

THE FIRST ORPHAN IN THE UNIVERSE

By Dave Poulton

MY JOURNEY TO REALITY

In 2001, I remember sitting in a meeting listening to the late Jack Frost speaking about the “orphan spirit.” Because I grew up without a father present in the home, I had always regarded myself as a non-orphan. The reason: I hadn’t been taken to an orphanage to be brought up. My mind-set had always been tuned to the belief that orphans lived in orphanages, and so I tuned out to what Jack was saying as I had told myself the message didn’t apply to me.

Then in June 2006, I conducted a Father Heart Conference in Canberra through the church I was attending. James Jordan was the guest speaker and he also gave a session addressing the orphan spirit. Again I found myself tuning out from the message because my belief system hadn’t changed. Then in January 2013, God the Father began to speak to me about the orphan spirit. It came about as I was revising some notes I had written when I was the Principal of Unity College in Canberra. I had given a series of lectures on the apostle John’s Gospel account. I was reworking John 14, with my focus intently on Jesus’ words concerning the promise of the coming of the Holy Spirit. In my lecture notes I had quoted **John 14:18** “I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.” (NKJV) As I read this verse again I remembered that both Jack and James had said something concerning this verse. My notes from the meetings helped shed some light on recollections as to what both men had said (I keep my notes in meticulous order). Lucifer was the very first orphan in the universe!

Lucifer lived in the presence of the Father in a sinless state. He only knew Father’s love and the beauty of His presence. He was a majestic angel who had a special place in heaven itself. As I reread John 14:18, I looked back on my childhood.

MY CHILDHOOD SHAPED MY FUTURE, SO I THOUGHT...

I grew up in a small country town in NSW, devoid of a father’s influence. When I was 17 years old, I made a decision that I was not going to live with family anymore, so I joined the Regular Army. My reason: family and people hurt you. I thought if I could get away from family, aunts and uncles I could live free of pain. I had grown up in the stigma of a fatherless family and my escape from that little country town, so I thought, would afford me the opportunity to forge a new identity.

I joined the army thinking that it would suffice for a relationship that I didn’t have with my father. I realised that the old saying, ‘like father, like son’ had a note of truth to it. My father was a WWII soldier, and here I was joining the army. I really didn’t know who I was, so I thought I could at least notch out an identity in the army.

Growing up I could never remember my father; what he looked like or what his voice sounded like. He abandoned my family when I was three years old, in 1946 leaving my

mother to raise us kids on welfare immediately post-war. I received a call from my mother in my second year of service informing me that my father was gravely ill in Concord Hospital in Sydney; would I visit him. I was married, and so my wife and I made the trip to Concord to visit him. I didn't even know what he looked like and had to ask the nursing staff to show me where he was. I was taken to the third floor of the hospital and out onto a veranda. There was a solitary figure seated in a chair, a frail, white haired man who looked so downcast he didn't even realise his life was about to end.

I can't even recall what I said to him other than introducing myself as his son. My wife tells me we exchanged some words and then we left. He wasn't my father—I never knew him and I certainly didn't accept that this man on the balcony was my father. He died three months after we visited him. I was asked to represent the family at his funeral; I refused. His death, so I thought, would put an end to the misery and the loneliness that had plagued my life. Looking back, I had cut my sister and my two brothers out of my life. Family was not going to dictate the terms of reference for my life, and so the army was my vehicle of escape.

I gave my life to the Lord when I was 31 years of age, at a time when life for me could have easily ended. I could never remember a male figure actually embracing me in an attitude of love and so I would recoil when anyone wanted to express love to me. My conversion was powerful. My baptism in water was powerful. My baptism in the Holy Spirit was powerful, but I just couldn't grasp sonship or that God was actually my REAL Father.

In 2001, I was at a conference in Canberra as mentioned before. The late Jack Frost was speaking, and I was glued to his every word as he unpacked the Father's heart and His love for His children. I was sitting in the front row of the church, and Jack walked over to me, put his arms around me and held me as a father would hold a son. I had never had anyone do that to me, ever! He held me; I cried from the very depths of my being. Jack prayed a very simple prayer over me. He just asked God to be my Father and allow me to be His son and that I would know the deepest measure of intimacy with the Father.

I collapsed in his arms and wept, and wept, and wept. For the first time in my life I experienced the reality of Father's love for me. I had been in ministry for some twenty years in various pastoral leadership functions and I had never experienced Father's love. God the Father in that moment dissolved my concept, rearranged my theology. It ceased being words on paper doctrine—it was a manifest, demonstrated reality of Father's love for me from His heart of sheer tenderness. I realised my desperate need to be His son and for Him to be my Father. As I lay sobbing uncontrollably, all I can remember asking was, "Daddy, can I be your son and will You be my Father?" For me it was a matter of desperation for me to have a father and for me to know that I was His son.

