

**ANSWERS TO FUNDAMENTAL QUESTIONS:
WHY DO WE CALL GOD OUR FATHER? PART III
(Conquering the spirit of orphanhood)**

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I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Since Adam and Eve were cast out of the presence of God the Father in the Garden of Eden for their disobedience, the spirit of orphanhood has penetrated the earth causing incalculable damage; (When I say 'spirit' I do not mean a demon but an influence or way of living life). **The spirit of orphanhood means that we experience a sense of abandonment, loneliness, separation and isolation from God and in many cases also from others.**
- B. To make matters worse with the disintegration of the family, many people are not only alienated from God, but grew up without the loving care and security of their biological parents. People with an orphan spirit find it difficult to connect with their spouses, children, people with spiritual authority, and supervisors; and they have a hard time accepting themselves.
- C. **The way in which God breaks this spirit of orphanhood is through the work of the Holy Spirit (*Spirit of Adoption Rom. 8:15*) who fills those of us who are now children (*Jn. 1:12-13*) to experience not only the Father's love for us in Christ, but the understanding that we are beloved children which leads us to live with confidence and security to serve God from the place of acceptance rather than trying to earn His love or approval simply through of his religious performance. We must be attentive to what the Father feels for us.**

1 Jn 3:1 "See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him."

- D. Now, one thing is for God to adopt us as His children and another is for us to adopt Him as Father and accept and live in the fullness of this identity as beloved children.

Ef. 1:5 "he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will."

- E. We must believe and grow in understanding of the truth that in Christ we have been adopted and our destiny is to be and live as our Big Brother relates to our Father who is in heaven.

Rom. 8:29 "For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters."

II. HOW WAS JESUS' RELATIONSHIP WITH HIS FATHER WHILE ON EARTH: As we have seen, one of the most important things that Jesus came to reveal is what our Heavenly Father is like and how we should relate to Him. Jesus is our model in every way:

A. Jesus lived in the confidence of being loved by the Father and knowing that He had all His approval and support and that is how we should live:

Jn. 3:35 "The Father loves the Son and has placed everything in his hands."

Jn. 6:27b "...For on him [Jesus] God the Father has placed his seal of approval."

1. The orphan spirit experiences insecurity to the point that it is even difficult to hear a biological or spiritual father praise his siblings or co-workers. But those of us who live as children realize that we have nothing before God and that all our efforts mean little but then the Father tells us that we have everything and that our efforts mean a lot to Him.

B. Jesus did not have a slave mindset but one of a Son's; He knew: 'I not only work for the Father but with the Father. Jesus always saw himself working in close association with his Father and described His work as coordinated with Him. God did not leave His activities on the Sabbath, and neither would Jesus.

Jn. 5:17 "But Jesus answered them, "My Father has been working until now, and I have been working."

1. It is not only working for Father but with Him. One who loves will always surpass the one who only does it out of obligation. When the one who only works becomes one who loves, his perspective on working for God changes greatly. If our ministerial task is our first priority, then we can easily become exhausted and bitter.

Rev. 2:3-4 "and have labored for My name's sake... 4 Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love."

2. The orphan spirit serves God to win the love of the Father. The mature son serves God with a sense of divine acceptance and favor. Those with an orphan spirit constantly seek to earn the Father's love through ministry or career accomplishments.

C. Jesus lived in total dependence on the Father, imitating him in everything. He had total confidence in the love and leadership of his Father and in the results that it was going to produce that He gave himself completely to what the Father does:

Jn. 5:19-20 "Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner. 20 For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel."

1. The orphan spirit receives its primary identity through material possessions, physical appearance, and activities. **The spirit of adoption has his/her identity based on his/her sonship and the affirmation of his/her Father just as Jesus did.**

Matt. 3:17 "And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

2. **The work that Jesus had done was of the same type as the work of the Father.** Jesus described His relationship with the Father, as similar to that of a son growing up in a house, learning a trade from His father while remaining submissive to Him and is the heart of children that we should have too.
3. To the Western mind the idea of "son" denotes a different person, but the ancient Eastern mind thought of a "son" as the extension of his father. The ancients considered a good son as one who exactly followed in the footsteps of his father. **Jesus is not only the servant of God, but the perfect agent of divine purpose and the full revelation of the divine nature and this is also our calling.**

Lk. 6:35-36 "But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. ³⁶ Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful."

4. Those with an orphan spirit are constantly trying to reduce their sense of isolation, loneliness, and lack of self-worth through constant work, moving from one relationship to the next, physical gratification, and living a life of narcissism and complacency.
- D. **Jesus obeyed the Father out of love:** Jesus' obedience to the Father was not a burden to Him but His delight..

Jn. 8:20 "And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him."

1. People can obey the Lord with different attitudes in their hearts:
 - a) **Obedience based on obligation:** It is in which one does not feel the presence of God but still obeys and that is fine but it can also be the constant case of many with a spirit of orphanhood. God's Word requires us to obey God, even when we are not inspired to do so but there is a class of obedience that is more delightful, that of beloved sons and daughters.
 - b) **Obedience based on fear or shame:** It is the obedience that springs from the fear of being embarrassed or the fear of suffering negative consequences and this is the kind of obedience of those who do not know children. It is biblical but it is not enough to motivate us to constantly resist the pleasures of sin for many years. **The approach of many is to use only shame and fear to motivate people to keep a list**

of dos and don'ts. Holiness has often been presented in a negative light with an endless list of threats and warnings of the consequences of sin. **We sin when our hearts are not satisfied with God.** The temptation to experience the pleasure of sin is generally more powerful than the fear of punishment. This fear of the consequences of sin does not usually dominate the tendency to sin. Instead, it leads us to sin in secret.

- c) **Obedience based on affection:** It is the obedience that springs from experiencing the affection of the Heavenly Father, **it is the strongest type of obedience.** A lovesick person puts up with anything for love. The pleasures of God are the banquet that frees us from the futility of sinful pleasure. Jesus glorified Father because he felt and feels loved by the Father and feels love for the Father. Jesus loves who the Father is. Obedience based on affection was central to the life of Jesus (**1 Cor. 15:28**). As we know that the Father loves us, we glorify and honor Him more consistently..

III. CONCLUSION AND EXHORTATION

- A. **It will take spiritual parents with great depth and authority to break and reverse this curse and perpetuate the generational blessing. Only when a person is healed of orphanhood through God's love is this spirit broken so that he can begin the process of entering mature adoption. Knowing ourselves children is so important that all creation is currently crying out for the manifestation of the mature children of God.**

Rom. 8:19 "For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed."

IV. REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. **Have you adopted God as your Father? Explain**
2. **Do you consider that you are free from the spirit of orphanhood? Explain**
3. **Do you hear the words that God declares about you: "You are my beloved Son, I delight in you"? (Matt. 3:17)**
4. **How are you imparting this to those around you?**