

## God's Love For Orphans, Part 2

I suspect, and hope, that the primary reason for this topic might have given you a new perspective.

Any time the Spirit provides us with another way to see His grace, we can be greatly encouraged and grow in our love for our Lord.

And isn't that what our relationship with God is all about???...

... to grow in love and appreciation and thankfulness for who He is and what He has done??

That's one reason we persist in the Word of God!...

... to see more of Him, little by little as we can handle it, AND as we are willing.

And as our Lord promises, if we continue in His Word, the Truth will set us free. **Jn 8:32**

And as I shared, the Spirit hit me with the fact that **ALL OF US were orphans at one point.** (and hopefully you've thought about that)

We know that we were all born in sin, trapped in spiritual death, separated from God.

Technically, we were of "our father the devil", **Jn 8:44**, being under the curse of sin.

But of course, the devil is not a good father at all, but the "father of lies".

**"your father the devil":** Which of us was NOT born trapped in that relationship, trapped in the darkness of sin and death?? **Jn 8:44, Ro 3:10-12, 5:8,19**

Let's see a recap of the place we all came from...

**Jn 8:34-36** *Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin. 35 "The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son does remain forever. 36 "So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.*

**Jn 8:43-47** *"Why do you not understand what I am saying? It is because you cannot hear My word. 44 "You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. (Sound like our flesh?? Our flesh is so wretched... we think wicked thoughts and wonder where they came from.) Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies. 45 "But because I speak the truth, you do not believe Me.*

*46 "Which one of you convicts Me of sin? If I speak truth, why do you not believe Me? 47 "He who is of God hears the words of God; for this reason you do not hear them, because you are not of God."*

We were all born "not of God", but under sin, as spiritual orphans if you will...

... lost and uncared for by this world and the devil, to whom this

world belongs for now. **2Co 4:4**

**Ro 3:10-12** *as it is written,*

"THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE;  
11 THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS,  
THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD;  
12 ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE  
BECOME USELESS;  
THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD,  
THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE."

**Ro 5:8** *But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

**Ro 5:19** *For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.*

When Adam fell, Satan had a temporary victory, and he was given control over this world.

And of course, our God who loves orphans, who loves the destitute, couldn't let that lie.

**Helping the Helpless:** Were it not for God reaching out to us and saving us, we would have been lost forever. He offers the righteousness of Christ, and therefore spiritual adoption, to anyone whose willing to place their trust in His Son.

**1 Jn 3:10** *By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother.*

We are all either children of God or children of the devil! There's no third option!

Unbelievers won't want to hear this; but being a child of the devil means you refuse your God and Savior and choose your own way. (it doesn't mean you're a murderer or a thief, although you might be if your honest)

They might even be a "good person"... **but let's remember, Satan loves to use good to deceive people,...**

**... just so long as it's good from human energy and pride, without God getting credit as the Source.**

The point is we're all "**Born This Way**": Every person since the Fall of Adam is **born under sin**, and therefore as children of the devil; children of a tyrant, under slavery to sin.

And God saw all this, before time began, and His love said I've got to do something.

We were all born this way, in captivity so to speak, and God passion just couldn't sit back and ignore it.

And as we know, God came up with a plan to redeem us, and to adopt those who would humbly come to His Son.

**God Loves Orphans:** God our Father said "*I want you. I'll save you. Come into My home. I will be your Father.*"

**Seeing ourselves as spiritual orphans** that God has taken in; that's a foundational perspective as we discuss God's love for

orphans.

It began with all of us sinners... now saved by grace...

... and it extends to others in this world who don't yet see the Light.

**And as an extension of Jesus, we reach out to spiritual orphans, and literal orphans...**

**... both a wonderful example of the love of our God and Father.**

Both are noble activities because they involve helping the helpless, the very thing God has done from the beginning of creation.

In Part 1, we expanded on **pure religion**, and visiting **orphans and widows...**

... and the Spirit prompted us to consider what they have in common, and why they are often mentioned together in Holy Scripture.

**Orphans and Widows:** A common description would be that they have lost someone in their life who **loved** them and **provided** for them... and therefore **God the Father reaches out to them with both love and provisions, and He calls us to do the same!**

So there's an emotional pain, and a practical pain.

But God the Father steps in, often providing both in ways that are **indescribable**.

And He often uses others to help with that.

