"The Pentecostal power, when you sum it all up, is just more of God's love. If it does not bring more love, it is simply a counterfeit."
William J. Seymour

First Love Ministries. Inc, of Perry, Georgia USA
Spiritual Warfare and Deliverance
LESSON 553 V

THE ORPHAN SPIRIT

Today we see so many people who feel abandoned, lonely, alienated, and isolated. This is particularly pronounced in men who never bonded to a father or women who never bonded with their mother. Joseph Mattera writes, "Orphaned men have a hard time connecting to their spouses, their children, those in spiritual authority and their supervisors, and they have a hard time accepting and loving themselves. There are presently millions of incarcerated men who are acting out lives of violence and rebellion because their earthly fathers abandoned them. There are churches filled with pastors and leaders, who use people and destroy relationships because they are driven to success, and it's due to their need for a father's affirmation-which is a hole too large for ministry success or performance to fill." (Mattera is the current presiding bishop of Christ Covenant Coalition and the overseeing Bishop of Resurrection Church in New York, a multiethnic congregation of 40 Nationalities.)

Biblically, there is an antidote for someone with an orphan spirit. That is the Spirit of Adoption. Romans 8:14-16: "*For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are the sons of God. 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, and if children, then heirs-heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together."

The theme of adoption was so important that Paul repeats again this theme in Galatians 4:4-7: *But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons, and because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son, into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" Therefore, you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.*

Therefore, we were all aliens and orphans traveling through this life, until the Holy Spirit baptized us into the blood of Jesus, making us sons of God. (Women, remember that, when the Word is calling us sons, it means both men and women (Galatians 3:26-28: *For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.)*

Mattera gives eleven traits of one with an orphan spirit in contrast with one with a spirit of sonship:

1. The orphan spirit operates out of insecurity and jealousy. The spirit of sonship functions out of love and acceptance.

2. The orphan spirit is jealous of the success of his brothers. The mature son is committed to the success of his brothers.
3. The orphan spirit serves God to earn the Father's love. The mature son serves God out of a sense of divine acceptance and favor.
4. The orphan spirit tries to medicate its deep internal alienation through physical stimulation. The mature son walks in the joy and presence of the Lord for comfort.
5. The orphan spirit is driven by the need for success. The Spirit leads the mature son into his calling and mission.
6. The orphan spirit uses people as objects to fulfill goals. Mature sons serve people to bless the kingdom.
7. The orphan spirit repels children. The spirit of sonship attracts children.
8. The orphan spirit has anger and fits of rage. The spirit of sonship rests in the Father's ability to control and guide the future.
9. The orphan spirit is always in competition with others. The spirit of sonship is always blessing others.
10. The orphan spirit lacks self-esteem. The spirit of sonship walks in the love and acceptance of Father God.
11. The orphan spirit receives its primary identity through material possessions, physical appearance and activities. The spirit of sonship is grounded in sonship and the Father's affirmation.

It is very difficult for someone who has never had a good father relationship, whether the father had died or abandoned the family or was too busy or disinterested in spending time with his children, to understand Father God and therefore to enter into sonship. It is imperative for spiritual fathers to step up to the plate and be a father to those who have no father. With all that is going on today with molestation and sex offenders, a mother has to be extremely careful who she allows to fill the role of a father to her children.

For us to walk in sonship there must be a good father relationship. Of course, the Father is the perfect Father, and many who seek relationship with Jesus and accept Him into their hearts will be surprised at how the Father woos them and desires holy relationship with them. The Apostle Paul addressed the importance of the role of spiritual fathers in 1st Corinthians 4:15: *For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.*

Furthermore, the Old Testament ends with a warning: Malachi 4:5-6: *Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.* What Malachi is saying here is the prophetic movement or Elijah Company of the Last Days is coming to heal the relationships between fathers and children.

One writer wrote the following: "With divorce and unwed mother rates soaring, western cultures have begun to

embrace the idea that fathers are disposable and unnecessary. Many individuals will live their entire lives without a healthy relationship with their father or a father figure. Fathers have let down their children; they have abandoned and not pursued their own children."

This same writer lists his own list of characteristics of the orphan spirit:

- Unable to put down roots in a church or change churches frequently
- Always on the look out for something bigger and better
- Feeling based faith (if it feels good, feels right, etc., then I will follow it
- Need recognition
- Easily offended
- Feelings of abandonment even when one has not been abandoned
- Attitude of "No one is going to tell me what to do"
- Attitude of "I know…" (unteachable)
- Survivalist mentality always looking out for oneself
- Never truly comfortable in the presence of anointed spiritual father
- Rejects others before they can be rejected.

The following chart is from *Boss Your Heart Orphan Ministries*:

THE HEART OF AN ORPHAN		***THE HEART OF SONSHIP***
Sees God as Master	**IMAGE OF GOD**	Sees God as loving Father

Self-reliant	**DEPENDENCY**	Acknowledges Need
Lives by Love of Law	T**HEOLOGY**	**L**ives by Law of Love
Insecure	**SECURITY**	Secure and at peace
Strives for Approval	**NEED FOR APPROVAL**	Accepts God's Love
No motivation to serve Need for personal achievement	**MOTIVE FOR SERVICE**	Motivated by gratitude For What God has done
No motivation or motivated By sense of duty to God	**CHRISTIAN SERVICE**	Pleasure and delight In serving God
Must be holy, increasing Sense of guilt and shame	**MOTIVE FOR PURITY**	Wants nothing that will hinder intimacy with God
Self-rejection, comparing Self to others	**SELF-IMAGE**	Positive because you know have worth to God
Seeks comfort in addictions, Escapism, busyness, religion	**SOURCE OF COMFORT**	Seeks times of quietness to be in God's presence
Competition, rivalry, jealousy	**PEER** R**ELATIONSHIPS**	Humility, unity as you rejoice in other's success
Accusation, Exposure To make yourself look good	**HANDLING OTHER'S FAULTS**	Love covers other's faults
Distrust of Authority	**VIEW OF AUTHORITY**	Respectful & honoring
Distrust of Admonition Feelings easily hurt	**VIEW OF ADMONITION**	Sees admonition as needed and a blessing
Guarded and Conditional	**EXPRESSION OF LOVE**	Open, affectionate, patient
Conditional & Distant	**SENSE OF GOD'S PRESENCE**	Close and Intimate

Bondage	**CONDITION**	Free
Feel like a slave	**POSITION**	Feel like a son or daughter
Desire to be seen And counted mature	**VISION**	Feel sent as a representative of Christ to show His love
Fight for what you Can get	**FUTURE**	Sonship releases your Inheritance

In summary, we all know that our relationship with an earthly father in large measure affects how we view God the Father. Those who have a negative view of God the Father can be set free by acknowledging their sin in wrongly judging Him and by seeking Him to heal the wounds deep within you that comes from a father not being what God the Father called him to be. For those with an orphan spirit, I would suggest deliverance ministry for you. You can be set FREE!