



# The Harvester

*Preparing Souls  
To Serve The Lord!*

Volume 41

April 2021

Number 9

## Three Students Graduating May 16



**Edward Atkins** came to FSOP from the Hialeah church of Christ, where he was very active in the work. He filled-in for preaching, taught Bible classes, led singing, served in various capacities of worship and evangelism. Before coming to FSOP, he worked as a secretary for the United Teachers of Dade (County, Florida), a teachers' union. After graduation, he plans on learning a trade, so he can be self-supportive while serving the church.



**Daniel Pingree** came to FSOP from the Lake Tarpon church of Christ, where he was very active in the work. FSOP graduate Andrea Smith was instrumental in his conversion. Before coming to FSOP, he put metal plating on products. Prior to that he was a commercial diver. After graduation, he plans to work full-time preaching and serving Christ. He and his wife, Blair, have two daughters, Alexis and Avery, and a newborn son, Jeremiah.



**Gavin C. Williams** came to FSOP from the Hialeah church of Christ, where he was involved in leading prayer, serving on the Lord's table, and assisting in other acts of worship. He has also filled-in for preaching and teaching Bible classes. He worked at Dollar Tree during the summer between high school graduation and his first semester at FSOP. After graduation, he plans on learning a trade to support himself while serving the church.

## WHO CRIES OUT "ABBA, FATHER"? ... AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE

Brian R. Kenyon

For some reason, the Holy Spirit is a Bible subject some people want to avoid. True, there is much false doctrine in the religious world concerning the Holy Spirit (as there is on many other Bible sub-

jects). There are also some strange positions some brethren hold concerning the Holy Spirit that deter others from wanting to study it. My approach to studying the Holy Spirit, as with any Bible subject, is

to look first at what the Scripture actually says, without seeking input from others. After that, resource materials such as lexicons, commentaries, etc. can be of great value.

## WHO CRIES OUT “ABBA, FATHER”?

While teaching the context of Romans 8, particularly verse 15, where Paul wrote, “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,’” the comparison was made to Galatians 4:6, where Paul also wrote, “And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, ‘Abba, Father!’” The question was asked about the Galatians passage: Who is doing the crying? My immediate thought was the same ones who “cry out” in Romans 8:15; namely, “we” (Christians) who receive “the Spirit of adoption.” However, Galatians 4:6 does not read that way.

Upon further investigation, there is no doubt the Holy Spirit is the one doing the “crying out” in Galatians 4:6. This is overwhelmingly clear in the Greek text. The inflected term “the Spirit” (*to pneuma*, τὸ πνεῦμα), in “God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts,” is an accusative, singular, neuter article and noun. The term “crying out” (*krazon*, κράζον) is a present active participle that is also accusative, singular, neuter. The participle is acting adverbially, which means that the word it modifies is doing the action. The noun the participle mod-

ifies must agree with the participle in case, number, and gender. The only term in the context that the participle “crying out” can modify is “the Spirit” because “the Spirit” is the only other term in the context that is also accusative, singular, neuter. Since it is a present, or as some now call it, “imperfective” (Mounce 294), continuous participle, the key word “while” in translation helps to understand the aspect of the action. Thus, Galatians 4:6 carries the idea that “while God was sending the Spirit of His Son into the Galatians’ hearts, the Spirit was crying out, ‘Abba, Father!’”

## THE SIGNIFICANCE

The remarkableness of Galatians 4:6 when compared with Romans 8:15 is seen in at least three significant truths. First, both passages undeniably declare the Holy Spirit indwells Christians. In the context of Romans 8, the ones who “cry out, ‘Abba, Father!’” are the same ones who have the Spirit dwelling in them (Rom. 8:9). In Galatians 4:6, Paul states plainly, “God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts.” The scope of this article does not include a detailed analysis of how Holy Spirit indwelling should be interpreted (see my articles in works cited for that). However, this fact is given here to en-

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## The Harvester

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courage Christians that God is intimately involved in the lives of His people, so much so that He has designated them as “the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you” (1 Cor. 3:16).