That's what a good father does, right?

He **loves** His children and **provides** for them...

... and the same with a good husband.

And so, **we also have that calling on our lives,**...

... to help those in need, both spiritually and practically/materially.

Again, BOTH are a shining example of the love of God the Father.

And when we live with the heart of God like this, we bring great glory to our God and Savior.

In Part 1, we started with eternal salvation related to spiritual orphans...

**God's Love For Orphans:** When we approach someone with the Gospel, we are letting them know that they are spiritual orphans, and yet, God wants to adopt them. **Ro 8:23-25, Eph 1:3-6,10-14**

As we've seen recently, the Gospel is really presenting HIM, the Person of the Lord.

And presenting our loving God and Father who gave up His own Son so that we could be saved from certain death.

And so, we might be led to share this with a friend:

**A Gospel Perspective:** *"We are all born lost and trapped in sin, spiritual orphans if you will. We have no hope in ourselves... but God loved us so much that He sent His only Son to pay for our sins at the Cross. He wants to adopt you as His own child. He wants to give you eternal life, and this life is in His Son, Jesus Christ. He died so that we might live forever with Him in heaven."*

Now again, please, don't think you should memorize this.

But this might be one approach, especially toward those estranged from their family/parents. (which is common nowadays)

In reality, **salvation is a form of adoption**, and we can rejoice that God our Father takes anyone and everyone into His family, if they are willing to *"repent and believe the good news"*. **Mk 1:15**

Let's again see a biblical reminder about God's adopting we who believe...

**Eph 1:4c-6** *In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.*

**Eph 1:10c-14** *In Him 11 also we have obtained an inheritance (only sons, or adopted sons in vs. 5, receive an inheritance), having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will, 12 to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory. 13 In Him, you also, after*

*listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation – having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.*

If you're a believer in TLJC, God now says "you belong to Me, you're My child, and I WILL take care of you."

And that adoption and that inheritance is sealed in Christ by the Holy Spirit of promise (by our God who cannot lie!).

**Tit 1:1-2** *Paul, a bond-servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of those **chosen of God** and the knowledge of the truth which is according to godliness, in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago*

Being adopted, believers have a **new Father**, and a new inheritance, now being a member of His family!!

Don't take that for granted if you already knew that!

Stop for a minute and revel in it!

It's ridiculous that God would even think about us rebels, never mind take care of us in this way!

We also see that in Holy Scripture, we are **awaiting our adoption** as sons in eternity... to "move in" with God our Father, into His eternal home.



**Ro 8:23-25** *And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, **waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.** 24 For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he already sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, **with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.***

On that exciting day, we will see God our Father , the One who freely adopted us into His Kingdom!

Let me remind you of what Jesus told His disciples before He went to the cross...

**Jn 14:1-3** *ESV "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also."*

Chills! One day soon, this is our destiny as His adopted ones!

In other words, **our adoption will be consummated**, along with many others things. :)

It's almost like we orphans have the paperwork now, the agreement has been signed in His blood...

... we've been legally adopted, and we are now HIS... even though we are not physically with Him yet,...

... and again, He sends provisions to take care of us while we're waiting for that great day.

**"God's Own Possession":** We spiritual orphans have already been adopted by our God and Father! We might say "signed, sealed, and delivered"! **Eph 1:14, 2Co 1:10**

Remember, God has already delivered us, and yet in the future He will deliver us once for all.

Remember this old friend??

*2 Co 1:9-10 indeed, we had the sentence of death within ourselves so that we would not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead; who delivered us from so great a peril of death, and will deliver us, He on whom we have set our hope. And He will yet deliver us.*

And that is another angle into the good news of the Gospel!!

And we should pray for God to bring us to the right people to share this great hope with them!

**We're looking at an overall attitude, or having the right heart, towards orphans; both spiritual and physical.**

We're looking at trying to love like God; and if we are wise, we know that's only possible by submitting to His power and grace...

... no man can truly do that on his own...

**... but the humble, obedient believer will be given the heart to do so, and rightly express God's love and care towards those in need.**

What a privilege has been passed on to us....

... and not only the privilege, but the power.

**A Gospel Perspective:** Isn't it easier, **as an orphan** who was lost but is now adopted, **to talk to another orphan** about your good Father who reached down from Heaven to save you? Isn't it easier, **as a sinner** saved by grace, **to approach another sinner**, knowing you both share the same problem and hopelessness?

