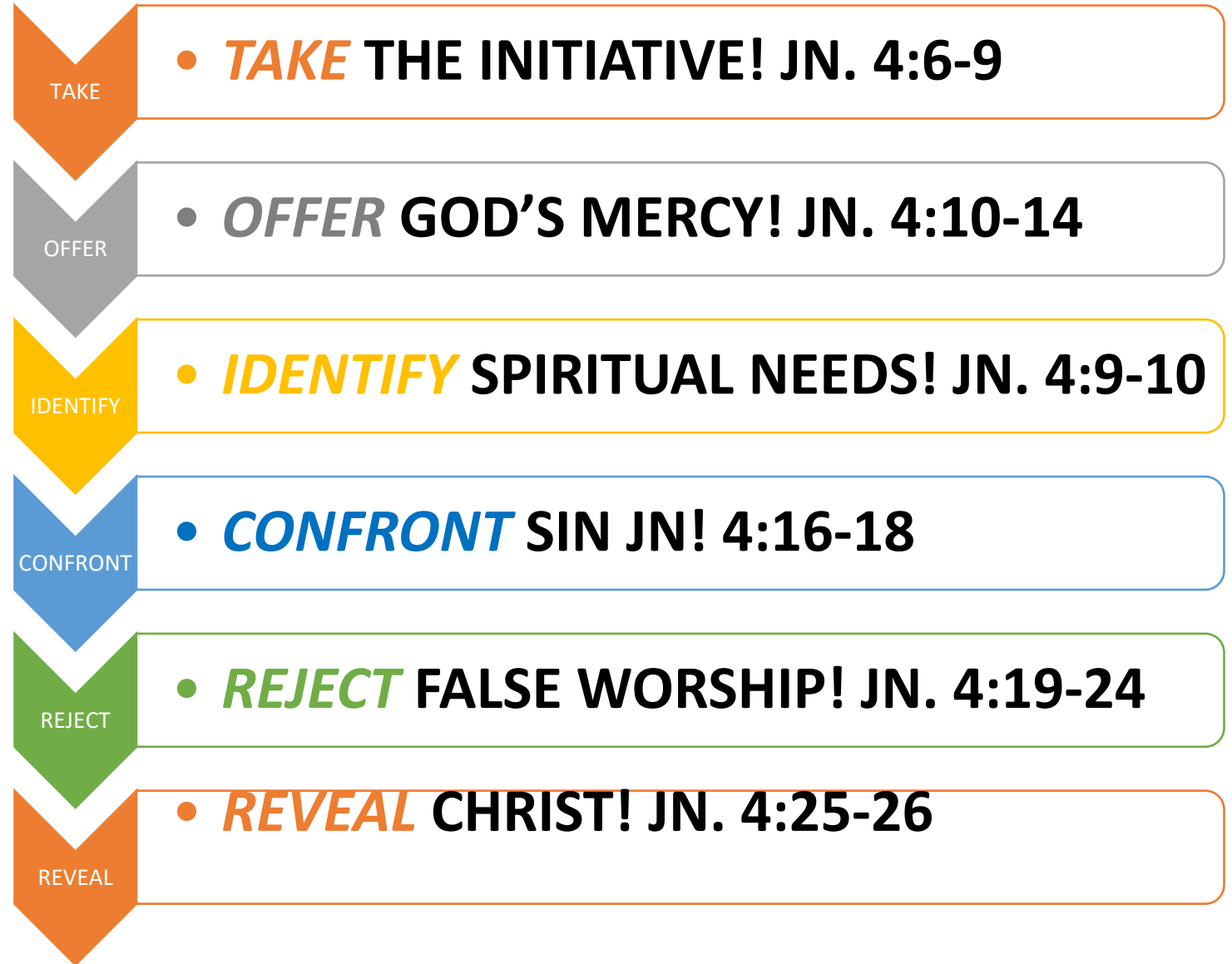


A large, ancient tree with thick, gnarled roots growing over stone ruins. The tree's roots are massive and spread out over the ground and the ruins. The background shows more stone structures and lush green foliage.

THE FRUIT OF
THE RIGHTEOUS IS A
TREE OF LIFE,
AND HE WHO IS WISE
WINS SOULS.

PROVERBS 11:30 NASB

PRINCIPLES
FOR
BIBLICAL
EVANGELISM
FOUND IN
JOHN 4, “THE
WOMAN AT
THE WELL.”



