



Orphan Spirit

I'm adding a special mention of the orphan spirit, as we have already touched on the identity factor. This is an important area of consideration as it can develop throughout our lifetime, and each trauma can build this into quite a powerful stronghold. At the root of this is rejection and abandonment. Our experiences with those closest to us would have informed our belief system. Consequently, as we go through life, the enemy reinforces that belief system through further experiences of rejection and abandonment. Most of our identity issues, as well as not being able to receive God's love or understand our spiritual authority, is tied to an orphan spirit. An orphan spirit is a result of a lack of identity and sonship in God. If we were not nurtured and cared for in a way that communicated to us that we are of value and worth, we will be vulnerable to an orphan spirit. Considering captivity, if one has been taken captive in spirit or soul, it can also affect our identity and cause us to have some areas that are well-defined and other areas where we keep struggling.

With the orphan spirit, there is always a partnership with the ¹unloving, punishing and religious spirit.

The Unloving Spirit is a defensive mechanism that shields the orphaned heart from giving and receiving love from God and others. It operates by rejecting others before being rejected itself.

Symptoms of this spirit include a judgmental and critical attitude, manipulative behavior using feelings of unworthiness, pity, condemnation, and accusation.

The Religious Spirit acts as a cover for the orphaned heart, relying on performance and works to find value and acceptance. It creates a structured and tightly controlled life that is difficult to let go of because of the effort invested in it.

Symptoms can manifest as overeating, oversleeping, overworking, or addictive behaviors. Fear often hides the orphaned heart behind manifestations such as anger, verbal abuse, assault, pride, procrastination, and hopelessness.

The Punishing Spirit denies the finished work of the Cross, the power of Jesus' blood, and the transformative impact of His resurrection as payment for our sins and mistakes. It hinders the ability to receive pardon and forgiveness, demanding additional payment or punishment.

Symptoms include self-punishment, a constant inner voice of regret, and the destruction of hope, confidence, and encouragement through prolonged feelings of despair.

Many believers today have an orphan spirit due to feelings of separation from God because of things that have either happened to them or things that have been imposed on them from their previous generations. Out of an orphan heart, much can proceed. A lot of what we have discussed in the previous chapters can be linked to an orphan spirit: ours, or that of others that have operated out of their orphan heart toward us. If we don't fully embrace God's love for us, we will suffer from an orphan heart. An orphan heart is also a broken heart in need of wholeness that is only found in Christ.

¹ Martinez, Y. (2016). *Healing Trauma*. Care- Edu.

A good overview and explanation of how this presents is seen in the ²chart from CravingGrace.org.

1 John 3v1 says "See how very much our Father loves us, for He calls us His children, and that is what we are".

Romans 8v15-16 says "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 Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God."

I like what ³Ana Mendez Ferrell says in her teaching series "Sons of Light". She says that the term "Christian" was a phrase given to the early believers by the Greeks and it was actually a mockery of those who followed Christ. She prefers the term son of God to Christian and says that we should not adopt this Greek mentality but know that we are sons of God.

We need to live from this place of knowing that we are seated with Christ (Ephesians 2v16). This is where we have

the victory. This is why we can operate freely in the Courts of Heaven and come boldly into the throne room of grace and mercy, it is part of our birthright and legacy as sons of God. We are not bound by the limitations of this dimension as sons of light. Earlier I spoke about the fact that eternity is in our heart and that would mean that there are realms and dimensions for us yet to explore. I touch on this in the section on the Courts of Heaven.

I recently was woken by the Lord to spend time with Him in the early hours. Often this is the ideal time (third watch) before the sunrises, there is often an open heaven or a portal for us to commune with God. The word often speaks of rising early to pray. Even Jesus did it.

Psalm 119v147 "I rise before dawn and cry for help; I wait for Your words".

