

Encounter Church
Sunday August 17, 2025

You Belong
Overcoming an Orphan Spirit

1. I am easily hurt, offended or defensive and have a hypersensitivity to perceived criticism.
2. I have a hard time submitting to or respecting authority figures, including spiritual leaders.
3. I have a constant need to prove myself driven by a desire to to earn love and acceptance. I seek validation from external sources rather than God.
4. I struggle with deep, meaningful connections with others, including God, and I have difficulty expressing or receiving love. I lack trust and security in relationships, especially with God.
5. I have low-self-esteem and constantly search for validation and approval of others.
6. I go to great lengths to please others, often at my on expense to gain acceptance and avoid rejection.
7. I need to constantly perform well and have a perfectionist lifestyle to earn love and acceptance.
8. I struggle with jealousy toward other's successes and blessings viewing them as a threat rather than a reason to rejoice.
9. I feel isolated, disconnected and struggle to find a sense of belonging or true connection even when I'm part of a group or community. I have feelings of being alone even within a community. I always feel like I don't belong!
10. I often isolate myself because my mindset is characterized by feelings of abandonment, rejection and insecurity.
11. I struggle to accept God's unconditional love and grace and instead believe I must earn my salvation or acceptance through my actions.

WHO AM I?

I AM AN ORPHAN SPIRIT!

It's not just about physical orphanhood; it's a spiritual condition characterized by feelings of abandonment, rejection, isolation, and a lack of belonging!

It often stems from past hurts and experiences that create a sense of distance from God and others!

The term "Orphan Spirit" describes a mindset and behavior pattern often associated with feelings of insecurity, lack of belonging and a striving to earn love and approval rather than receiving it as a gift!

The "orphan spirit" is a thorn in the side of humanity!

It speaks a lie that says, ***I'm alone, isolated, rejected and unsafe!***

Our enemy Satan, takes those lies and tempts us to come in agreement with them!

HERE'S WHERE IT GETS REALLY CRITICAL!

He attaches them to our view of God the Father, thus creating fear and feelings of separation!

(Personal Testimony). There was a time when Pastor Justin and Kayla left Jacksyn with both sets of grandparents for a week. He stayed with Tony and Sandra the first part of the week and then with us the latter part of the week.

By the end of the week there was something different about Jacksyn. He was wandering around the house like he was looking for someone. His attitude had changed and he had a distraught look on his face.

When a baby is separated from his or her parents, they often experience separation anxiety, causing great fear in them.

SEPARATION ANXIETY, IT'S REAL. EVEN MY DOG HAD IT! (SHOW PICTURE)

WHAT IS THE RESULT OF SEPARATION ANXIETY? **GREAT FEAR!**

WHERE DID IT ALL BEGIN?

Genesis 3:8-10(NKJV)- "And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?" So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself."

WHO SHOWED UP IN THE GARDEN?

WHO HID? WHO SEPARATED FROM WHO?

WHEN DID FEAR FIRST APPEAR IN THE HISTORY OF MANKIND?

When humanity chose to turn away from God, and unexpected fear entered our lives!

THE ORPHAN SPIRIT!

When we fail we often take the way of Adam and Eve and hide ourself-isolating ourselves from God and others!

We feel alienated and alone! Far away from God!

Isaiah 5:13 (NLT)- “So my people will go into exile **far away** because they do not know me. Those who are great and honored will starve, and the common people will die of thirst.”

WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT GOD TO BEGIN THE HEALING PROCESS AND RECOVER FROM AN ORPHAN SPIRIT?

1. God is never the one who leaves us.

Deuteronomy 31:6 (NKJV)-“Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the Lord your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you.”

Hebrews 13:5-6 (NKJV)-Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” So we may boldly say: “The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?”

2. God’s love is unconditional.

Romans 5:6-11(NLT)- “When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. And since we have been made right in God’s sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God’s condemnation. For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son. So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God.”

1John 4:16-18 (NLT)- “We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love. God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them. And as

we live in God, our love grows more perfect. So we will not be afraid on the day of judgment, but we can face him with confidence because we live like Jesus here in this world. Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced his perfect love.”

3. He’s not only God-He wants to be my Father.

Romans 8:15-16 (NLT)- “So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God’s Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, “Abba, Father.” For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God’s children.”

I’M NOT ABANDONED! I’M ADOPTED!

I’M NOT ALONE! I’M PART OF A FAMILY!

I’M NOT AN ORPHAN! I’M A CHILD OF GOD!

You belong!!!

CONCLUSION: One last thing you need to know about God.

4. He chose you, but you must choose Him.

Ephesians 1:5 (NLT)- “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.”

John 1:12(NLT)- “But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.”

Romans 10:9-13(NLT)- “If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. As the Scriptures tell us, “Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced.” Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on him. For “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

I’M NOT AN ORPHAN, I BELONG!