

Overcoming an Orphan Mindset

Orphan Mindset

- Definition of orphan: a child whose parents are deceased; considered undesirable, comfortless and without a home.
- Difference between an orphan spirit and an orphan mindset
- Orphan spirit is our condition before salvation
- Orphan mindset is a belief system that there is a barrier between us and God — we can't truly belong to God until our sanctification is complete.

What does Scripture say?

- **John 14:16-18:** And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.
- **Romans 8:15-16:** 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." ¹⁶ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God...

An orphan mindset is a fatherless mindset

Description of an orphan:

- Doesn't know where the next meal is coming from
- Doesn't know much about own identity
- No security regarding who will take care of them
- No one to cherish or treasure them
- Lacks family to lean on for help or comfort
- Must figure everything out on their own
- Must be more than they are to make things happen for themselves
- Wishes they had someone who truly knew them

An Old Testament Orphan: Mephibosheth

2 Samuel 4:4 Jonathan, Saul's son, had a son who was lame in his feet. He was five years old when the news about Saul and Jonathan came from

Jezreel; and his nurse took him up and fled. And it happened, as she made haste to flee, that he fell and became lame. His name was Mephibosheth.

2 Samuel 9:3-10 (condensed) Then the king said, “Is there not still someone of the house of Saul, to whom I may show the kindness of God?” And Ziba said to the king, “There is still a son of Jonathan *who is* lame in *his* feet.”⁴ So the king said to him, “Where *is* he?” ...⁶ Now when Mephibosheth the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, had come to David, he fell on his face and prostrated himself. Then David said, “Mephibosheth?” And he answered, “Here is your servant!”⁷ So David said to him, “Do not fear, for I will surely show you kindness for Jonathan your father’s sake, and will restore to you all the land of Saul your grandfather; and you shall eat bread at my table continually.”⁸ Then he bowed himself, and said, “What *is* your servant, that you should look upon such a dead dog as I?”⁹ And the king called to Ziba, Saul’s servant, and said to him, “I have given to your master’s son all that belonged to Saul and to all his house.¹⁰ You therefore, and your sons and your servants, shall work the land for him, and you shall bring in *the harvest*, that your master’s son may have food to eat. But Mephibosheth your master’s son shall eat bread at my table always.” ...

- Mephibosheth was a member of the royal family.
- But he lived in fear of the king.
- He lived in poverty
- He lived with a false identity
- He lived with shame
- **Mephibosheth was royalty with an orphan mindset. He is a picture of what many believers live like today.**

Mephibosheth was the recipient of a covenant that he did not make.

- **1 Samuel 18:3-4** Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul.⁴ And Jonathan took off the robe that *was* on him and gave it to David, with his armor, even to his sword and his bow and his belt.

- **1 Samuel 20:14-16** And you shall not only show me the kindness of the LORD while I still live, that I may not die; ¹⁵ but you shall not cut off your kindness from my house forever, no, not when the LORD has cut off every one of the enemies of David from the face of the earth.”
¹⁶ So Jonathan made *a covenant* with the house of David, *saying*, “Let the LORD require *it* at the hand of David’s enemies.”
- But Mephibosheth was not aware of this covenant so he did not live like it.
- But the covenant was in effect. And Mephibosheth’s position as royalty was in effect. He just did not live like it.

We are the recipients of a covenant we did not make.

- **Hebrews 9:15** That is why he is the one who mediates a new covenant between God and people, so that all who are called can receive the eternal inheritance God has promised them. For Christ died to set them free from the penalty of the sins they had committed under that first covenant.
- **Romans 5:1-2** Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.
- **Live like the child of God that you are.**

Benefits of being adopted

- He will never leave us (Heb 13:5b)
- He will supply all our needs (Phil 4:19)
- We have access to all the promises of God (Eph 3:6)
- We are heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ (Rom 8:17)
- God enjoys giving us His kingdom (Lk 12:32)
- If God is for you, who can be against you? (Rom 8:31)
- God makes everything work for your good (Rom 8:28)
- God gives us all things (Rom 8:32)

- We can come to Him boldly (Heb 4:16)
- You are complete (Col 2:10)
- You are perfected forever (Heb 10:14)
- You are forever forgiven (Heb 10:12)
- You are blameless (Col 1:22)
- You are righteous (Rom 5:1)

1 Peter 2:9-10 But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; ¹⁰ who once *were* not a people but *are* now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

Why is it difficult for some people to relate to God as a loving Father?

1. Trauma (deliverance, inner healing)

- Wounds from our past that affect our relationship with God.
- Things we may need deliverance from (occult practices — even if they seemed innocent, curses, etc...)

2. Distorted belief systems

- **God:** having a wrong view of who God is. Seeing Him as distant, angry, uninterested, etc...
 - **Hebrews 12:5-6** And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; ⁶ For whom the Lord loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives."
 - **Jeremiah 31:3** The Lord has appeared of old to me, saying: "Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you."
- **Self:** believing you are unworthy, less than, etc...
 - Past failures

- **2 Corinthians 5:17** Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.
- Legalism (have to earn it)
- **Romans 3:20-22** Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin. ²¹ But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, ²² even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference;
- **Others**
 - **2 Corinthians 5:16-17** Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.
 - We can't carry around judgments of others, prejudices, etc...

3. Sin

- **Habitual lifestyle:** living in rebellious sin, or not wanting to address consistent sin issues.
 - **Romans 6:1-4** What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? ² Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? ³ Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? ⁴ Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.
- 4. **Living according to the flesh:** living only for yourself, not desiring to please God.
 - **Romans 8:5-6** For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. ⁶ For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

5. Unforgiveness

- **Others:** holding unforgiveness towards others.
 - **2 Corinthians 2:10-11** Now whom you forgive anything, I also forgive. For if indeed I have forgiven anything, I have forgiven that one for your sakes in the presence of Christ, ¹¹ lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.
 - **Matthew 5:23-24** Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.
- **Self (shame, self-hate):** holding unforgiveness towards yourself.
 - **Romans 8:1** There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.
 - **1 John 1:9** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- **God:** not forgiving God for His actions (perceived) like death of a family member, or other event.

6. Inner vows and judgments

- Things we have sworn to ourselves, even curses we may have placed on ourselves.
 - **Matthew 5:34-37** But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is God's throne; ³⁵ nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶ Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black. ³⁷ But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.' For whatever is more than these is from the evil one.