| | When I Live as an Orphan | When I Live as God's Child |
|---------------------|--|---|
| I am ... | Fearful, independent, untrusting, hopeless, bitter, insecure, self-reliant, and trapped. | Hopeful, dependent, trusting, joyful, secure, confident, and content. |
| And I ... | Gossip, shift blame onto others, am critical in spirit, collect on what I perceive as others' debts to me, complain, control, and respond defensively. | Give grace to others without judging them, accept responsibility for myself and my actions, forgive and accept others, being quick to pray and full of faith. |
| I see God as ... | An absentee father, who just tolerates me and who judges and condemns me and keeps score of every wrong thing I do; a taker. | A strong Father, a trustworthy caretaker, a sovereign Deliverer and Provider, a Giver; loving, forgiving, and faithful. |
| I look at sin ... | The way the Pharisees or moralists do, focusing only on external actions and deceiving myself about my sin nature; considering sin only an occasional problem. | Focusing on the attitudes of my heart, and know that I'm worse than I think I am, realizing that even my best self-efforts evidence a lack of faith. |
| I see myself as ... | A fixer-upper—guilt-laden and unworthy, but self-reliant on my own moral will power; trapped by circumstances and worried by what others think of me. | A forgiven sinner, free, dependent, and loved; a saint. |
| I see grace as ... | Not very valuable to receive or even necessary for daily living, but something to aid my own efforts to earn God's favor (because Christ is not enough). | Totally necessary for my salvation and ongoing growth; what I depend on daily. |

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Taken from *Craving Grace* | CravingGrace.org

²Craving Grace. Retrieved from <http://cravinggrace.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/OrphanTable-new.pdf>

³ Ana Mendez Ferrell. *Our Celestial Persona*. Retrieved from <https://youtu.be/AsqqP3wb7eQ>

Mark 1v35 "In the early morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house, and went away to a secluded place, and was praying there".

Psalms 5v3 "In the morning, O Lord, You will hear my voice; in the morning I will order my prayer to You and eagerly watch".

It is a time to come before Him not only with requests but to just be with Him and if He wants to share something with us, then that is our blessing.

He spoke to me about the fact that when our identity is in Him, we can enter His rest. When we live out of His heart, His shelter, our refuge (Psalm 91), we have rest. When we live out of His heart, we put off rejection; fear of man, as this does not bring rest but a snare as we are constantly trying to prove something when we have fear of man. We don't need to prove anything to Him, this brings rest.

This also leads to a kingdom perspective. We think from above and not below. Colossians 3v1-3 says *"Therefore, since you have been raised with Christ, strive for the things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God"*. When our identity is in Him, we can then engage the King who represents duty and governance. Then we are able to operate out of that place of authority. You see, this is what the enemy wants to rob from us. We need to grasp this. We no longer need to be defined by our past, our sin or deeds, that we have repented of. We are free in Christ to be His sons and daughters. John 8v36 says *"So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed"*. How awesome is that!! Just like sanctification and purifying the heart is a process, this too will be the same. Life has taught us or conditioned us to think we are not good enough or worthy enough and we need to reprogram our thinking.

Let me sum this up - in the Father we have rest and peace. When we have this, we can serve our King - He governs and is dutiful. We serve Him in the same way to bring in the Kingdom of God. Then our focus is no longer self-focus, but kingdom focus or big picture focus. When we view things from above, we have the bigger picture. It is not about us, it is about His Kingdom. Not only that, but it gives us a vantage point over the enemy! This literally says that we are above and not beneath, as in Deuteronomy 28v13, providing as it says, that we heed His commandments. In each Kingdom there are rules to abide by or laws as in each government. The Kingdom of God is the same but it has been made possible for us to keep these through Jesus Christ as in 2 Timothy 1v9 mentioned earlier.

Romans 8v21-23 "We know that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until the present time. Not only that, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies".

Part of taking up our space as children and heirs of God's kingdom is refusing to be limited by Satan or our own negative mindsets.

In Luke 3, John the Baptist urges people to bear fruit that reflects genuine repentance. He warns that branches that do not bear fruit will be cut off and destroyed. Our past sins should not hold us back from producing good fruit. If our fruit is lacking, we may need to delve deeper and address any generational patterns of wrongdoing.

John also prophesies that Jesus will baptise with the Holy Spirit and fire. He will separate those who belong to Him (wheat) and bring them into His kingdom, while those who reject Him or refuse to serve Him (chaff) will face judgment.

Psalm 91v3 speaks of deliverance from the snares and dangers that hold us captive and hinder our fruitfulness. Through Jesus, we have a way to escape captivity and find rest in Him. He is our shelter and protection.

Returning to the Father brings us into His rest and grants us authority as His children. Isaiah 9v6-7 describes Jesus as the Child born to us, the Prince of Peace, and the everlasting Father. His government and peace will reign eternally. This realisation empowers us to live in victory, advance His kingdom, and positively impact the lives of others.