So, **let's utilize that relationship, that common ground**, to reach people!

Our dear friend and brother, Pastor Adams in India, now has 45 orphans living in his home with them.

It's their passion to share the love of God that way.

And I just imagine one of those orphans talking to another orphan who is still on the streets...

*... "yeah, we've got it good,... we eat twice a day, we have more than one outfit, and the sleeping is a little bit tight, but I've got all these brothers and sisters now... I am not alone, I'm now loved. God has rescued me."*

**My friends, that can be our Gospel approach.**

Invite people in off the streets into God's loving family...

... to come to our God and Father who freely offers His love and provisions to the lost.

We complicate it, but it really is that simple.

Amen??!

So, we've been reminded of what Holy Scripture says about our adoption...

**... and if we were adopted, that means we must have been orphans... at least spiritually fatherless.**

*Jas 1:27 Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.*

We might ask "What does God want from us? How are we to live out our lives on earth?"

Well, here's some good instruction to follow!

The religion a believer lives out in his life includes this type of care **for those in need**, as His Father in heaven did for each of us.

One other commonality to think about with widows and orphans...

**Orphans and Widows:** When you help those who are "in distress", **Jas 1:27**, you're helping those who cannot reciprocate, **Lk 14:12-14**.

Just think about that. You are helping those in a helpless situation, those **who can't pay you back**. (and maybe that's why it's a pure thing in God's eyes)

Isn't that what our Lord did for us??

**Lk 14:12-14** *And He also went on to say to the one who had invited Him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, otherwise they may also invite you in return and that will be your repayment. 13 "But when you give a reception, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, 14 and you will be blessed, since they do not have the means to repay you; for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."*

If you'll notice, **God is tying in the spiritual with the practical.**

**He has us going back and forth for a reason; to see everything spiritual has a practical application to life.**

Instead of hyper-spiritualizing everything, we should ask what spiritual things mean to living out our lives.

And sometimes the spiritual concerns and physical concerns collide in a wonderful way; again, both illustrating the wonderful love of God our Father.

At one point, the Lord promised He wouldn't leave us as orphans...

**Jn 14:18** *"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you."*

And so... **by His example**, the spiritual life we are to live is not only between our two ears, but it flows out of our hearts and towards others!!

... His love is meant to flow out to others, especially those in need. (It could be physical needs, but also emotional needs, etc... visit those "in distress".)

One thing for sure; the greatest of love is when one lays down his life for his friends. **Jn 15**

**That's an actual sacrificial activity.**

**Jn 15:12-14** *"This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. 13 "Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. 14 "You are My friends if you do what I command you.*

As the Spirit has been teaching us for years now, **love is an activity.**

It begins in the changed heart, and proceeds out in the living of life with others.

And as we've also been hit with lately, **you are blessed if you DO these things.**

Jesus also said it's one thing to KNOW these things; it's entirely another to obey and actually DO them.

**Jn 13:13-17** *"You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am. 14 "If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. 15 "For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you.*

16 *"Truly, truly, I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master, nor is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him. 17 "If you know*

*these things, you are blessed if you do them.*

We are blessed if we FOLLOW THROUGH, by faith, on what we KNOW!

And the example before us now is how we treat orphans and widows in distress.

Regarding orphans and widows as an example of living a godly life, we took a look at the righteous life of Job.

Remember, he was called blameless and upright in **Job 1:1**.

So we asked ourselves, what does a blameless and upright man live like?

That's a good question, right? In other words, what does God want from us?

During his trials, Job reminisced about the blessed life God gave him and the way he lived...

**Job 29:1-17** *And Job again took up his discourse and said,  
2 "Oh that I were as in months gone by, As in the days when God  
watched over me; 3 When His lamp shone over my head, **And by His  
light I walked through darkness;***

*4 As I was in the prime of my days, When the friendship of God was  
over my tent; 5 When the Almighty was yet with me, And my children  
were around me; 6 When my steps were bathed in butter, And the rock  
poured out for me streams of oil!*

7 "When I went out to the gate of the city, When I took my seat in the square, 8 The young men saw me and hid themselves, And the old men arose and stood. 9 "The princes stopped talking And put their hands on their mouths;

10 The voice of the nobles was hushed, And their tongue stuck to their palate. 11 "For when the ear heard, it called me blessed, And when the eye saw, it gave witness of me, 12 **Because** I delivered the poor who cried for help, And the **orphan** who had no helper.

