

PRESENT TRUTH

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Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth. (2 Peter 1:12 KJV)

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The Orphan Spirit

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One of the key aspects of Christianity is that when we are born again we become sons (or daughters) of God.

Galatians 3:26 NASB

(26) For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

Romans 8:15 NASB

(15) For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!"

Ephesians 1:5 NASB

(5) He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,

It is the Father's intention that we know and enjoy the privileges and the sense of belonging that is inherent in being a part of the family of God. However, the Lord knew that it would be difficult for a person to truly believe that one can be adopted as a child of God, so, He sent the Holy Spirit to testify to us, to give us the confidence to cry out "Abba! Father!".

Romans 8:16-17 NASB

(16) The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God,

(17) and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him* so that we may also be glorified with *Him*.

An adopted child receives the un-revocable privilege of participating in the will and testament of the parents. He becomes an heir of all that the parents have. So, it is by adoption that we become heirs of the Father.

Prior to coming into the family of God, we were spiritual orphans, cut off from God. The enemy continues to foster in us the same orphan spirit even after we come into

God's family. Jesus recognized this in His disciples.

John 14:18 NASB

(18) "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

Since He came to us in the form of the Holy Spirit, it further emphasizes the truth of Romans 8:16.

An orphan is someone who had been abandoned by his/her primary care giver. This can be literal with physical abandonment or it can be spiritual. The kingdom of God is based upon relationships, and the central relationship is one of parent to child. For example: "Older women... should admonish the younger women" (Titus 2:4). "Timothy, my true son in the faith" (1 Tim. 1:2). "I am your father in the gospel" (1 Cor. 4:15). We become orphaned when those who are caring for us abandon us to the vagaries of life, or when those who should care for us, do not do so.

We may have an orphan spirit because of the nature of the parenting that we received. In some cases, you may have been literally abandoned, or adopted out. Perhaps you had an absent father, or an abusive mother. Maybe you had to raise yourself because of the financial situation in your family, or because of the number of children in the home.

On the spiritual side, neglect happens at every level in institutional Christianity. Leaders demand instead of admonish, berate instead of beseech, are busy with church life instead of Body life. They are not being fathered by the system themselves, so they are unable to provide that which they have never experienced. While there are promises of parental love, the reality is little more than a request for the tithe. The Church is in desperate need of true fathers who know how to parent their spiritual children.

Our spirit ceases to feel orphaned when we have confidence that we belong to a family - God's family, and that we are being cared for by the Father or one has the Father's heart. It enables us to connect with our brothers and sisters, and yield ourselves fully to those in authority in the church.

CHARACTERISTICS OF AN ORPHAN SPIRIT

There are a number of characteristics of an orphan spirit and these are manifested based on the individual's personality. One person probably doesn't have all of these but tends toward a set of them that fits with their sense of identity—shy and withdrawn or outgoing and dominating.

1. Inability to have lasting relationships. This is rooted in lack of trust of others; always having to depend only upon yourself. There is a fear of commitment and a paranoia about the other person's motives.
2. Hatred of authority, general distrust for leaders. Again, this is a question of

motives and distrust. No one has my interests at heart except me.

3. General lack of direction for your life. Because there wasn't a founding influence of a father, your life is directed by your own passing interests.
4. Inability to make key, strategic decisions. Usually, major decisions are difficult to make because you do not receive input from those that you truly trust (because there aren't any). There is also a fear of making a major mistake and suffering the consequences.
5. Drawing near, then backing away from intimacy. Fear of commitment and fear of failure are the major problems with intimacy. There is a sense that they're just going to reject you anyway when they get to know you and realize that you are not really good enough for them.
6. An inexplicable drive to succeed, win, or prove yourself. Acceptance and approbation are psychological needs in all of us. Few orphans ever receive them, so they are constantly driving to be successful.
7. On the outside looking in. A sense of never belonging, always excluded in some manner.

Many other characteristics could be listed, but these are the major ones and they keep us striving in the flesh to become acceptable to God and to each other.

THE QUESTION OF INHERITANCE

Only an heir can receive the inheritance. While an orphan can work hard or even become rich, only a son can inherit. If we are orphans, we have no right to the inheritance. If the enemy can keep us convinced that we are orphans or cause us to act like orphans, then he has succeeded in his function as a thief because he has stolen from us our rightful inheritance.

Galatians 4:7 NASB

(7) Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God.

We must be rid of the orphan mentality, and receive confidence from Christ that we are His. It is our behavior that demonstrates what we believe. If we behave like a slave, a servant, a man under bondage to the law then we are orphans still. If we must work to be pleasing to God; if we must achieve to gain His favor; if we must obey some legal requirement or another to be acceptable (or saved) then we are orphans. But if we behave like a son, then we will work like a son. God, the Father, owns the Kingdom. It is His business, and one day we will fully possess it as our inheritance. So we work without guilt or the need to prove ourselves to God. We labor for Him because it is our pleasure to do so.

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