

## Lesson 6 - The Orphan Spirit

### The Orphan

The hurts and wounds that we receive from our parents damage our relationships within the home, and we can withdraw and become orphans.

- We decide to withdraw from the relationship so that we will not be hurt any more.
- You may still live at home, but there is no fellowship, love, or meaningful communication any more.
- You may even grow to resent or hate your parents. The older brother in the story of the prodigal son was an orphan as much as his brother who had left home. He did not know the love of his father either, even though he had a very loving dad and stayed at home to faithfully serve him.

**If we have withdrawn from our earthly father, we will not be able to experience an intimate relationship with our heavenly Father.**

- When we close our heart to our earthly father, we close our heart to having any father.
- When we say “Our Father” in prayer time, we think only about our earthly father and all of his shortcomings.
- The image of our heavenly Father will be tainted by the image we have of our earthly father.

A. We respond to wounding in different ways. (see *Orphan Spirit – Sonship chart*)

B. Wounding can affect our spiritual life

- We can enter a state of spiritual “sleepiness” that hinders our awareness of the life of the Spirit (**Rev. 16:15 AMP, 1 Thes. 5:4-8**) – In this spiritual slumber, we find it difficult to experience intimacy with God (we may be saved and filled with the Holy Spirit, but still have no fellowship with God).
- Living by the principles of God is easier than living by the Spirit of Christ (meekness, humility, and gentleness) and walking in the Father’s love, forgiveness, and compassion.
- The wounding prevents us from receiving spiritual understanding and fresh revelations from God. We are unable to hear or feel the heart of the Father.
- Our preaching or ministry is dry and lifeless. We have no joy from the “kisses” (revelations from His Word) from our Daddy God.
- The Word we read and study has no life to it.
- The music we sing or play is empty of life and meaning. (**Job 32:8, 1 Cor. 2:12-15**)
- Worship becomes mechanical with no sense of the Spirit.
- The wounds can hinder our ability to receive healing in our physical bodies. (**Prov. 17:22, Prov. 18:14**) We will lack the sense of life, joy, and fullness that God wants to give us as a shield against sickness. The Word has no “life or health” in it for us. (**John 6:63**)
- The woundedness and pain destroy our ability to have faith and hope for the future to be any different. We have little hope that our circumstances will ever change. We think only of the past and see only the memories that caused the pain. We have difficulty believing that life will ever get better. Present problems and the pain we live in now is all we are able to see.
- We may live for the thrill of the moment as a means of fleeing or escaping our present problems.

**The Wounds Hinder Us From Communicating Spirit-to-Spirit.** We cannot move past the surface level relationships. We become news, weather, and sports persons afraid to enter into deeper conversations about feelings, emotions, or the Word. It is through our spirit that we become sensitive to each others feelings. We need to sense each others joys, fears, heartaches, sorrows, and grief. Married couples need to be sensitive to each other's spirit so that they will know the other's needs and find ways to meet them. However, when we are living in our wounds and pain, we guard our conversations for fear of others finding out how we really feel. We have difficulty keeping relationships because we live within the realm of our own need for healing and are unable to sense the needs of others.

**Our Wounds Hinder Us From Breaking Sinful Habit Patterns.** The wounds of the soul hinder the spirit man from rising above the habit patterns of the old fleshly man and seeing God. The wounds and pain can speak louder than the inner voice of the Holy Spirit that brings revelations of the Father, dreams, and refreshing. If our soul is wounded, it focuses on the pain, frustrations, and disappointments and responds to the voice of the flesh or carnal man rather than the Spirit. We can still receive by faith even though we may not sense the anointing or presence of God. This lack of sensitivity to the Spirit blocks our sense of conviction of sin. Many Christians remain carnal and go unchanged for years because their wounds have blocked the true conviction of sin. (2 Cor. 7:9-11) Godly sorrow comes from feeling the heart of God and not wanting to grieve the Holy Spirit.