In summary, embracing our identity in Christ means rejecting limitations, bearing fruit that reflects genuine repentance, finding deliverance from captivity, and experiencing the authority and peace that come from being children of God.

In conclusion what stood out for me in this revelation was that both authority and rest are linked to shoulders. The government is on Jesus' shoulders and in Matthew 11v29-30 Jesus says *"Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."* A yoke rests on the shoulders and when we yoke with Jesus, He shares the load on His shoulders.

The neck is symbolically associated with pride in the Scriptures (Proverbs 29v1), and it supports the head. In our relationship with Jesus, He is the head, and we are the neck. If we are bound by pride and bondage, we won't be able to turn in the direction Jesus wants us to go. The Word tells us that rebellion and stubbornness are likened to witchcraft, idolatry, and iniquity (1 Samuel 15v23). King Saul, who rebelled against God's word, lost his kingship as a result. We must be willing to submit to Jesus as our King, allowing Him to lead our lives, which ultimately leads to a better life for us. Let's avoid the stubbornness displayed by King Saul.

The neck and shoulders are often associated with stress and tension, which can be seen as forms of fear. However, Jesus offers us an easy yoke and a light burden. We shouldn't rely on our own strength but instead connect with Him and rely on His strength to help us.

When we live as sons and daughters from the heart of the Father, we have a rich inheritance in Him and with Him. This understanding reminds us of our identity and the blessings that come from being part of God's family. ⁴Ana Mendez Ferrell suggests that if we fail to live as Sons of Light, we are in spiritual poverty. There is truth to the idea that we can miss out on the fullness of our inheritance and blessings when we don't embrace our true identity and purpose. When we don't take our rightful place as children of God, we may experience a lack of spiritual growth, fulfilment, and the manifestation of God's blessings in our lives. It is important to understand and embrace our identity as Sons of Light, walking in the truth and power of who we are in Christ. By doing so, we can experience the abundance and richness that God desires for us.

As sons and daughters, we are called to rule and reign with Christ, exercising authority and dominion over our spiritual inheritance. However, to effectively fulfill this role, we must first

⁴ *Deliverance from INIQUITY* by Ana Méndez Ferrell. (2013, July 1). YouTube. Retrieved from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zDcbNd-66yM>

be free from any yoke of bondage that hinders us from fully embracing our sonship. This includes being delivered from spiritual strongholds, breaking free from negative mindsets and behaviors, and walking in the freedom and power of the Holy Spirit.

Fruits of bondage:

- lack of identity
- captivity - spirit, soul and body = joylessness
- Iniquity - sickness and disease- physical and psychological, poverty, idolatry
- Lack of fruit of worthy repentance
- Stuck in our old ways and habits/patterns and cycles that repeat
- Unforgiveness, bitterness
- Self-focused rather than Kingdom or other focused.

How to receive healing from an orphan heart

Jesus said in Luke 4v18-19 quoting Isaiah, our passage from earlier when we discussed captive parts, *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He has anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord."*

1. Repent of sin.
2. Choose to forgive God, others and yourself (where applicable).
3. Choose to let go of the situation and release the people involved.
4. Break agreement with the lies of the enemy that you have believed.
5. Ask Father God to heal your broken heart.

Orphan heart world view

Image of God - See God as master vs God as a loving Father.

Dependency - Independent, self-reliant vs interdependent.

Theology - Acknowledges the need to live by the love of law vs live by the law of love.

Self-image - Self-rejection by comparing yourself to others vs positive and affirmed because you know you have value to God.

Security - Insecure, lack peace vs rest and peace.

Source of comfort - Seek comfort in counterfeit affections: addictions, compulsions, escapism, busyness vs seek times of quietness and solitude to rest in the Father's presence.

Handling others faults - love accusations and exposure in order to make yourself look good by making others look bad vs love covers as you seek to restore others in a spirit of love and gentleness.

View of rebuke - Difficulty receiving rebuke, you must be right so you easily get your feelings hurt and close your spirit to discipline vs see the receiving of rebuke as a blessing and need in your life so that your faults and weaknesses are exposed and put to death.

Future - Fight for what you can get vs sonship releases inheritance.

A person with a broken or orphan heart lives in inner misery, which manifests in various ways.