PIECING IT TOGETHER

Again I read John 14:18 and I suddenly realised that God had removed my orphan status and I was His son. Not only that I was His adopted son. In 2001 I knew who I was at last, and a new anointing came upon that simple revelation. The anointing that came with that realisation was as powerful as I have ever experienced. I knew whose I was, at last. My Father created the entire universe! *How neat was that*, I thought to myself. Yet, Lucifer, Adam and Eve lost it all. What happened? Why? Why did the Father say He would not leave us as orphans? God was saying I was an orphan. No way! Orphans lived in orphanages, and so my historical lie was about to get pounded into reality by God's Word.

IT ALL STARTED IN HEAVEN

Isaiah 14:12-19 says, "How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You who have weakened the nations! ¹³ "But you said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, And I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north. ¹⁴ 'I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.' ¹⁵ "Nevertheless **you will be thrust down to Sheol, To the recesses of the pit.** ¹⁶ "Those who see you will gaze at you, They will ponder over you, *saying*, 'Is this the man who made the earth tremble, Who shook kingdoms, ¹⁷ Who made the world like a wilderness And overthrew its cities, Who did not allow his prisoners to go home?' ¹⁸ "All the kings of the nations lie in glory, Each in his own tomb. ¹⁹ "But you have been cast out of your tomb Like a rejected branch, Clothed with the slain who are pierced with a sword, Who go down to the stones of the pit Like a trampled corpse." (NASB Emphasis added.)

Here Lucifer is thrown out of heaven after iniquity was found in his heart. From being in the presence of the Father and His love, to being cast out from His presence and away from His love for eternity. Lucifer loses his identity. He undergoes a name change, and to make matter worse, he has no inheritance. Lucifer becomes an orphan. An orphan in his ways, his thinking, and his speech. His whole attitude is that of an orphan. He knows he cannot get at the Father directly, but he also knows that he can get at the Father through His children, Adam and Eve.

The prophet Ezekiel, when prophesying to the King of Tyre references Lucifer's demise. In chapter 28 beginning at verse 12 through to verse 17 we read:

"You had the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. ¹³ "You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The ruby, the topaz, and the diamond; The beryl, the onyx, and the jasper; The lapis lazuli, the turquoise, and the emerald; And the gold, the workmanship of your

settings and sockets, Was in you. On the day that you were created They were prepared. ¹⁴"You were the anointed cherub who covers, And I placed you there. You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked in the midst of the stones of fire. ¹⁵ **"You were blameless in your ways From the day you were created, Until unrighteousness was found in you.** ¹⁶ "By the abundance of your trade You were internally filled with violence, **And you sinned;** Therefore I have cast you as profane From the mountain of God. And I have destroyed you, O covering cherub, From the midst of the stones of fire. ¹⁷ "Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom by reason of your splendor. **I cast you to the ground;** I put you before kings, That they may see you." (Emphasis added.)

God placed Lucifer in his position in heaven and removed him from it because of sin, and that brings us to Adam and Eve. Lucifer was in the presence of the Father. He was there from the beginning, sinless, until iniquity was found in his heart. When sin was discovered, God the Father cast Lucifer out of His presence. I believe that Satan is the absolute essence of the orphan spirit and he is the very first fatherless one. When the Jesus says, "I will not leave you as orphans," He is speaking about the degree to which one can live in the state of an orphan—this degree of the orphan heart is in all humanity. It is this orphan spirit that Father says He will not leave us as; in our thinking, our speech, and our behaviour. He's coming to bring our hearts home to His love. He will not leave us the same way He left Adam and Eve.

Adam was fashioned by the Father's very hands from the dust of the ground. Father breathed into His son's nostrils and Adam comes to life in the presence of His Father.

