



Kingdom Life Ministry Presents:

Keys to Kingdom Living

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Dear Friend,

Spirit of Adoption!

At the church Lois and I attend there is a family that we have had the honor to know and observe for the past ten years. The husband and wife are older and through the time we have known them they have adopted four special needs children from Cambodia and Viet Nam. They range in ages from six years of age into there teens.

When I first noticed them they had just brought into their family a little girl whose left arm was deformed, with her hand being about where you would expect to see the bicep. At first she wasn't too thrilled to be at church but as the years past she would dance up front to the worship waving a small flag around as she twirled to the music.

A few years ago they brought in two children, a boy and a girl, that definitely did not like where they were. I marveled at the patience that the parents must have to be able manage these kids who were obstinate and definitely defiant to the degree that they were almost hostile towards them. Now they appear to well adjusted, normal loving children. Last year they adopted another child, this one needing to be continually in a wheel chair. The other children come around to help and talk to him constantly, interact with other children, are polite and have become a family.

By looking at this family you would never guess the struggles they must have all gone through and I am sure are still going through as they learn to adapt to one another. These parents definitely have loved the life back into these children who by the circumstances of life were physically and emotionally abandoned.

Orphan Spirit!

As I watched them through the years the Lord began to speak to me about the church. He told me that the church is much like the family I just told you about. We too in some ways are just like those kids and the church is much like a foster home. But what really constitutes being an orphan? The legal definition of an orphan is, 'an individual who through death or disappearance, abandonment or desertion has experienced a separation or loss from both parents.' I don't know about you but I have parents so how does this even relate to me?

At first I questioned if I was hearing the Lord correctly when I came upon a scripture in John 14:18, **"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you."** I realized that because of Adam & Eve's original sin Father God banished them from the Garden of Eden. You can almost hear the accusations that swirled around them as they made the journey out from the presence of God and the only home they had ever known. "You are no good! Your Father will never want you back after what you did! What a disappointment you've become!" The lies of Satan along with their own feelings of guilt and shame created within them the false belief that they were abandoned, '*orphans*' and that their Father wanted nothing to do with them.

From that moment onward each subsequent generation was born with an '*orphan spirit*' or a deep sense that their Father in heaven was disappointed in them, had abandoned them, and wanted nothing to do with them. Which makes sense when you realize how many in the world believe that Father God is like the God of the Old Testament, unapproachable and having a lot of rules to follow. Especially rules that start with the word, NO!

From the scriptures we know that this is far from the truth. Our Father in heaven already had a plan to get his children back. He sent His one and only son, 'the second Adam' so that through Jesus we would have the chance to once again be reconciled to our Father. **2 Corinthians 5:16-21**

That is why so many in the body of believers just scoff at the notion that we could in anyway be associated with being an orphan now that we have accepted Jesus as our Savior. But being adopted into a family doesn't cancel out the fact that you once had an orphan spirit and like the kids in the above story that were adopted into the family it took time for them to be 'loved back to life!'

Life in our new home!

When adopting a child it is easy to have the feeling that the child should unconditionally love us from the very beginning. After all, look at all sacrifices we have made for them! That in and of itself should show them how much we love them and how grateful they should be for all the sacrifices we are making for them. We forget that most children do not know what it is like to be loved.

Many children have gone from one foster home to another before they ended up at the home they are presently in. During this time they have met many people who have told them they loved them only to abuse them physically, emotionally and in some cases sexually. Because of these instances of abuse in their past they have an expectancy that there will come a time when their new parents will do to them what everyone else has done to them in the past. To abuse them on some level and then because of the parent's guilt and shame they will send them back to the orphanage abandoning them again. Often the parents act as if they were once orphaned as well and never really have learned to love and to be loved in the right way. **Luke 10:27**

As I thought about these things I began to see that all of us battle to some degree with being, 'spiritual orphans'. We feel, deep within our subconscious that God has abandoned us and that we must earn his love and acceptance. So when we do accept Jesus into our lives, making way for us to have a right relationship with Father God, we may have no idea what it is like to be unconditionally loved and accepted. Because of this many of us express openly our hurt, fear and past disappointments to those we come in contact with. In a room full of foster kids on a Sunday morning it shouldn't surprise us that we don't all act up every now and then.

I have often wondered if children who have been in one foster home after another are a lot like the people who go from church to church. In foster homes many of the children are the worst when it comes to their relationship with the other children and unfortunately that is that how it is in church at times. Perhaps their spiritual parents either didn't see or turned a blind eye toward the abuse that others were doing to them. In some cases the abuse may have come from their spiritual parents who themselves were reacting out of an orphan spirit creating more hurt and confusion in an already difficult situation causing them to run away from home once again.

Being loved back to life itself!

So what is the reason for our writing this? So that we all can learn and realize what this 'orphan spirit' is and how to give each other grace in this process of adoption. We all have come into the church as 'spiritual orphans' not knowing how to love and be loved as Christ loved the church. Many of us are acting out of our own hurt either wanting so hard to be accepted or having been hurt so much in the past that we act out in unacceptable ways that often push people away. *Pastors and leaders who should be mature are not. People who should know better do not act like it.*

I don't know all the turmoil that the parents went through in raising those orphans from Viet Nam and Cambodia but I can't imagine it was easy for any of them. When I saw them they always acted in a responsible, mature and even-tempered way no matter how difficult the child was at the moment. They truly took those children in and gave them something that all of us would like to experience. To be unconditionally loved, accepted and adopted, literally being loved back to life itself.

The church is like an orphanage and the pastors and leaders are the fathers and mothers. Just like those kids who came from a foreign country into a home here in Pennsylvania. We too came from a foreign country into a strange place hoping this was the way back home.

It is through the Holy Spirit's dwelling in us and our experiencing His unconditional love, faithfulness, and total acceptance that we begin to be transformed into who we really are. We are His beloved children, unconditionally loved, never abandoned! It is through this process of adoption that we come to know love, becoming mature members of the body of Christ so that we can model and live as true sons and daughters of Father God.

Father I pray for each of us that through your Holy Spirit we can fully know that we now have total access back into your arms of unconditional love, and acceptance. Being transformed into your likeness more every day of our lives.

Much Love to all,



Rex & Lois

'Kingdom Healing Conference'
Lake Stevens WA—March 4th—6th
Register at: www.kcmi.com