### **Three Common Roles Orphans May Assume**

#### 1) ***The Victim***

- Cannot deal with the wounding and gives in to the pain – leads to feelings of loneliness which lead to deeper inner pain
- This leads to feelings of self-pity, depression, despair, life without hope.
- Thoughts of life become too painful to live with (death wishes)
- May lead to alcoholism, drug addiction, chronic depression, void of emotions or feelings, empty with no motivation for life

#### 2) ***The Persecutor***

- Person fights against the wounding
- Leads to feelings of deep bitterness, then hatred and rebellion against everyone and everything
- These people may become abusers, hyper-perfectionist, workaholics, troublemakers, activists, and inflexible.
- Get their identity for what they do, not who they are
- Rarely acknowledges their need for change
- May lead to occultism

#### 3) ***The Rescuer***

- Wounding creates a deep inner agony, so they begin to struggle against the wound
- They becomes indifferent to the hurt and take on a superficial happiness
- They find recognition in being in the spotlight
- May become talkative, aggressive, loud, charismatic and enjoy the praise of men
- They want to help everyone with their pain and change the world so it will no longer be such an evil place

- They have a difficulty in acknowledging their own need for healing because they do so many good things (however, *the motivation is out of wounds from the past*) They do good things, but for the wrong reasons.
- Become counselors, pastors, nurses, doctors, social workers, public servants
- They may have started out as a victim or persecutor, but their conscience leads them to become a rescuer so that they can feel good about themselves and make peace with the past.
- There is little anointing or life in their efforts, even though there may be great effort

### **Personality Types of the Orphan**

#### 1) ***The Showoff***

- ✓ Get their emotional needs met by drawing as much attention to themselves as possible
- ✓ Become very talkative and try to make themselves look important by being name-droppers, exaggerating their accomplishments in work, sports, or family
- ✓ Steer conversations towards themselves

#### 2) ***The People Pleaser***

- ✓ Find their identity in conforming to the group
- ✓ Have no sense of their own identity so they follow whatever they think the norm is in order to belong
- ✓ Fit into any group and always says the “right” things in order to be accepted
- ✓ Perfect Christians at church, but with non-Christians they follow the crowd’s ideas
- ✓ May be critical of others, but cannot receive criticism

#### 3) ***The Timid***

- ✓ Their wounding has caused them to have a fear of man, failure, and rejection
- ✓ Lack the inner strength to make their own decisions
- ✓ Self-pity and no self-worth – deep inner anger – passive

#### 4) ***The Isolationist***

- ✓ Inner pain has caused them to form walls of self-protection
- ✓ Lack faith in God to meet their emotional needs
- ✓ Cut themselves off to everyone that they think is a threat to them or bond to only a few people
- ✓ May become very possessive to those that they get close to and feel threatened by anyone entering into their relationships

#### 5) ***The Fighter***

- ✓ Become rebellious and defiant toward everyone and everything
- ✓ Usually very independent because they do not want to depend on anyone who may hurt them
- ✓ Often become **workaholics in order to prove their self-worth and to establish their identity**

#### 6) ***The Moralist***

- ✓ Become “God’s policemen”
- ✓ See the faults in everyone else and know how to fix them
- ✓ They have an answer to every problem
- ✓ Very opinionated which reveals their lack of brokenness
- ✓ Live by the letter of the law, but are empty of love – Focus on the letter of the Law, not the Law of Love!

- ✓ Usually right in their observations, but have the wrong attitude
- ✓ Rather be right than have a relationship
- ✓ Their rightness justifies any wrong attitude

### The Orphan's Attitudes Are Affected By the Wounding

#### 1) As a Child

- They begin to respond with hidden resentment that becomes bitterness towards their parent that wound them.
- The child then loses trust for the parent and no longer feels secure enough to share their real feelings of pain and rejection.
- They close their spirit to the parent and cut off communication.
- Not feeling valued or loved, they turn to disobedience. If the parent responds in anger, the child feels more worthless and a failure.
- This will often lead to rebellion. (**Col. 3:21, Eph. 6:4**) "I will reject you before you reject me."