Genesis 3 (the whole chapter) says:

Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?" ² The woman said to the serpent, "From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; ³ but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.'" ⁴ The serpent said to the woman, "You surely will not die!" ⁵ "For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶ When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make *one* wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings. ⁸ They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ Then the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰ He said, "I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I

was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself." ¹¹ And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹² The man said, "The woman whom You gave *to be* with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate." ¹³ Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" And the woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." ¹⁴ The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, Cursed are you more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you will go, And dust you will eat All the days of your life; ¹⁵ And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel." ¹⁶ To the woman He said, "I will greatly multiply Your pain in childbirth, In pain you will bring forth children; Yet your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you." ¹⁷ Then to Adam He said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat from it'; Cursed is the ground because of you; In toil you will eat of it All the days of your life. ¹⁸ "Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; And you will eat the plants of the field; ¹⁹ By the sweat of your face You will eat bread, Till you return to the ground, Because from it you were taken; For you are dust, And to dust you shall return." ²⁰ Now the man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all *the* living. ²¹ The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them. ²² Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might stretch out his hand, and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever"—²³ therefore the LORD God **sent him out from the garden of Eden**, to cultivate the ground from which he was taken. ²⁴ So **He drove the man out**; and at the east of the garden of Eden He stationed the cherubim and the flaming sword which turned every direction to **guard the way to the tree of life** (NASB). (Emphasis added.)

THE TRAP IS SET

Adam, like Lucifer (before his demise in heaven), enjoyed the love of his Father in a sinless state. All Adam knew was the intimacy of relationship and the Father wanted him to enjoy that same relationship with Eve. Here we have in the garden, two of God's own children in a love relationship with their Father. Father had given His son instructions as to what he could touch and what he could eat. Adam knew God's instructions to him. **Genesis 2:16-17** tells us those instructions concerning the 'yes' and the 'no' factor. The LORD God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; ¹⁷ but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil **you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.**" (Emphasis added.)

Satan now has his target set in his sights; Father's children. And so he sets in motion his plan to have Adam and Eve fatherless and orphans like himself. We know that Adam and Eve sinned. They fell into Satan's trap. I know what a trap is. I used to defuse booby traps laid by the Viet Cong (VC) in Viet Nam, and when I served as a Police Bomb Squad Commander I studied terrorist Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) and defused criminal devices. The hallmark of a successful IED was to make it look totally harmless and inviting. I won't go into specifics, just take my word for it. The terrorist or criminal takes care to make it his device look attractive and harmless to its intended victim(s); disguising it normally in a clever external mask. It never looks dangerous. It looks like it is going to fill that simple desire that we all have; curiosity.

Satan set a clever trap for Adam and Eve. I'm sure when they fell into that trap they didn't think they were doing anything wrong. But the consequences were drastic for them both. You see the trap is there just to fulfil your desire. You put your hand in to take something that looks nice and harmless and **BANG** – your life is changed forever, or lost. In Vietnam the consequence was that you lost your life. I'm sure God's children didn't understand the consequences of what was going to happen to them for falling into the trap of the enemy. Two men that I served with in Viet Nam lost their life while trying to disarm a booby trap set for anyone, local or Australia with the clear intension of causing death. The enemy is always about laying traps for Christians. Sadly, like Adam and Eve, many Christians fall for what looks innocent and harmless only to find they suffer the consequences of being baited. Our physical death has already been handed down through the imputed sin of Adam to all humanity. Satan is about causing our spiritual death; eternal separation from the presence and the power of God.

Adam and Eve eat from the tree they were forbidden by God to eat from. God then has to be true to His word to Adam. They now discover the meaning of the word "consequence." Father, in an act of incredible love knows that the only way He can stop them from living an eternal life of spiralling down into utter degradation, is to expel them from His presence. **Genesis 3:23-24** gives us the picture clearly, "²³ therefore the LORD God **sent him out from the garden of Eden**, to cultivate the ground from which he was taken. ²⁴ **So He drove the man out**; and at the east of the garden of Eden He stationed the cherubim and the flaming sword which turned every direction to guard the way to the tree of life." (Emphasis added.)

Father knows that if they eat from the Tree of Life that their eternal pain and suffering is set in concrete. His only alternative is to send them out of the Garden, out of His presence. For them they would become fatherless, without identity and without an inheritance. Can you imagine the emotions that must have been flowing in them and in Father? As they are "DRIVEN" out (suggesting that they really didn't want to go), they suddenly experience what it is to be an orphan. They are faced with toil and hard work; by the sweat of their brow they now have to notch out an existence in a landscape that is devoid of anything that were used to in the garden. Utter desolation now faces them. Put yourself in their shoes for a moment. You

have only ever known pure love, tenderness and loving affection from your Father. You have never experienced a negative thought, word or act. For you, you live in a perfect paradise. You are tasked with populating the earth and spreading the Garden over the face of it, all the while living in Father's presence, knowing His perfect love and being totally comfortable in His presence.

Then one day you encounter a talking serpent who invites you to do the one thing you were forbidden to do by your Father. Your Father's authority is challenged, and for a mere moment you listen to your harmless looking adversary. As soon as your hand enters the trap your soul changes, and in a moment of time your whole world cascades from good to bad.

