



THE DISCIPLESHIP CHALLENGE 2023

**GROWING & GOING**

## **SUNDAY 12TH FEBRUARY 2023**

**"Graciously Adopted" / Romans 8: 12-17**

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- Failure makes us fearful (v12-13)
- But obedience to the spirit sets us free (v14-15a)
- Because, amazingly, God chose you and me. (v15b-16)
- We are heirs to the King (v17a)
- Incredibly, we share in His glory (v17b)

If you were famous, how would you handle the intense pressure of living under the spotlight of public opinion? Yet, each of us come under that same pressure to perform well, otherwise, people might reject us. How do you cope with this fear?

Paul talks about the obligation to live according to God's spirit and not worldly thinking. This flows over into how we should live, but it starts with our attitude. What Godly attitude should we have towards love, acceptance and forgiveness, even though we often fail? How is this different from worldly thinking?

Look at v 14-15a. We do not have the spirit of fear. What enables us to live in confidence and joy, despite our shortcomings? We are not shaped by our failures. We are shaped by who our Father is. Is it a battle for you to live in this freedom? Why do you think it is?

God chose you to be His child. He chose you even though He sees you at your very worst. How does that make you feel? The world looks for our weaknesses to bring us down. Yet God saw all of our weaknesses and adopted us into His family. Does failure cause you to fear? Do you try and hide your weaknesses? Share the freedom of being loved by "Abba Father."

There is no place like home. What can we do "at home" that we wouldn't do anywhere else? Do you feel "at home" with God? Are you able to live according to God's truth which brings life, or do you still struggle with worldly thinking and live in fear of what needs to change for you?



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