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## **Andrew Purves on the Sending of the Holy Spirit**

We're sometimes asked "Are you sure the adoption of humanity is the gospel? I've never heard it before." In this light we find it helpful to look at the writings of other Christians who have expressed the gospel clearly.

In *The Crucifixion of Ministry* Andrew Purves makes this comment about the Father's sending of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost:

Because we, men and women, are in Christ Jesus, sharing in his life and belonging to God just as his Son Jesus belongs to God, sharing therefore in his Sonship, *God sent* again. This is a second sending. "God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying 'Abba, Father!'" (Galatians 4:6). We can cry out the holy name of God. We are no longer slaves but members of God's family, calling on God by his name. Now we have a Father in heaven. John Calvin said of this that it is not what persons themselves believe in the foolishness of the flesh but what God declares in their hearts.

Notice it is God who cries out to God! God sent his Spirit so when we cry out "Abba! Dear Father!" it is God crying out to God through the instrumentality of our vocal chords. It is God naming God within the spiritual incapacity of our humanity. We can't even be trusted to speak the name of God, so God does it for us. ~ *The Crucifixion of Ministry*, pp. 115-116. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2007. (Emphasis is his).