Not only that, your Father now banishes you from His presence, from that place of perfect love and acceptance. You will never ever experience His embrace or comforting words of affirmation ever again. Shame and guilt overtake you and your head arrives on your chest, sunken and now in a place of hopelessness, rejected by the One who loves you with a love that is without prejudice. To make matters worse your Father has to drive you away from His presence. He stations angels to make sure you can't eat from the tree of Life. To make doubly sure, Father stations a flaming sword that covers every entrance or pathway to the Tree.

Now lonely and afraid, fear of the future begins to overwhelm you. Your mind races trying to determine what you did wrong. Why was Father so harsh with you? You look across to your wife and you blame her for your predicament. She can't lift her head to acknowledge your presence; she too is gripped by shame and guilt. One moment you both are in a perfect love relationship, and the next moment you are downcast, probably at odds with each other. For the first time in your life you experience the negative thoughts attached to your shame and guilt. Your world, your very existence is destroyed just because you were baited and fell for the trap of Satan, designed to bring you down to his level; fatherless and an orphan. He succeeds in his quest to get back at God the Father, and his trophy is that you are driven away from Father's presence and out of the Garden.

As you turn and look back at the Garden, you see your Father, but you are now in darkness, unable to see clearly. Father is looking at you, His two children walking away, afraid, uncertain; going to die. What emotions must have the Father experienced? He loved them. He walked and talked with them. He breathed life into Adam's nostrils with a life-giving kiss. He fashioned Eve out of one of his ribs, and now He watches as they enter a life of hardship and unknowns for giving into temptation. Father knows that they are orphans and that through Adam all mankind will become orphans. Orphans because our identity is not wrapped in what we do, or what reputation we have built for ourselves. Nor is our identity wrapped in what we have amassed in the way of assets or financial wealth. Our identity is in this one truth: we are the adopted sons and daughters of Father. He was Father when He created the universe. He was Father when He created Adam, and He is Father now and for eternity. He is Father! He is my Father and He is your Father. That's why He says in **John 14:18** "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you." Father only has sons and

daughters, he doesn't have grandchildren. He won't leave us in the state of being an orphan without a Father's name, an identity or an inheritance. If that doesn't encourage you then nothing will.

Each one of us, Christian or otherwise is an orphan, with orphan ways, orphan thinking and orphan speech. We all need a homecoming, to come back to Father's house and live where He lives. Jesus says, "...If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and **We will come to him, and make Our abode with him.** (John 14:23 NASB) (Emphasis added.)

You see for me personally, I suddenly had a desperation to be God's son and for Him to be my Father. I realised that parenting is learnt from parents. I can't be a father until I become His son and learn fathering from the Father. Who taught me fathering? My mother did. It was a role she was never created for. My earthly father abdicated his parenting responsibilities elsewhere, raising six other children in a de facto relationship, never having been divorced from my mother. Those siblings are just as much an orphan as I was. Their birth certificates read, "Father unknown! Father may be known as..." As far as the world system of things is concerned, they are fatherless, orphans without a true name, without a true inheritance and without a true father. BUT, God is their real Father. The Father they have never known. He is the only one who can give them a true identity, a true name and a true inheritance that will last for eternity.

I am an orphan no more, I know whose I am, what my name is and what my real inheritance is!

Jack Frost gave me a Bible marker that I have never lost. It is one of my rare treasures. It gives Biblical truth from Father's heart. Let me finish by sharing with you the truth that was revealed to him. These scripture references will destroy any orphan spirit, paving the way for the Father's overwhelming love to pour in to your human vessel.

The following has been adapted from a Bible Marker produced by:

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I AM FATHER GOD'S HAPPY THOUGHT!!!

I Am Loved By My Father...

- Jer. 31:3** Father loves me with an everlasting love. I have never not been loved by my Father.
- Jn. 3:16** Father loves me so much that He gave His only Son to die for me so I might know His love.
- Jn. 16:27** Father loves me so much He wants to express His love and affection to me.
- Rom. 8:39** Nothing can separate me (not even my faults) from God's love for me.
- Jn. 17:23** Father loves me just as much as He loves His Son Jesus just because I love Jesus.
- Eph. 2:4-6** Even when I have sinned, the Father loves me and asks me to sit beside Him with Christ.
- Eph. 3:19** Father wants me overflowing in His love.

I Am Pleasing In Father's Eye...