13 "The blessing of the one ready to perish came upon me, And I made the **widow's** heart sing for joy. 14 "I put on righteousness, and it clothed me; My justice was like a robe and a turban. 15 "I was eyes to the blind And feet to the lame.

16 "**I was a father to the needy**, And I investigated the case which I did not know. 17 "I broke the jaws of the wicked And snatched the prey from his teeth.

There we see the lifestyle of a blameless and upright man, in God's eyes.

**Why "Blameless And Upright"?** : Job defended the weak and spoke up for them when no one else would (as God does!). And people knew he wouldn't overlook their unrighteous activities against the orphans and widows. In fact, he fought for them, even though it wasn't his fight. **Job 1:1,29:1-17**

And because Job belonged to God, and he **KNEW** God's kindness towards him, he lived as God would have him live...

**... he lived in eternal life because he KNEW God...** (see last



week's lessons)...

... and he did as God had done for him (think of adoption).

**Jer 22:16** *"He pled the cause of the afflicted and needy;  
Then it was well.  
Is not that what it means to know Me?"  
Declares the Lord.*

There's a bold statement... in other words, that's what it means to know the heart of God.

This my friends is a picture of **pure and undefiled religion**,...

... Job is a visual demonstration for us of what James teaches us thousands of years later...

... this is one definite way we are told to live out our life in Christ.

And if you think about it, there is no shortage of people in need.

Not only are there plenty of spiritual orphans in this world to approach about God's adoption plan...

... but there are also plenty of literal orphans and widows to reach out to.

There is plenty of opportunity to stop sitting around and wondering what God wants us to do.

How many children out there do you know today that have only one parent raising them??

Could they rightly be considered an orphan?

**Defend The "Fatherless":** The Bible often calls orphans the "fatherless", because the father is usually the provider in a family, esp. if the mother is staying home to properly raise the child. **Ps 68:5, 146:9**

(we'll see these scriptures later on)

And in many countries even today, there are no jobs for women... they couldn't find work even if they wanted to.

That's why many fatherless children are given into orphanages in India **by their own mothers...** because the mothers can't provide for them properly.

So, ask yourself, when's the last time you looked at the child of a single mother as an orphan; as one that God wants you to "visit in their distress"?

We sit around wondering what God wants us to do, when there are plenty of people in distress we could reach out to.

In fact, you might find both a widow and an orphan; one who has lost her husband and another who has lost his father.

The Spirit's saying instead of thinking you're spiritual by sitting home contemplating all the time; get up and do the things you say you believe in.

**God Loves Orphans: DO LIKE GOD. Jas 1:27, Jn 13:17**

God does because love does, and God IS love.

Let's imitate God and Christ, who REACHED OUT to widows and orphans.

The Lord didn't sit back on his Jewish sofa back in the day and wait for people to come to Him.

He SHOWED us what love is, and what He wants us to do. Don't complicate it.

**Jn 13:17** *"If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them."*

Make sure you do these things with the right heart, and not for selfish gain, but don't complicate it.

Again, there's the benefit of helping those who CAN'T reciprocate.

It's difficult to have an ulterior motive.

In fact, these are the people our Lord commanded us to love:

**Lk 14:12-14** *And He also went on to say to the one who had invited Him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, otherwise they may also invite you in return and that will be your repayment. 13 "But when you give a reception, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, 14 and you will be blessed, since they do not have the means to repay you; for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."*

Now back to orphans and widows as specific examples of those we are to reach out to...

I think of the Lord's compassion on the widow who also lost her only son...

**Lk 7:11-16** *Soon afterwards He went to a city called Nain; and His disciples were going along with Him, accompanied by a large crowd. 12 Now as He approached the gate of the city, a dead man was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow; and a sizeable crowd from the city was with her. 13 When the Lord saw her, He felt compassion for her, and said to her, "Do not weep."*

*14 And He came up and touched the coffin; and the bearers came to a halt. And He said, "Young man, I say to you, arise!" 15 The dead man sat up and began to speak. And Jesus gave him back to his mother. 16 Fear gripped them all, and they began glorifying God, saying, "A great prophet has arisen among us!" and, "God has visited His people!"*

How did God "visit His people"?! How did God show Himself?

