



TRANSFORMED

DEVOTIONS CONNECTING TEENS TO CHRIST

The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.”

Romans 8:16-17

Adopted

Did you ever have to recite the words of Luke 2 at Christmas? “In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree...” How much do you know about this ‘Caesar Augustus’?

He was the first emperor of Rome and an incredibly powerful and successful leader. He said when dying, “I found Rome made of clay. I left it made of marble.” It’s true. Augustus helped build Rome into the empire it was. He transformed a city, a nation, and even history itself.

With power like that, you would think that he was born into that power. But you would be wrong. Caesar Augustus was born with the name Gaius Octavius and was pretty much a nobody in Rome. His only claim to fame was that he was a distant relative to the great Julius Caesar.

But then on March 15 in 44 B.C., something shocking happened. Julius Caesar was assassinated. As shocking as Caesar’s murder was, the real shock came when they read Caesar’s last will and testament. In his will, Julius Caesar adopted Octavius as his son and heir. This meant that Octavius was suddenly given power and wealth beyond his imagination. He was given the throne simply because someone with power and wealth, Julius Caesar, declared it.

As incredible as that story is, your story is even better! Someone with all power in heaven and on earth has declared something about you. Someone with an eternal kingdom and a heavenly throne has declared you to be his child and heir. At your baptism, God adopted you into his family. As you read this devotion, the Spirit is testifying to you that you are God’s child. This means you belong to a kingdom greater than Rome. You belong to him! His forgiveness is yours! His peace is yours! His heavenly kingdom is your heavenly kingdom!

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, help me never lose sight of the glorious blessings that are mine because I am your adopted child and heir. Let the Spirit’s testimony in the Word strengthen my faith each day. Amen.