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## CHILDREN OF -???

Ever been told "you're just like your father"? (probably after you did something wrong!) Even Jesus said this, to some religious leaders in John 8:37-59. But He wasn't talking about personal or physical traits. He meant spiritual heritage. They claimed to be offspring of Abraham. But their deeds were not at all like Abraham, who both trusted AND obeyed God's Word.

**CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM ?** - The Bible talks about Abraham some 300 times. He is considered the father of the Jewish nation. Over 2,000 years before Christ, God made a covenant with Abraham to make him the father of a multitude of offspring and give him a Promised Land. You can read about it in Genesis 15 and other passages. Because Abraham "believed" God, it was counted to him as righteousness. Abraham trusted what God said was true. He took action on it. He trusted and obeyed.

The Bible points to Abraham as an example of saving faith. Salvation is by grace through faith alone, not works. But trust without action is a dead faith. The letters to Romans and Galatians make this abundantly clear, as does James 2, which says Abraham's works are the evidence of his faith. You're not saved by works. But if you are saved your faith will produce works. Faith is the root, works are the fruit.

**CHILDREN OF GOD ?** - The New Testament also teaches that God's promises to Abraham are fulfilled in the person of Christ. Galatians 3 says HE is the promised offspring of faith. And all who believe and receive Christ become children of God, through faith. Therefore, ALL who are in Christ are also Abraham's offspring, children of faith who inherit the promises, all by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Some people believe every person is a "child of God." But the Bible makes it clear: physical birth makes you a human being, created in the image of God. Only spiritual birth makes you a child of God. See John 1:12-13. It's not about genetics, it's about re-generation. It's about being born again from above by the Holy Spirit. Not by the human will or of the flesh, but by God. Jesus said in John 3:3, "*Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.*"

**CHILDREN OF SATAN ?** - Back in John 8, the Jewish leaders took great offense when Jesus said they cannot bear to hear God's truth, because they are children of Satan, the father of lies. Satan tempted Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden. He is the fallen angel who led others in rebellion against God. Satan is the "adversary" of believers, who tempts you, accuses you, and seeks to enslave you to sin. But he cannot "make" you do anything. You can't blame your sin on him. You sin when you give in.

But Jesus is infinitely greater than Satan. "The Son of God appeared to destroy the works of the devil" (1 John 3:8) and "HE who is in you is greater than he who is in the world" (1 John 4:4). The Holy Spirit indwells and empowers everyone who trusts in Christ as Lord and Savior. You have His power to live out the truth, instead of the lies of the world, the flesh, and the devil. Great puritan theologian John Owen put it this way: "*be killing sin or sin will be killing you.*" Galatians 5 says in Christ, you are dead to sin, so put to death the desires of the flesh, which has been crucified with Christ. Live in the power of the Holy Spirit!

**CHILDREN OF FAITH ?** - Many of the people who heard Jesus teach these things rejected Him. They claimed Abraham and God as their father, but they denied it in their thoughts, words and deeds. "*Who do You think You are?!*" they demanded, "*greater than Abraham?*" Jesus responded with precise potent truth. Because He IS the truth, come full of truth, to bear witness to the truth.

Jesus destroyed all their arguments when He declared, "***Truly truly I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.***" This enraged them. Notice He does not say "before Abraham was, I was." He says "I AM I AM" -- uttering the infinite truth of the unutterable name of God revealed in Exodus 3:14 -- and applies it to Himself. His hearers tried to stone Him for this blasphemy.

**What about YOU ?** If you believe in Jesus - what about the children in YOUR life? Someone put it well, "*If we won't teach our children who God is, someone else will teach them who He isn't.*" Do you ALL you can today to reach everyone around you --especially children-- with the good news about Jesus!