

ORPHANS VS. SONS

(Taken from "Sonship for Africa by Johnny Long, 1997)

Spiritual "Orphans" live in one of two modes: Pharisee or failure

Note: This is a diagnostic tool to show the **movement** of a growing Christian's life, not a list of attributes we acquire fully in this life. But, we will keep "moving right" as, by the Spirit we keep: dying to our "god-ness", surrendering to the gift-righteousness of Jesus, and repenting of our inclination to live for the praise of men instead of the glory of God.

THE ORPHAN

SANCTIFICATION BY TRYING HARDER

Galatians 3:3 "Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort?"

He feels alone and lacks a vital daily intimacy with God. He's a vacuum of self concern."

He is full of anxiety over "felt needs", friends, money, etc. "I'm all alone and nobody cares." He is not a joyful person.

He lives on a success/fail basis and must "look good" at any cost. (performance oriented)

He feels condemned, guilty and unworthy before God and others.

He has a "little faith", lots of fear, and no ability to really trust God. "I must fix it."

He says "yes" to everything, fears saying "no", tried to please everybody, but then burns out.

He is rebellious towards God and others, and acts spiritually old and hard hearted.

THE SON or DAUGHTER

SANCTIFICATION BY FAITH

John 14:18 "I will not leave you as orphans..."

He has a growing assurance that "God is really my loving heavenly Father." (I Jn.4:16)

He trusts the Father and has a growing confidence in His loving care. He is being freed up from worry (Matt. 6:25ff)

He is learning to live daily in self-conscious partnership with God as his "Senior Partner".

He feels loved, forgiven, and totally accepted because he is consciously "clothed in Christ."

He has a daily working trust in God's sovereign plan for his life as loving, wise and best.

Prayer is his first resort; "I must ask my Abba-Father first." (Jn. 14:13; 15:16)

He has the strength to be submissive; has a tender heart towards God. (Psalm 51:17)

He is defensive and gets angry at the suggestion that he might be self-righteous. (rather than entering into self-examination over it)

He must always be right, safe, secure. He is unwilling to fail, and can't tolerate criticism. (can only handle praise)

He is SELF-confident but Dis-couraged, defeated, and lacking the Holy Spirit's power.

"I'll show them!" "Just watch me!"
"Where everyone else failed, I'll succeed." (will power)

"Self effort" and reliance on his natural talents and abilities is what drives his ministry.

He is complaining and thankless toward God and others. He tears others down and displays a bitter, critical spirit.

He is an expert at pointing out what is wrong. He is always complaining and dissatisfied about something (often walking around with a "Don't I smell a dead fish?" look on his/her face.)

He gossips. (confesses other people's sins) He needs to criticize others to feel secure. He is a "competent analyst" of other's weaknesses, attributing it to having "the gift of discernment."

He compares himself with others – leading either to pride or depression. (depending on how good/bad he looks compared to them)

He is open to criticism since he consciously stands in Christ's perfection, not his own. He examines his deeper motives (Ps. 139:23-24)

He is able to take risks – even fail; Since his righteousness is in Christ, he does not need a "record" to boast in, protect or defend.

He is CHRIST-confident and EN-couraged because of the Holy Spirit's deep work in him.

"I can do all things through Christ who gives me the strength!" (Phil. 4:13)

He is trusting less in self, and more in the Holy Spirit (with a daily, self-conscious reliance)

He relies on the Spirit to guide his tongue for use in praise, edification, thanksgiving, and for building others up—not tearing them down.

He is not blind to wrong, but chooses instead to focus on what is good and lovely (Phil. 4:8) (Chronically negative people may try to compensate for your positivism by becoming even more negative.)

He is able to freely confess his faults to others and prefers to major on their strengths. He doesn't always have to be right. He is a learner, is growing, and finds he is often wrong.

He stands confidently in Christ with his self-worth growing out of Jesus blood and righteousness, not his own goodness. (Phil. 3:9)

He is powerless to defeat the flesh. There is no real “heart victory” over “pet sins” – yet he has lost his sense of being A “big sinner”. (2Tim. 1:15)

He is relatively prayerless; prayer is a “last resort.” “When all else fails...” He prays very often in public, but very seldom in private.

God’s promises of spiritual power and joy mock him. “What has happened to all your joy?” (Gal. 4:15)

He needs to boast and must constantly point out his own accomplishments for fear that someone might overlook them. (Galatians 6:14)

He is unconsciously building “a record” of works that needs to be noticed and defended.

He is self-centered; “If they would only see things my way!” Controlling. He has a deep need to be in control of situations and people.

Something other than Jesus can satisfy. “Idols” in his life (positions and possessions) make him feel worthy, worthwhile, “justified.” (Not “I count them but dung, so that I may win Christ...” – Phil. 3:8)

He has little desire to share his faith, and when he does, it tends to be out of duty – not genuine love for the lost. (“May God... fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” Romans 15:13)

He is having more and more victory over his flesh –yet there is a growing consciousness of his sinfulness! (I Tim. 1:15; Romans 8:1-9)

Prayer is a vital part of the day, and is not confined to a “Quiet Time.” He talks to his Abba throughout the day. (I Thess. 5: 16-18)

God’s promises of power and joy are beginning to describe him. (Romans 15:13)

He finds that Jesus is more and more the subject of his conversation; he boasts in his weaknesses! (2Cor. 12:9, 10)

Christ’s righteousness is his “record” so he stands complete in Him (I Cor. 1:28ff)

He is becoming Christ-controlled, and ministers in the power of the Holy Spirit – not in the strength of his “redeemed flesh.”

God is his meat and drink; God is truly satisfying to his soul!” ...and having Him, I desire nothing else on earth.” (Ps. 73:25) “May I never boast except in the cross of Christ...” (Gal. 6:14)

Because he desires to see the lost come to know Jesus with the same intimacy he has, he shares the gospel freely – even when there is no evangelism program. (pressure) “...the love of Christ constrains us...” (2 Cor. 5:14)