- Ps. 149:4** Even when I am wounded Father sees me as beautiful and takes pleasure in me.
- Jer. 29:11** Father's thoughts toward me are always good and filled with hope for me.
- SS. 1:15-16** He sees me as beautiful, handsome, and pleasant in His eyes.
- SS. 4:10** My love for Him fills Him with ecstasy and joy.
- Lk. 15:31** Father is so pleased with me being His child that He will never leave me and He wants to meet all my needs.
- Jn. 14:23** Father likes being with me so much that He made His home within me.

I Have Purpose In My Father...

- Matt. 5:13** I am the salt and light of the earth.
- Acts. 1:8** I am a witness of God to the world.
- 2Cor. 5:18** I am a minister of reconciliation for God.
- Phil. 4:13** I can do all things in Christ.

God Is Not Ashamed Of Me...

- Heb. 2:11** Jesus is not ashamed of me.
- Heb. 11:16** God is not ashamed to be my God.

God Has Forgiven Me...

- Jer. 31:34** He has forgiven my iniquity and remembers my sin no more.
- Mic. 7:19** He has put all my sins under His feet and cast them into the depths of the sea.
- Col. 1:14** God has redeemed me and forgiven all my sin.
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1Jn. 1:9 God forgives and cleanses me from all sin.

I Am Accepted By My Father...

Jn. 1:12 I am called a child of God.

Jn. 15:15 I am called Christ's friend.

Rom. 5:1 In Christ it is just as if I had never sinned.

1Cor. 6:19 I belong to the Father.

Eph. 1:5 I have been adopted by Father God.

Col. 2:10 I am complete in Christ.

I Am Secure In My Father...

Rom. 8:1-2 I am free forever from condemnation.

Rom. 8:31 The Father is always for me, not against me.

Rom. 8:35 Troubles do not separate me from God's love.

Col. 3:3 I am hidden with Christ in the Father.

2Tim. 1:7 I am filled with power, love, and a sound mind.

Heb. 4:16 I can find grace and mercy when I am hurting.

1Jn. 4:18 His perfect love casts out all fear.

1Jn. 5:18 The evil one has no right to touch me.

Is. 66:12-13 Father wants to hold me when I'm afraid.

Father Does Not Judge Me...

Jn. 3:16-18 God did not send His Son to do for me so that I might be judged by Him. When I believe in Him, I am not judged.

Jn. 5:22 The Father does not judge me.

Jn. 12:47 When I hear Jesus' words and do not keep them, He does not judge me, for He came to save me, not to condemn me.

FALSE BELIEFS...

- **FEAR OF FAILURE** - I must do it right all the time to feel good about myself.
- **FEAR OF REJECTION** - I must meet the expectations of primary people in my life to feel good about myself.
- **GUILT** - When I fail I am unworthy of love and acceptance and deserve to be punished.
- **SHAME** - I am embarrassed at my faults and failures. I am hopeless and cannot change.
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Vs.

GOD'S TRUTH...

- God's love casts out all fear and I am completely forgiven in Christ.
- God's love has given me total acceptance so that I no longer need to fear rejection from Him.
- In Christ I am no longer condemned or judged—I no longer need to fear punishment.
- I am a new creation in Christ. I no longer need to experience shame over my past.

You know I never knew a father, and now Father uses me to tell others of His loving heart. When I was wounded in Viet Nam, it was the most lonely time of my life. There was no one that I knew around me to comfort me or reassure me. There were no visitors. Recovery was on your own at an R&C Centre in Vung Tau. Now I know this, having experienced His loving arms around me, He, Father wants to hug you, embrace you as His child and manifest His real love to you. Many of you have never had a father tell you how proud he was of you. You may never think that there is nothing to be proud of, but your Father finds many things to be proud of concerning you. He wants to tell you how proud He is of you.

It seems that for women, the little girl needed to be told how beautiful they were by their Dad. Father says to each of you, "You are beautiful and My own peculiar treasure. You are special to Me and I love you."

Again Father says, "**I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.**" Predictably the Old Testament's last two verses give us a wonderful promise for the day and the hour we live in: "⁵ Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the LORD. ⁶ He will restore the hearts of the fathers to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers, so that I will not come and smite the land with a curse." (**Malachi 4:5-6**) The cross of Christ put an end to our fallen state. God has made the way back into the Garden marked clearly with the sign-post of redemption. Father used the blood of His Son to buy us back. How much did it cost Father? The life of His own Son, Jesus. Love is not one of God's attributes, it is His very nature, it is what makes Him Father—HE IS LOVE!

**"I WILL NOT LEAVE YOU AS
ORPHANS;
I WILL COME TO YOU."**