Symptoms of a broken or orphan heart:

1. **Physical Sickness** - Proverbs 17v22 - Nerve disorders, allergies, stomach problems, heart pains, insomnia.
2. **Mental Torment** - Proverbs 18v14 - Depression, fits of anger and rage, confusion, double-mindedness - cannot make decisions, various fears, distrust in others and God, loneliness.
3. **Emotional Torment** - Mathew 18v34 - Nightmares, hearing voices, seeing unusual things, lack of self-control.
4. **Spiritual Torment** - 2 Timothy 1v7 - Has a hard time reading the Word of God, has a hard time believing the Word of God and His promises, has a hard time staying interested in spiritual things, up and down spiritually, feeling separated from God and others.

How the heart becomes broken:

Sorrow - Sorrow or heartache can crush the spirit, leading to feelings of heaviness and sadness. A happy heart, on the other hand, brings joy. *"A happy heart makes the face cheerful, but heartache (sorrow KJV) crushes the spirit" Proverbs 15v13.*

Guilt - Unresolved guilt can weigh heavily on a person, affecting their emotional well-being and even physical health. It can lead to wounds that fester and a sense of lowliness.. *"My guilt has overwhelmed me like a burden too heavy to bear. My wounds fester...I am bowed down and brought very low...there is no health in my body...even the light has gone from my eyes" Psalm 38v4-10 NIV.*

Unkind Words - Negative and critical words can deeply wound and bruise the spirit. The power of life and death lies in the tongue, and both healing and destruction can result from the words we speak. *"The tongue has the power of life and death" - Proverbs 18v21. "A lying tongue hates those who are crushed by it, and a flattering mouth works ruin." Proverbs 26v28. "A wholesome tongue is a tree of life, But perverseness in it breaks the spirit." Proverbs 15v4.*

Abuse - Abuse can take various forms, including verbal, physical, sexual, mental, and emotional. It can break hearts, leave individuals feeling helpless, and create a craving for violence in the unfaithful. *"Scorn has broken my heart and has left me helpless. I looked for sympathy, but there was none, for comforters, but I found none" Psalm 69v20. "The unfaithful have a craving for violence" Proverbs 13v2.*

Judgment and inner vows - Making judgments about people or situations and forming inner vows (promises) can be a defense mechanism to protect oneself from pain. These judgments and vows can shape our beliefs and behavior.

Inner vows often start with words like 'I will never...' or 'I will always....'

During prayer, if we come close to that wounded place, we are pushed away by the inner vow.

1. **Belief about God:** "God has abandoned me / He lied to me / He sent me here to hurt me / He doesn't like me." Possible judgment = God is bad and untrustworthy. Inner vows - I will never trust God again / I will never talk to God again / I will never listen to God again / I will never be vulnerable again.
2. **Belief about yourself:** "There must be something wrong with me. That's why I feel this pain. That's why they don't want me." Possible judgment = I need to just go away/ or, no matter what I do, I'll never be good enough. Inner vows - I will make them love me (by becoming the boy Daddy always wanted; by trying really hard; by being perfect; by never

making a mistake, etc.) I will never let anyone close enough to hurt me like that again. I will be very good. I will show them.

3. **Belief about others:** “Mother is weak. Father is bad. Those in charge are incompetent.” Possible judgment = I can’t trust anybody / I have to do it myself / There’s no help for me. Inner Vows - I will never trust anybody again / I will take care of everybody / I will be better than them.
4. **Belief about life:** “Life is too hard / Life is bad / I’m on my own.” Possible judgment = I would be better off dead. Inner Vows - I will die / I will not be here / only I can care of myself.

The Father’s heart is love, joy and peace, rest and most importantly of all, freedom.

Let’s dive in.

Remember, the heart is deceitful above all things.

The orphan heart says: I am alone, I don’t belong, I am not a “son”.

The orphan heart partners with the orphan spirit.

The Orphan spirit has access through brokenness which leads to separation, which keeps us from Sonship. This separation is often found in fragmentation.

The deception comes from the enemy, who will use this to diminish our capacity through faulty belief systems and strongholds.

We are only captives if we are in captivity. We can be captive to this spirit. Jesus led captivity captive (Ephesians 4v8). *“Whom the Son sets free is free indeed” (John 8v36).*

This means Jesus sets us free from captivity. He does this by us coming to Him. This entails salvation, sanctification, healing, deliverance, restoration and redemption. We are redeemed in Him. He paid the price for our slavery to bring us into Sonship. He adopted us out of orphanhood into Sonship. Our belief in who we are makes a difference - as a man thinks in his heart, so he is. So let us renew our hearts, not only our thinking, to come into agreement with Sonship.

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