**By visiting a poor widow in distress, and it was a hands-on experience.**

And the Spirit's telling us to remember: God visited you and I, orphans without hope, and He reached out to save us, did He not?!

And He's saying *this is what my children do, as well*. Follow the example of your good Father, and your brother and Lord, Jesus Christ.

**God's Purposes Are Known:** We often get caught sitting home in self-pity, as though we haven't been given new life in Christ. Well, we're deceiving ourselves. His Word tells us what He wants us to DO.

The reason we get tricked into depression and loneliness is because we're often **lazy** and **not willing** to get off the couch and obey the Word.

Our faith is to be **exercised** on others, not only expressed privately to God our Father.

**Our Father reached down to others in need, and that's what our Father wants us to do as well.**

If we have the right heart, if our motivation is glory to God, then we live the spiritual life by doing something as direct and simple as "visiting orphans and widows in their distress".

And notice also James said "visiting".

He didn't say giving financially, although there might be a time for that.

Sometimes we might just need to comfort those God puts in our path.

That brings glory to God, and also helps us be "unstained by the world."

**Jas 1:27** *Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself*

*unstained by the world.*

This is another way obedience blesses us... it helps us keep ourselves unstained by the world.

If we are actually using our time to focus on those in need, we don't have time to entertain worldly filth.

Remember Job's example?

It also says Job turned away from evil...

**Job 1:1** *There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job; and that man was blameless, upright, fearing God and turning away from evil.*

If we obey the call to visit orphans and widows in their distress, there's no time to get deceived by sin and the world.

How can a man keep himself unstained by the world?

How about by doing good things; the good things God did for you, for others??

If you find a couple people to regularly "check in on", or "visit"...

... if you find God calls you to certain people as your "assignments"...

... well that's how He rescues us from self pity and self focus, and that good activity keeps us unstained by the temptations of the world.

As Jesus said, *if you love Me, you'll keep My commandments.*

He gives us plenty of things to do that He calls "good".

**And it's simpler than we want to make it.**

The question then only becomes "are you willing to obey my commands?"

"Are you willing to deny yourself and pick up your cross and follow Me?"

Following Jesus includes living for others, as Jesus did when He healed the multitudes everywhere He went.

And He desires us to reach out and love others, in a variety of ways...

... ultimately that's between you and the Lord.

But don't be deceived by sitting home on the couch and thinking you are living the spiritual life.

Let's see what else the Spirit has for us about widows and orphans...

Let's borrow a little more wisdom from Job:

**Job 31:13-23** *"If I have despised the claim of my male or female slaves  
When they filed a complaint against me, 14 What then could I do when*

God arises? And when He calls me to account, what will I answer Him?  
15 "Did not He who made me in the womb make him, And the same one fashion us in the womb?

16 "If I have kept the poor from their desire, Or have caused the eyes of the **widow** to fail, 17 Or have eaten my morsel alone, And the **orphan** has not shared it 18 (But from my youth he grew up with me as with a father, And from infancy I guided her),

19 If I have seen anyone perish for lack of clothing, Or that the needy had no covering, 20 If his loins have not thanked me, And if he has not been warmed with the fleece of my sheep, 21 If I have lifted up my hand against the **orphan**, Because I saw I had support in the gate,

22 Let my shoulder fall from the socket, And my arm be broken off at the elbow. 23 "For calamity from God is a terror to me, And because of His majesty I can do nothing.

We should have a healthy fear of God if we do not help those in need and we know better.

Obey God and His commands and we'll be blessed in every way.

Disobey His commands and we will be under discipline from our loving Father, and it might indeed be painful.

**Living for those in need, particularly orphans and widows, was a major part of righteous Job's lifestyle!**

By faith, we can live this way too.

We can forsake our "normal" way, whatever we consider normal.



We can live a new life in Christ, eternal life, given from the Father to be shared with others.

