**The heart of an orphan: The heart of a son:**

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| **Sees God as a master** | Sees God as a loving Father |
| Independent; Self-reliant | Dependent on God & others in the “family” |
| Insecure; lacks peace | Rest & peace; secure |
| A need for personal achievement as you seek to impress God & others or no motivation to serve at all | Serving is motivated by a deep gratitude for being unconditionally loved & accepted by God |
| Strives for the praise, approval and acceptance of man | Totally accepted in God’s love & justified by grace |
| “Must” be holy to have God’s favor, therefore an increasing sense of shame & guilt | “Want to” be holy; do not want anything to hinder intimate relationship with God |
| Compares self to others; self-rejection  | Positive and affirmed because you know you have such value to God |
| Seek comfort in counterfeit affections: addictions, compulsions, escapism, busyness, hyper-religious activity | Seek times of quietness & solitude to rest in the Father’s presence and love |
| Competition, rivalry, jealousy toward others’ success & position | Humility and unity as you value others and are able to rejoice in their success/blessings |
| Accusation & exposure in order to make yourself look good by making others look bad | Love covers as you seek to restore others in a spirit of love & gentleness |
| See authority as a source of pain; distrustful toward them and lack a heart attitude of submission | Respectful, honoring; you see authority as ministers of God for good in your life |
| Difficulty receiving correction; you must be right so you easily get your feelings hurt and close your spirit to discipline | See the receiving of correction as a blessing and need in your life so your faults & weaknesses are exposed and put to death |
| Love is guarded & conditional; based upon others’ performance as you seek to get your own needs met | Open, patient, and affectionate as you lay your life & agendas down in order to meet the needs of others |
| God’s presence seems conditional & distant | God’s presence is close & intimate |
| Condition: bondage | Condition: liberty/freedom |
| Feels like a servant/slave | Feels like a son/daughter |
| You need to fight for what you can get | Your sonship releases your inheritance |
| Spiritual ambition: the earnest desire for some spiritual achievement and distinction and the willingness to strive for it; a desire to be seen and counted among the mature | To daily experience the Father’s unconditional love and acceptance & then be sent as a representative of His love to family and others |
| Lives by the law (loves the law) | Lives by the law of love |
| Christian disciplines: Duty & earning God’s favor or no motivation at all | Christian disciplines: Pleasure and delight; out of a love relationship |

 Definition of the Orphan/slave spirit: *The orphan spirit causes you to live life as if you don’t have a safe & secure place in the Father’s heart. You feel no place of affirmation, protection, comfort, belonging, or affection. Self-oriented, you have to strive, achieve, compete and earn everything you get in life. The orphan spirit usually deals with self-deception and points faults elsewhere. It easily leads to a life of anxiety, fears & frustration.*

Definition of the Spirit of Sonship: *With a spirit of sonship, you feel loved, valued, honored, and accepted for who you are as God’s creation.  You have no need to “prove” yourself to anyone.  As a son or daughter, you feel a sense of total love and acceptance*

When you recognize that much of your heart attitude is a struggle with the orphan spirit, what do you do? This has to be displaced (put to death) by a personal experience in the Father’s love and a revelation of the spirit of sonship. This will require a repositioning of your life:

1. **You must first acknowledge a need for change of position**. Search your heart and ask the Holy Spirit to convict you of any of the characteristics of the orphan spirit (read through the list & be honest with yourself).
2. **Begin to confess to one another the sins of the orphan spirit**. With someone that you trust, or just alone with Jesus (in your journaling), begin to confess the characteristics of the orphan spirit that are present in your heart.
3. **You may need to receive forgiveness from those against whom you have sinned.** Let the person/people know that you were blinded by your own orphan issues (you may want to share specifically what they were) and ask their forgiveness.
4. **Daily walk of repentance**. The Spirit of Sonship is not a garment you put on, but it is a deep change of heart that will bring changes to your habits. An orphan heart must choose to embrace the spirit of sonship by willingly becoming interdependent in

**Romans 8:15** (New International Version)

*For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you*

*received the Spirit of sonship (adoption). And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."*

**Galatians 4:4-7** (New Living Translation)

*4 But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. 5*

*God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as*

*his very own children. 6 And because we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son*

*into our hearts, prompting us to call out, “Abba, Father.” 7 Now you are no longer a slave but*

*God’s own child. And since you are his child, God has made you his heir.*

*God sent his Son . . . that we might receive the full rights (adoption) of sons.*

*Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the*

*Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." So you are no longer a slave, but a son*.

**Ephesians 1:5** (New Living Translation)

*5 God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through*

*Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.*

**Psalm 27:10** (Amplified Bible)

*10Although my father and my mother have forsaken me, yet the Lord will take me up [adopt*

*me as His child].*

**John 14:18** (New Living Translation)

*18 No, I will not abandon you as orphans—I will come to you.*

**2 Corinthians 6:18** (English Standard Version)

*18 and I will be a father to you,*

*and you shall be sons and daughters to me,*

*says the Lord Almighty."*

**John 17:23** (New Living Translation)

*23 I am in them and you are in me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world*

*will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me. (Jesus praying these words)*

**\***As you read these scriptures, test your heart. Can you believe what is written? Is that how Father God sees you—as a chosen son; adopted into His family? Or do you have a hard time receiving that or understanding that? How you respond in your heart to these scriptures is an indication of the way you see yourself—a son/daughter or an orphan/slave…

\*\*\*This info is taken from Jack Frost’s ministry on the Father’s Embrace: From Spiritual Slavery to Spiritual Sonship\*\*\*