



Our Divine Connection: Children Play in Sand, Sons Build on the Rock

Bishop Steven A. Norman, Pastor

Sunday Sermon – 2/22/2026

Romans 8:14-19: 14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." 16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs — heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together. 18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. 19 For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.

Only those who choose to walk in (live by) the Spirit are called sons of God.

Romans 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

God desires to take all born-again believers from a state of spiritual childhood to full maturity as His sons and daughters.

The evidence of how well one is maturing in this process is verbiage.

1 Corinthians 13:11 When I was a child, I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child. But when I grew up, I put away childish things.

The content of one's constant vernacular (How they speak) is evidence of their maturity.

The process of moving from childhood to sonship is the one Jesus had to go through.

Isaiah 9:6 For unto us a Child is born (unto humanity), Unto us a Son is given (by the Father);

God the Father sent God the Word in human form as a child with the destiny to be His first-begotten Son born of a woman.

Jesus grew from a Child to a Mature Son.

Luke 2:40 And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.

Notice the human side of Jesus had to grow and develop by the grace of God.

Grace is not just God's unmerited favor that forgives us and grants us what we don't deserve.

Grace is also the divine empowerment that enables us to be, do, and have what truly pleases Him.

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Luke 2:52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

Jesus increased because He took advantage of the opportunities presented to Him!

Hebrews 5:7-10 (NLT) While Jesus was here on earth, he offered prayers and pleadings, with a loud cry and tears, to the one who could rescue him from death. And God heard his prayers because of his deep reverence for God. 8 Even though Jesus was God's Son, he learned obedience from the things he suffered...

Jesus had to learn (experience) the price of being obedient to the Father.

Jesus never sins, but being obedient still cost Him.

In Jesus case, His suffering was mental, emotional, and physical as He lived a life without sin and was obedient from birth through the crucifixion process.

At times, our obedience to God's will requires suffering.

Matthew 16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

The Cross represents suffering, but also a place of victory!

Jesus was rewarded for His suffering and obedience.

...Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne.

Notice, Jesus had to qualify for His seat at the right hand of the Father as the Son of Man.

Jesus will always be God and the Son of God, but His role on our behalf is that of the Son of Man, as high priest, the perfect sacrifice, and the intercessor.

Growing up, Jesus had to develop from childhood to Sonship, Jesus had to qualify as a human filled with the Holy Spirit to become the High Priest and the Head of the Church, and to inherit all that the Father had in store for humanity.

Hebrews 5:9 (NLT) In this way, (through His sufferings and reverential fear He had for the Father) God qualified him as a perfect High Priest, and he became the source of eternal salvation for all those who obey him.

Hebrews 12:2 (NLT) We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him (the inheritance of the total seen and the unseen worlds), he endured the cross, disregarding its shame.

Just like Jesus, we have a right to expect to be rewarded for our obedience because that is what God desires.



Matthew 5:10-12 Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. 12 Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven.
3 John 2 Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.

This life is about qualifying (training for reigning) and building (Laying up worthwhile rewards in Heaven).

**1 Corinthians 3:11-15 (NLT) For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have—
Jesus Christ.**

Believers can only build on the foundation of Jesus Christ because He is the way, the truth, and the life. Building on unreliable foundations can lead to instability, much like constructing on sand that erodes easily. In contrast, establishing one's life on solid principles creates a firm base. Worldly truths are fleeting and can easily change.

It is essential to recognize that lasting beliefs cannot be built on unstable ground. Jesus is the rock, and His teachings, known as the way, the truth, and the life, provide a secure and enduring foundation for beliefs and values.

Children play in sand while Mature Sons and Daughters Build on the Rock, Jesus Christ.

If you have established a truth, you are not denying yourself. Even if what you call your truth aligns with Jesus, you risk becoming a glory stealer by taking credit for it yourself.

Luke 21:33 "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away."

Jesus' teachings, promises, and truths are eternal. They serve as a solid, lasting foundation, unlike temporary earthly ideas derived from human reasoning and demonic influences.

**1 Corinthians 3:12 Anyone who builds on that foundation (Jesus Christ) may use a variety of materials—
gold, silver, jewels, wood, hay, or straw.**

13 But on the judgment day, fire will reveal what kind of work each builder has done. The fire will show if a person's work has any value.

Our work consists of our words, our attitudes, our motives, and our actions.

Accountability for Our Words

Matthew 12:36-37 But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. 37 For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

Accountability for Our Actions

Scripture indicates that all actions, including hidden ones, will be scrutinized.

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Ecclesiastes 12:14: God will judge every deed, including hidden actions.

2 Corinthians 5:10: Everyone will appear before Christ's judgment seat to receive recompense for actions done in the body.

1 Corinthians 3:14 If the work survives, that builder will receive a reward. 15 But if the work is burned up, the builder will suffer great loss...

...The builder will be saved, but like someone barely escaping through a wall of flames.