Second, this “Abba, Father” relationship is both declared by the Holy Spirit (Gal. 4:6) and by Christians who have it (Rom. 8:15). “Abba” is transliterated from Aramaic and means “father.” The Greek word behind “Father” (*pater*, πατήρ) is very common throughout the New Testament. “Abba” is a very intimately emotional word. The word is “from the babbling of a little child (like ‘papa’) and is the familiar term used in the home” (Morris 315). Where “Abba” occurs in the New Testament, it always has the Greek interpretation, “Father,” joined to it (Mk. 14:36; Rom. 8:15; Gal. 4:6). This was probably the case because “Abba” by itself might convey a somewhat disrespectful way of referring to God the Father (e.g., imagine someone opening his prayer, “Dear Daddy...”). What “Abba, Father” does signify is the most intimate relationship a person can have with God. Jesus is the only person in Scripture to pray “Abba, Father” (Mk. 14:36), and this prayer was right before He was betrayed, tried, and put to death! This was a very emotional time for Jesus, a time when He needed the intimate, supportive comfort of a sympathizing Father. Because Christians have the Spirit of God, only they can have this most intimate relationship with the Father!

Third, the crying out of “Abba, Father” is a great demonstration of how the “Spirit Himself [itself, KJV; *auto to pneuma*, αὐτὸ τὸ πνεῦμα] bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God” (Rom. 8:16). “Bears witness with” means to bear testimony along with another or to confirm another’s testimony. Here, the Holy Spirit (Gal. 4:6) and the Christian’s spirit (Rom. 8:15) confirm each other’s testimony concerning the new “Abba, Father” relationship made possible by “the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus” (Rom. 8:1-4). That “Abba, Father” relationship is confirmed in both passages as

being connected to sonship through spiritual adoption. The Romans passage confirms, “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption” (8:14-15). The Galatians passage confirms that God’s Son was sent so that:

[W]e might receive the adoption as sons. <sup>6</sup>And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!” <sup>7</sup>Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ. (Gal. 4:5-7)

What a wonderful blessing to be adopted into God’s family and share the same blessings as Christ!

## CONCLUSION

Although there are many things about the Holy Spirit we will never know, we can take great encouragement from what we can know! The fact that the Holy Spirit indwells the Christian and is testified by both the Holy Spirit (Gal. 4:6), who revealed that truth, and the one in whom He dwells (Rom. 8:15), who learns that truth from God’s revelation, should give us confidence of our intimate relationship with God the “Abba, Father,” and that He will see us through, even the most difficult of times, just as He did with our “co-heir,” Jesus Christ (Rom. 8:17-18 cf. Mk. 14:32-65).

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**Touched But Not Taken Out.** We thank God for seeing us through the COVID-19 pandemic so far. We were directly affected by it with two instructors and three students testing positive back in February. As a result, we quarantined with online-only classes February 22 thru March 5, 2021. Of the five affected, one was hospitalized and everyone else had mild to moderate symptoms. By God’s grace, all are fully recovered now. Fortunately, we have not lost any instructional time since March 2020, except for those many “technical difficulties” we have had to work through. Like other schools, we have had to adjust in order to continue what we do. This would not be possible without your involvement! **Thanks For Your Prayers & Support!**



# Florida School of Preaching



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**The Harvester**

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One of the main reasons the Florida School of Preaching exists is to train Gospel preachers. In 1969, B. C. Carr, the South Florida Avenue church of Christ eldership, and concerned brethren throughout the United States thought a preaching school in Florida would be a great asset to spreading the Gospel in America and throughout the world. From the start, the school was intended and has continued to be tuition free. Students must still raise support for their living expenses and textbooks, but the expense of tuition is not something with which they need to be concerned. This is made possible by your financial support. We would not be able to operate as we have for these fifty-two school years without your sacrificial and generous gifts! We greatly appreciate our supporters!

We continue to covet your prayers as we, by the grace of God, strengthen and expand the borders of His kingdom through training men to preach and preparing souls to better serve the Lord. If you, as an individual or a congregation, are not already supporting this work, would you consider doing so? We will continue needing supporters as we continue training men to “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mk. 16:15). I would love to visit your congregation to inform you about this great work. —*Brian*

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