

Q. What do the scriptures mean by being *adopted*?

A. Adoption, or receiving into the relation of a son, is the same act, whether God or man be the adopter. On as many as receive Jesus in his character as God's son, he bestows the honour of an induction into the relation of children—of sons and daughters to the Lord Almighty. And more; he communicates to them the spirit of children, so that they can with feeling, say, "Abba, Father!"

Q. In what sense are christians *saved* in this life?

A. From sin. "He shall save his people from their sins;" from the guilt, pollution, and dominion of sin in this life, and from its punishment in the next.

Q. In what consists the inheritance or heirship of christians?

A. "All things are theirs." Angels, Apostles, and Prophets; the world, life, death, and immortality; Christ himself, "*the heir of all things*;" is theirs, and they are his. Their inheritance is in the heavens—"incorruptible, undefiled, and unfading."

Q. How many salvations are spoken of as belonging to christians?

A. Three. The salvation of their persons from all the dangers of the kingdom of nature; the salvation of their souls from the guilt, pollution, and power of sin; the salvation of their bodies from the grave and from all the punishment of sin. God is the saviour of all men, especially believers, from physical dangers; he saves the souls of them that fear him from sin and Satan. And he has a salvation to be revealed at the last day, an eternal salvation of the whole person, of which all who are found faithful to death shall be partakers.

Q. What are the chief constituents of the present salvation?

A. The remission of sins and the Holy Spirit. Pardon of all past sins is necessary to peace of conscience, and is God's free and first gift through faith in his Son, and immersion into his death and resurrection. When the heart is sprinkled from an evil conscience, and the body washed with cleansing water, ours is the spirit of love, joy, peace; for the reign of God is righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. Thus in the order of nature the reception of the Holy Spirit is necessarily subsequent to the remission of our sins.

Q. What are some of the chief promises of the Author of this salvation concerning the union which subsists between the Lord and his people?

1. A. "Come out from among them and be you separate, and I will receive you, and you shall be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."

2. "I will dwell in them and walk in them; I will be their God, and they shall be my people."

3. "If a man love me he will keep my words, and my Father will love him, and we will come and make our abode with him."

4. "Behold I stand at the door and knock; if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in and sup with him and he with me."