OUR INHERITANCE

*inheritance, a holy nation,
a royal priesthood,
a peculiar people,
zealous of good works.*

PRIVILEGES OF BEING
HEIRS OF GOD

But ye are

- **TRASH OR TREASURE?**
- A RICH **LEGACY** TO ENJOY
- WE **INHERIT** **GOD**
- WE **INHERIT** **CHRIST**
- WE **INHERIT** **THE HOLY SPIRIT**
- WE **INHERIT** **SALVATION**
- WE **INHERIT** **THE KINGDOM**
- HOW TO WAIT FOR **HEAVEN**
- **#1** REMEMBER YOUR **CALLING**
- **#2** REMEMBER TO **PRAISE GOD**
- **#3** REMEMBER YOUR **INHERITANCE**
- HOW TO RECEIVE **TRUE RICHES**

IMPERISHABLE, UNDEFILED, AND UNFADING

- What would it be like to have endless riches stored up for you—a future reward that could never be taken away, but that could be enjoyed forever? ***IF YOU ARE A CHRISTIAN, THAT IS AN ACCURATE DESCRIPTION OF THE INHERITANCE GOD HAS STORED UP FOR YOU.***
- The apostle **PETER** used **3** negative terms to describe the positive perfection of our eternal inheritance: ***“IMPERISHABLE,” “UNDEFILED,”*** and ***“UNFADING”*** (**1 PET. 1:4,**). The Greek word translated **“IMPERISHABLE”** (**APHTHARTOS**) speaks of something that is not corruptible, but **PERMANENT**. The word evokes the image of a land ravaged by a conquering army; so, **PETER** was saying:

OUR ETERNAL INHERITANCE CANNOT BE PLUNDERED OR SPOILED BY OUR SPIRITUAL FOES.

- “**UNDEFILED**” (*AMIAANTOS*) means unpolluted or unstained by **SIN**, **EVIL**, or **DECAY**. Unlike this world, in which nothing escapes the stain of sin (**ROM. 8:20–23**), our inheritance can never be **CONTAMINATED**, **DEFILED**, or in any way **CORRUPTED**. It is **UNBLEMISHED** and **UNSTAINED** by the presence or effects of sin (**REV 21:27**).
- “**UNFADING**,” comes from a Greek term used of flowers. In the context of **1 PET**, it suggests a supernatural beauty that time cannot diminish. **PETER** used the same word with reference to the unfading crown of glory that faithful elders will receive when the Chief Shepherd appears (**1 PET. 5:4**).
- Those **3** terms—**IMPERISHABLE**, **UNDEFILED**, AND **UNFADING**— picture a heavenly inheritance that is **IMPERVIOUS TO DEATH, SIN, AND THE EFFECTS OF TIME**. Considering the corrupting, damning influence of sin on the world, **IT IS WONDERFUL TO KNOW OUR INHERITANCE IN CHRIST IS TIMELESS AND WILL NEVER DIMINISH**.

- The **BELIEVER'S INHERITANCE** is ***"RESERVED IN HEAVEN FOR YOU, WHO ARE PROTECTED BY THE POWER OF GOD THROUGH FAITH FOR A SALVATION READY TO BE REVEALED IN THE LAST TIME"*** (1 PET. 1:4–5). We need never fear the loss of our inheritance, since **IT IS UNDER GOD'S OWN WATCHFUL CARE.**
- Not only is God watching over our inheritance, but He also is doing so in the safest of all places: **HEAVEN**. That's where ***"NEITHER MOTH NOR RUST DESTROYS, AND WHERE THIEVES DO NOT BREAK IN OR STEAL"*** (MATT. 6:20), and where ***"NOTHING UNCLEAN, AND NO ONE WHO PRACTICES ABOMINATION AND LYING, SHALL EVER [ENTER], BUT ONLY THOSE WHOSE NAMES ARE WRITTEN IN THE LAMB'S BOOK OF LIFE"*** (REV. 21:27). ***"OUTSIDE ARE THE DOGS AND THE SORCERERS AND THE IMMORAL PERSONS AND THE MURDERERS AND THE IDOLATERS, AND EVERYONE WHO LOVES AND PRACTICES LYING"*** (REV. 22:15). NO ONE WILL EVER INVADE OR PLUNDER **HEAVEN**. THEREFORE, **OUR INHERITANCE IS ETERNALLY SECURE.**

- **MANY CHRISTIANS ARE CONFIDENT THAT GOD IS ABLE TO GUARD THEIR INHERITANCE BUT DOUBT THAT HE CAN GUARD THEM.** They fear they will somehow lose their salvation and forfeit God's promises. That's a popular view, but it overlooks the fact that God does pledge to protect us as well!
- **PETER** said, **"YOU . . . ARE PROTECTED BY THE POWER OF GOD THROUGH FAITH FOR A SALVATION READY TO BE REVEALED IN THE LAST TIME"** (1 PET. 1:4–5). The word translated "PROTECTED" (*PHROUROUMENOUS*) is a military term that speaks of a guard. **PETER** used the present tense to indicate that we are continually under guard. Implied is the idea that **WE NEED ONGOING PROTECTION BECAUSE WE'RE IN A CONSTANT BATTLE WITH SATAN AND HIS FORCES.**

- **IT IS GOD'S OMNIPOTENT, SOVEREIGN POWER THAT GUARDS US AND GUARANTEES OUR FINAL VICTORY.** God, the ultimate Judge, has justified us in Christ, made us heirs with Him, and has given us His Spirit to ensure that the good work He started in us will be perfected (**PHIL. 1:6**). He is able to keep us from stumbling, and to make us **"STAND IN THE PRESENCE OF HIS GLORY BLAMELESS WITH GREAT JOY"** (**JUDE 24**). Not even Satan himself can condemn us (**ROM. 8:33**),

SO RATHER THAN FEARING THE LOSS OF OUR INHERITANCE WE SHOULD CONTINUALLY REJOICE IN GOD'S GREAT GRACE AND MERCY.