**Ps 68:1-6** *Let God arise, let His enemies be scattered, And let those who hate Him flee before Him. 2 As smoke is driven away, so drive them away; As wax melts before the fire, So let the wicked perish before God. 3 But let the righteous be glad; let them exult before God; Yes, let them rejoice with gladness.*

*4 Sing to God, sing praises to His name; Lift up a song for Him who rides through the deserts, Whose name is the Lord, and exult before Him. 5 A father of the fatherless and a judge for the widows, Is God in His holy habitation. 6 God makes a home for the lonely; He leads out the prisoners into prosperity, Only the rebellious dwell in a parched land.*

**Is 1:16-17** *"Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; Remove the evil of your deeds from My sight. Cease to do evil, Learn to do good; Seek justice, Reprove the ruthless, Defend the orphan, Plead for the widow.*

Remember our recent emphasis on making the most of your time because the days are evil? **Eph 5**

Let's remember this too:

**Gal 6:9-10** *Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. 10 So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.*

This is how we "know love", or recognize love, the very love of our heavenly Father who adopted us, by grace.

**1 Jn 3:16-24** *We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives **for the brethren** (We are brothers because we have all been adopted. Brothers are related by blood, and so are we based on the blood of Christ.)*

*17 But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? 18 Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.*

*19 We will know by this that we are of the truth, and will assure our heart before Him 20 in whatever our heart condemns us; for God is greater than our heart and knows all things. 21 Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God;*

*22 and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep **His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight.** 23 This is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, **and love one another, just as He commanded us.** 24 The one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. We know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.*

**Deu 10:12-19** *Now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require from you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways and love Him, and to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, 13 and to keep the Lord's commandments and His statutes which I am commanding you today for your good? 14 "Behold, to the Lord your God belong heaven and the highest heavens, the earth and all that is in it.*

*15 "Yet on your fathers did the Lord set His affection to love them, and*

*He chose their descendants after them, even you above all peoples, as it is this day. 16 "So circumcise your heart, and stiffen your neck no longer. 17 "For the Lord your God is the God of gods and the Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God who does not show partiality nor take a bribe.*

*18 "He executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and shows His love for the alien by giving him food and clothing. 19 "So show your love for the alien, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt*

We might say "show your love to orphans because you were orphans too!"

There are no excuses with God!

And we have the power to love because He first loved us!

He requires of us these things because these things were freely done for us!

Let's take advantage of the opportunity and privilege He has granted us!

Let's live in the inheritance He has given us!

We can and will accomplish good for His Name, and it's by simpler means that we like to think, as we over-spiritualize everything.

In Deuteronomy, God is giving instructions to the nation of Israel, and how His people should live:

**Deu 14:28-29** *At the end of every third year you shall bring out all the tithe of your produce in that year, and shall deposit it in your town. 29 "The Levite, because he has no portion or inheritance among you, and **the alien, the orphan and the widow who are in your town**, shall come and eat and be satisfied, in order that the Lord your God **may bless you** in all the work of your hand which you do.*

**Deu 16:9-15** *You shall count seven weeks for yourself; you shall begin to count seven weeks from the time you begin to put the sickle to the standing grain. 10 "Then you shall celebrate the Feast of Weeks to the Lord your God with a tribute of a freewill offering of your hand, which you shall give just as the Lord your God blesses you; 11 and you shall rejoice before the Lord your God, you and your son and your daughter and your male and female servants and the Levite who is in your town, **and the stranger and the orphan and the widow who are in your midst**, in the place where the Lord your God chooses to establish His name.*

12 "You shall remember that you were a slave in Egypt, and you shall be careful to observe these statutes. 13 "You shall celebrate the Feast of Booths seven days after you have gathered in from your threshing floor and your wine vat; 14 and you shall rejoice in your feast, you and your son and your daughter and your male and female servants and the Levite **and the stranger and the orphan and the widow who are in your towns**.

15 "Seven days you shall celebrate a feast to the Lord your God in the place which the Lord chooses, because the Lord your God will bless you in all your produce and in all the work of your hands, so that you will be altogether joyful.

**Deu 27:19** *'Cursed is he who distorts the justice due an alien, orphan, and widow.'* And all the people shall say, 'Amen.'

**Ps 146:9** *The Lord protects the strangers;  
He supports the fatherless and the widow,  
But He thwarts the way of the wicked.*

**Jer 49:11** *"Leave your orphans behind, I will keep them alive;  
And let your widows trust in Me."*

Should we not "adopt" the same attitude of God?

The same heart God has for orphans and widows??

It is the pathway to doing the will of God; to living in pure and undefiled religion...

... by helping those who cannot pay you back; as the Lord helped us who couldn't pay Him back.