

“God’s Children”

John 1:6-13

Hello friend and welcome to *Hope for Today*. My name is J. Mark Horst; I’m your friend and Bible teacher. The program you’re listening to is produced by Heralds of Hope, an international Gospel radio and literature ministry.

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As a follower of Jesus, do you ever feel alone? Have you been rejected by your friends, or maybe even your family. Have you lost your job or were not hired of a job simply because you choose to follow Jesus. Let me encourage you, never forget that you are God’s child and that He cares for you. He loves you and wants what is best for you. And another thing, don’t forget that there are other Christ-followers who are praying for you.

I am thankful that early in life God led me to believe His Word. That belief has protected me from much evil. And I am challenging you, if you haven’t already done so, to open your heart to faith in God and His Word, the Bible.

Faith is the door to great understanding of the truths of God’s Word. Why do I say that? Well, Hebrews 11:6 tells us that “*without faith it is impossible to please God, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who [diligently] seek him.*” Did you hear that? Without faith it is impossible to please God, that is, to gain his approval.

Now, here’s Dr. Yoder with today’s teaching.

God in His wisdom created the first pair, male and female. Then He commanded them to be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth. In other words, it was expected of Adam and Eve that they would bear children, that children would be born to them. But, you know, all that parents can do is reproduce themselves. No human parents have ever given birth to any other creature than human children. What you are is what you bring forth.

A man once said to me, “All you can do is bring forth little heathen!” In a sense that is true because all of us are separated from God until we take a step of faith in His direction. There is a part in each of us that must be touched by the Spirit of God to be born in a spiritual way. And the

Logos, the Word, has a part in making us GOD'S CHILDREN. John 1:6-13 is the Scripture basis for this meditation.

- 1 *There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.*
- 2 *The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe.*
- 3 *He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.*
- 4 *That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.*
- 5 *He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.*
- 6 *He came unto his own, and his own received him not.*
- 7 *But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:*
- 8 *Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*

In these few verses several ACTIONS of God are set forth by which we can become God's children.

Will you notice what they are?

He Included All Men.

He included all men by His messenger. God sent a messenger. His name was John. He came to bear witness of the Light: to bear witness, to point out the Light, to help people see the Light, to instruct them who the Light is. The reason was "that all men might believe." Note, He included all men.

Now John was not that Light. That was made very clear. He was sent to bear witness of the Light, to point out who the Light is. Please notice carefully that no one can take the place of the Light. This one who came was to say who the Light is and where the Light could be found. In doing so God was working out His purpose to include all men for the Scripture says, "that all men through Him might believe."

My dear friend, that means that God included you in "the all men."

The actions of God are seen in another way.

He Influenced Everyone.

He influenced everyone by His mission. He, the Light, was sent to lighten every man. That was the true Light to which John bore witness and it is the Light that lights every man who comes into the world. There is something of a response to the Light in your soul, in your being. God has given you a bit of light.

Jesus, the true Light, was in the world. He made the world order; it is His creation. He came here as the Light and yet His own creatures whom He made did not receive Him. His own did not receive Him.

Yet, His coming as the Light influenced everyone. I'm so glad for this because it means no one is excluded. Everyone is included, like I mentioned, but even more, so is everyone influenced by the Light. We have a capability of responding to that Light.

In fact, my friend, you yourself have been influenced by Him. You may not really know it, but you have been because the light of God has been placed within you so that that light can be responsive to this light, the true Light. The Bible here clearly tells us that that Light has lightened every man. In the action of God, He influenced everyone.

The third action of God is seen as

He Enables Certain Ones.

He enables certain ones by His ministry. I want you to follow carefully how this is written. All men are included, everyone has been influenced but only certain ones come to the light. He enables certain ones by His ministry. Who are those certain ones? The ones who receive Him. "But to those who received him, to them he gave the authority to become the children of God." God's children.

Right there, my friend, is the starting place. The basic turning point is right there. As many as receive Him He enables to become children of God. He changes you. After that change you are a child of God. You become God's child, born of God not in the normal process of blood or flesh or the will of man but born of God.

I said earlier when God made the first pair, He ordered them to be fruitful and replenish the earth. They could only bring forth and reproduce themselves. It is therefore important, my friend, that you have another birth, that you be born of God.

But this is only possible to those certain ones who receive Him. Only believers in the Logos are then made children of God. You can become a child of God if you will receive Him.

Let me go over that again. You must receive Him, Jesus Christ. You must believe in Him and then He will give you power to become a child of God because you believe on His name.

So the actions of God as expressed in the Logos to bring us into God's family are: He included all men in the potential belief; He influences every one because He has made man with the capability to come to God; He enables certain ones, those who truly believe in Him. That is why I keep insisting, my friend, that faith will open great doors of understanding and experience to you. But you must take that step of faith in Him.

CLOSING

Yes, my friend, as Dr. Yoder said, "you must take the step of faith in God if you want to become one of His children." In Romans 10:9 and 10, the apostle Paul wrote, "*if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and **believe in your heart** that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*" And when you receive salvation you are God's child.

I must tell you, to receive salvation through Jesus is the most important decision you will ever make. It not only will transform your life now, but it will also determine your eternal destiny. Please don't misunderstand me. I am not saying that becoming a Christ-follower will make your life easy. In fact, it very well could make your outward circumstances more difficult. But in your heart and mind you will have peace because you will have the presence of Jesus living right within you. And no one can take that away from you!

Now, were you blessed by this teaching? If so, you can request an audio CD or a printed copy of this complete teaching, "God's Children."

The quickest way for you to contact me is to send an e-mail to mail@heraldsofhope.org. That e-mail address is mail@heraldsofhope.org. Or you may write to *Hope for Today*, Box 3, Breezewood, Pennsylvania 15533. Remember, you can request a printed manuscript or an audio CD of this teaching, "God's Children." I'd be happy to send one to you.

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Now friend, I urge you to tune in next week as Dr. Yoder continues our study in the Gospel of John. And until then, keep looking for that blessed HOPE.