- **ANOTHER GUARANTEE** of our **INHERITANCE** is our **PERSEVERING FAITH**. **PETER** said we are protected by God's power **THROUGH FAITH** (**1 PET. 1:5**). **FAITH IS GOD'S GIFT TO US; WE DON'T GENERATE IT ON OUR OWN** (**Eph. 2:8–9; Phil. 1:29**).

- 
- ***FAITH IS AROUSED BY GRACE, UPHELD BY GRACE, AND ENERGIZED BY GRACE.*** Grace reaches into the soul of the believer, generating and maintaining faith. ***BY GOD'S GRACE ALONE WE TRUST CHRIST, AND BY GRACE WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE.***
 - ***OUR INHERITANCE*** is a glorious thing. No earthly thing compares to it. But we can ***LOSE SIGHT*** of it through ***WORLDLY PURSUITS*** and the quest for ***INSTANT GRATIFICATION.***



DEAR FRIENDS, DON'T COLLECT THIS WORLD'S TRASH AND NEGLECT THE TREASURE OF OUR UNSPEAKABLE RICHES IN CHRIST.



- 
- No matter what your circumstances might be, **CONSIDER YOUR ETERNAL INHERITANCE.**
 - **MEDITATE ON IT.** Let it fill your heart with praise to the One who has extended such grace to you.
 - **LET IT MOTIVATE YOU** to live to His glory. Don't pursue the quick fix—some worldly solution to the passing problems of life. This world's trials aren't even worthy to be compared with our eternal glory.



AND ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT YOU HAVE CHRIST, WHO IS ALL-SUFFICIENT IN EVERYTHING NOW AND FOREVER.

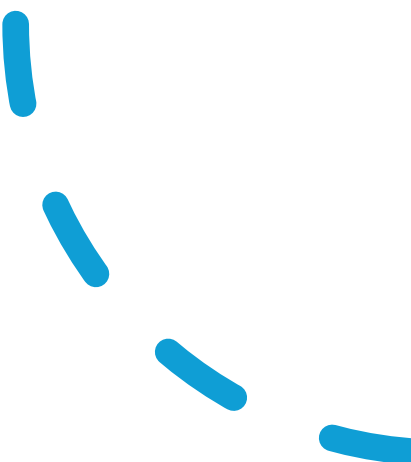
WHAT IS THE ***SPIRIT OF ADOPTION***

Being an heir of God means being a child of God and a joint-heir with Christ, inheriting eternal life, the Kingdom of God, and access to all His spiritual blessings and riches. This status offers ***ADOPTION*** into His family, ***ADOPTION*** from the curse of sin, and a secure, eternal, and glorious inheritance.

SO, WHAT IS “THE *SPIRIT OF ADOPTION***?”** It’s the transformative work of the Holy Spirit, which moves believers from a state of ***FEARFUL SLAVERY*** to sin into a confident, intimate relationship with God as their Father. He emphasizes that the “***SPIRIT OF ADOPTION***” empowers believers to cry out “***ABBA, FATHER,***” indicating secure belonging in God's family.

NOTICE (ROM. 8:15) ***“FOR YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED A SPIRIT OF SLAVERY LEADING TO FEAR AGAIN, BUT YOU HAVE RECEIVED A SPIRIT OF ADOPTION AS SONS BY WHICH WE CRY OUT, “ABBA! FATHER!”***

- **ADOPTION, NOT SLAVERY**: Believers have not received a spirit that leads back to slavery or fear, which is characteristic of the old, unregenerate life under the law.
- **THE SPIRIT OF ADOPTION**: The **HOLY SPIRIT** is the agent of adoption, bringing believers into God's family and conforming them to the ***“FAMILY RESEMBLANCE”*** of Jesus Christ.
- **THE PHRASE “ABBA, FATHER”**: This represents the ***INTIMATE, AFFECTIONATE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN A CHILD AND THEIR FATHER***. The word **“ABBA”** is an **ARAMAIC TERM** of **ENDEARMENT**, reflecting the **SECURE, PERSONAL LOVE GOD HAS FOR HIS ADOPTED CHILDREN**.

- 
- 
- **A NEW RELATIONSHIP: THE SPIRIT OF ADOPTION CHANGES THE BELIEVER'S STANCE TOWARD GOD FROM ONE OF TERROR (FEAR OF JUDGMENT) TO ONE OF CONFIDENCE (KNOWING THEY ARE CHILDREN OF GOD).**