

# Comparisons between The Orphan and The Child of God

## The Orphan

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

Feels alone. Lacks a vital daily intimacy with God. Is full of self-concern.

Anxious over felt needs: relationships, money, health. "I'm all alone and nobody cares. I'm not a happy camper."

Lives on a succeed/fail basis. Needs to "look good and "be right". Is performance-oriented.

Feels condemned, guilty and unworthy before God and others.

Has little faith, lots of fear, lots of faith in himself: "I've got to fix it."

Labors under a sense of unlimited obligation. Tries too hard to please. Burns out.

Rebellious. Resists authority. Heart is hard. Is not easily teachable.

Defensive. Can't listen well. Bristles at the charge of being self-righteous (thus proving the point).

Needs to be right, safe secure. Unwilling to fail. Unable to tolerate criticism. Can only 'handle' praise.

Excessively self-confident or self-loathing. Discouraged, defeated. Lacks spiritual power.

Tends towards an 'I can do it myself!' attitude. Is strong-willed, driven.

Unbelieving effort. Relies only on his gifts to get by in ministry.

## The Child of God

*But he has given us the Spirit of sonship and by him we cry, 'Abba, Father!' Romans 8:15*

Has grown assurance that 'God is really *my* loving heavenly Father.'

Trusts the Father and has a growing confidence in His loving care. Is being freed up from worry.

Learning to live in daily, conscious, partnership with God. Is not fearful.

Feels loved, forgiven and totally accepted because Christ's merit really clothes him.

Has a daily *working trust* in God's sovereign plan for her loving, wise and best. Believes God is good.

Prayer is the first resort: "I'm going to ask my Daddy first. Cries, "Abba, Father!"

Has strength to be submissive. Has a soft, broken and contrite heart. Is teachable.

Open to criticism since she *consciously* stands in *Christ's* perfection, not her own. Is able to examine her unbelief.

Able to take risks and even fail, since his righteousness is in Christ. Needs no 'record' to boast in, protect or defend.

Confident in Christ and encouraged because of the Holy Spirit's work in her.

"I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength!"

Trusting *less* in self and more in the Holy Spirit – a daily, conscious reliance.

---

## Scriptural references on becoming a spiritual son/daughter:

Romans 8:15-17  
Hebrews 2:10-18

Galatians 3:26 – 4:7  
John 1:10-13

Luke 15:11-32  
1 John 3