

"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." Romans 8:15 NKJV

Genesis 16–21: A Story of Identity and Promise

- God gave the promise of Isaac.
- The promise took too long to be fulfilled.
- Abraham went into covenant with the future symbol of slavery when he had relations with an Egyptian woman, Hagar.
- Hagar comes on the scene with Ishmael.
- God has a name change for Abraham and Sarah, which is symbolic of an identity change.
- A new covenant was invoked through circumcision, and then the promise arrived.

We must get an identity change before the promise arrives!

- Hagar and Ishmael begin to persecute Sarah and Isaac. Hagar and Ishmael are sent away.

The Orphan Identity vs. Child of God Identity

- The orphaned identity persecutes the child of God identity.
- The orphaned identity is in direct conflict with God's promises for His children.
- One of the highest honors we could offer God in worship is to treat Him as a good and faithful Father!

Battle of Belief and Identity

- What we believe activates that realm of power in our lives.
- The first thing Satan tries to attack in Jesus is His identity as a child of God.
"If you're the Son of God..." Matthew 4:3 NKJV
- Are we children of God or not? We're either children of God or orphans.
- The enemy's main goal is to lure us away from a "Child of God" based identity and into the slave camp, eating from the orphan's table.
- Our Good Father paid the ultimate price, and Jesus paid the ultimate price for us to bear this title: "God's Children" no longer "Orphans or Slaves."
- Satan would have no greater joy than to interrupt this identity, so he does.

"Are You My Dad?" Identity Crisis

The world is looking for fatherhood and will take on the identity of anyone or anything willing to adopt them, no matter how sick, perverted, twisted, or blasphemous it may be. The enemy will speak fatherhood to all our insecurities using every other name than the Name above all names.

"The orphan spirit accepts the affection of any voice."

Your gracious Father in heaven will allow whatever false identity you've been adopted by to be dismantled so you can find your true identity in Him. That process is often very painful. God will do whatever it takes to claim us and adopt us as His very own — and it's for our benefit!





The Orphan Spirit

The orphan spirit = a spirit of poverty: spiritually, financially, mentally. It's an insult to God because He's a good Father & great provider!

The Remedy – Jesus

Jesus came to show us how to be sons again and what that looks like. We look to Him and His examples for wisdom, inspiration, and direction so we can break off the orphan tendencies.

Jesus as the Perfect Son

1. Trust

Everything about a true child of God identity can be summed up by this word: **TRUST**
Ultimate form of trust = resting, even in times of trouble and great danger
Jesus rested in the boat because of trust. Rest is one of the highest forms of worship. It's evidence that we trust God. He didn't have to maintain an image or manufacture some spiritual ritual or exercise—He simply slept.

2. Surrender & Abandonment of Control

In times of Gethsemane, our response must echo: *"Nevertheless, Thy will be done."*
No Ishmael's—God will bring us what we need, in His timing and way.

We don't need to make covenants with Egypt or rely on our flesh to produce what God has promised. There is no need to prove ourselves.

"If You are the Son of God..." Matthew 4, NKJV

Satan's first tactic is to attack our identity. He tempts us to adopt an identity that is contrary to the purpose and call of God on our lives.

3. Patience

Willingness to wait—refusing to be immature or impatient, throwing fits or temper tantrums when we don't get what we want, when we want it.

4. Live by Faith

Everything must first be lived out by faith—believing without seeing, even denying present circumstances unless they align with God's Word and will. We have to start out in faith in order to see the result manifest later. We are called to walk by faith, not by sight.

5. Conviction

Through God, we have more than enough—He is Jehovah Jireh, our Provider!



"What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?" Romans 8:31–32 NKJV

6. Fear Broken

Our ultimate litmus test for the orphan spirit losing its power is fear being lifted from our lives. Perfect love casts out fear. Fear expects punishment, trouble, guilty judgment, and condemnation.

"There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love." 1 John 4:18 NKJV

"Nevertheless what does the Scripture say?

Cast out the bondwoman and her son, for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman." Galatians 4:30 NKJV

Our Response as Sons and Daughters

We must adopt a firm and thorough rejection of anything other than Sonship. We're not going to insult our Father — He is good.

Everything must be rooted in this revelation:

- **Everything Jesus did was so we could be connected to His Father.**
- **Everything Jesus did was so we could have a right relationship with His Father.**
- **Everything the Holy Spirit does is to glorify Jesus—so we can believe in Him, be forgiven, and be in right standing with God as our Good Father.**

"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you," says the Lord, "thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.

And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

I will be found by you," says the Lord, "and I will bring you back from your captivity." Jeremiah 29:11–14 NKJV