

The Adopted Life

Second Sunday of Lent ~ 03.20.2011

Romans 4.3-5, 16-17 – A paraphrase

By entrusting himself to Papa, Abraham entered into what he had been given—a right relationship with Papa and the world.

(4) Abraham was not earning a paycheck; he was receiving a gift. BIG difference! (5) It is not we who are working hard to earn a right relationship with Papa. It is Papa who (along with Jesus and the Spirit) has already worked hard to create a right relationship with people like us! Though we have earned nothing, we have been given everything. As we trust in the giver, we begin to share in the incarnate Son's right relationship with his Papa and with all things in the dance of the Spirit.... (16) We receive our inheritance not by keeping rules but by trusting in the One who rules us and keeps us. What is promised is a gift, not an earned wage. The gift is received by all of Abraham's children—everyone who by faith know the One Abraham knew, whether they follow Torah or not. He is the father of us all, (17) as the Bible says:

I have made you the father of MANY peoples.

We trust the One he trusted, the One in whom we live and move and have our being, the One who makes life out of death, the One who makes all things out of nothings.

~ John Stonecypher