#### 2) Towards a Spouse or Parent

- Has difficulty giving and receiving expressed love – although they may love someone, they cannot express love through words, affection, and intimate communication.
- May spend little time with their family, but gravitate towards work or other friends
- Work, ministry, friends, or sports take priority over family – family members do not feel any genuine love because of their actions and attitudes
- Their love may be very passive – not at home even when they are there physically
- No interest in other's lives, goals, and dreams – wrapped up in their own world
- Unable to nurture another's emotional needs
- May be dominating and intimidating – have no patience for other's faults
- Do not let other's develop their own identity, but make all of the decisions for everyone in the family (child does not develop their own personhood)
- May be open statements of rejection by a spouse/parent in order to make the other one look bad "Can't you do anything right?" "What is the matter with you?" "No child of mine is going to do that!" "You will never make anything of your life!"
- May be physically abusive or open threats of violence to keep others under control and avoid dealing with the problems
- Punishment may be severe or discipline with anger

#### 3) Towards God

- Difficult to come into full submission to God which is caustic to our faith
- Difficulty identifying with the Father
- Self-sufficient life with a lack of trust – lack of prayer and intimacy
- Views the Father as a tyrant that punishes them
- Receives condemnation more than conviction
  - **Condemnation** says, "You are wrong, no good, unworthy."
  - **Conviction** says, "You are good, but what you did was wrong.")
- Unconsciously blames God for the woundings they experienced
- Relationship with God is mechanical with no fellowship or communion
- Becomes rebellious, independent, and not yielding to the conviction of sin

**We can feel like orphans as adults too – even Christians**

- 1) Allowing darkness or unconfessed sin to remain in our lives
  - If we continue to walk in negative thinking, known disobedience, or other sins, we will quench the presence of God in our lives. We cannot experience the love of the Father when we choose to dwell in darkness. (John 3:19, 1 John 1:5-7) Without the presence of God, we feel even more rejection which causes us to withdraw from God.
  
- 2) We may experience sickness or other complications with our body, grief from loss of a friendship or loved one, financial crisis, ministry crisis, personal attacks from others, or loneliness and find ourselves drying up on the inside.
  - The Word loses its meaning and the joy and zeal for life is no longer there.
  - **Fear, Anxiety, and Stress** are the root of many diseases and problems in our bodies ("disease" in our body!)
  
- 3) Giving out more than what is coming in
  - We become too busy ministering or "getting ahead," and we take little time to feed our spirit-man.
  - We find ourselves living more out of our heads than from our spirit.
  - Our strength and energy for God fades and we soon have no life left in us.
  
- 4) If expressed love, acceptance, and affection are cut off, we can become wounded and find ourselves focusing on the hurts rather than the Spirit.
  - We may even deny that we have a need for love, acceptance, or approval even though on the inside we are crying out for it.
  - An indicator of this is fear (fear of rejection, fear of failure, fear of man, fear of intimacy and transparency, fear of being real, open, and honest).
  
- 5) Any fear in our lives is an indication that we have a love deficit. (1 John 4:18)
  - Love has not been made complete in our lives.
  - This love deficit hinders our spirit-man from walking in intimacy with God, family, and others.
  - When there is a love deficit (lack of expressed love, acceptance, and affection), inner desires of our flesh rise up in our soul. In this weakened state, the spirit-man is unable to stop the flesh from seeking love in the wrong ways.
  - As long as we have a fear of being real and open with people, our love deficit has not been filled.
  
- 6) Pastors can be afraid of losing their members to another church – ("sheep stealing!")
  - They can be possessive of their members and not want them to even go to events at other churches
  - They can be envious and jealous of the success, resources, or effectiveness of other pastors
  
- 7) Use excuses to shift the blame or responsibility onto someone or something other than themselves.
  - Not willing to take ownership of the problem
  - Excuses create a safe place to hide and not do anything
  - Excuses stop us from moving forward or achieving anything meaningful in our life

8) Unable to glory in another person receiving success, receiving recognition, being blessed, or receiving revelation from the Word

- Ask God, "Why didn't I get blessed?"
- Complain or find fault with those who do get recognized or blessed when they do not
- Have to let others know what they have achieved or that they too have already received the same revelation from the Word
- False humility, which is a form of pride, becomes a problem