

Orphans; John 14:15-24

## I. Orphans

A. God has a special place in his heart for orphans

B. James 1:27

1. "visit"

2. Many ministers of the church involve orphans and orphanages

3. If God has a soft place in His heart for orphans we should too

C. But we are not orphans!

## II. Another Helper

A. "... for he dwells with you and will be in you."

1. Dwell - to remain, abide, live

2. There must be some kind of difference here with the role of the Spirit during the Old Testament and in the New Testament

3. The Spirit "came upon" people in the Old Testament

a) Numbers 24:2; And Balaam lifted up his eyes and saw Israel camping tribe by tribe. And the Spirit of God came upon him,

b) 1 Samuel 19:20–23; <sup>20</sup> Then Saul sent messengers to take David, and when they saw the company of the prophets prophesying, and Samuel standing as head over them, the Spirit of God came upon the messengers of Saul, and they also prophesied. <sup>21</sup> When it was told Saul, he sent other messengers, and they also prophesied. And Saul sent messengers again the third time, and they also prophesied. <sup>22</sup> Then he himself went to Ramah and came to the great well that is in Secu. And he asked, "Where are Samuel and David?" And one said, "Behold, they are at Naioth in Ramah." <sup>23</sup> And he went there to Naioth in Ramah. And the Spirit of God came upon him also, and as he went he prophesied until he came to Naioth in Ramah.

4. The Spirit "dwells" in people in the New Testament (with two exceptions)

a) 1 Corinthians 3:16; Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?

(1) The first exception is the day of Pentecost when the Spirit came upon the 12 apostles "as of tongues of fire"

(a) This event heralded the beginning of the church

(b) The sound of a "mighty rushing wind" brought all the people of Jerusalem together to hear the Gospel from Peter

(2) The second exception is when the spirit came upon Cornelius and His household after Peter taught them the Gospel

(a) This event was God's admonition to the Jews that the Gentiles were to be included in the Gospel

(b) Peter was even given a vision prior to this event so that when it happened, he would understand

(c) Acts 11:15–18; <sup>15</sup> As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning. <sup>16</sup> And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' <sup>17</sup> If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ,

who was I that I could stand in God's way?" <sup>18</sup> When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, "Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life."

5. The Spirit is our seal of redemption

a) Ephesians 1:13–14; <sup>13</sup> In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup> who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

B. One of the main differences in the work of the Spirit, that I see, in the new testament is His indwelling in all Christians

1. In the Old Testament, the Spirit "came upon" people in order that God's work and will be accomplished
2. In the New Testament, those who believe that Jesus is the Christ choose to receive the indwelling of the Spirit
3. Without this indwelling, this seal, this guarantee, we are not saved
4. 1 Corinthians 12:13; For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body— Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

C. Seal

1. Today we think of it as securing something closed so that others cannot get to it
2. In the 1st century seals were used to mark ownership. The oldest were round globs of clay or stone with the persons name etched into it. They would heat up wax and drip it on the object, then impress this stamp into the hot wax sealing the object



3.

4. (This picture is from the Museum of Israel, online)

5. We see this at the tomb

a) Matthew 27:62–66; <sup>62</sup> The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate <sup>63</sup> and said, "Sir, we

remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise.' <sup>64</sup> Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away and tell the people, 'He has risen from the dead,' and the last fraud will be worse than the first." <sup>65</sup> Pilate said to them, "You have a guard of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can." <sup>66</sup> So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.

6. "This word described a legal seal that was placed on documents, letters, possessions, or, in this case, a tomb. Its purpose was to authenticate that the sealed item had been properly inspected before sealing and that all the contents were in order. As long as the seal remained unbroken, it guaranteed that the contents inside were safe and sound." Rick Renner

D. He did not leave us as orphans, but gave us the Spirit of God to dwell in us

### III. Love

A. Jesus equates love with commandments

1. Matthew 22:36–40; <sup>36</sup> "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" <sup>37</sup> And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. <sup>38</sup> This is the great and first commandment. <sup>39</sup> And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. <sup>40</sup> On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

2. The law (meaning the law of Moses) was soon to be fulfilled by Jesus' death

3. The prophets foretold the coming of Christ and the Church

4. These are still the "great commandments" for us today

B. Love is a commandment

1. John 13:34–35; <sup>34</sup> A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

C. Love is more important than faith

1.1 Corinthians 13:13; So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

D. Love manifests itself through obedience

1. Jesus says in the first verse of our text, "if you love me, you will keep my commandments"

2.1 John 2:3–5; <sup>3</sup> And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. <sup>4</sup> Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, <sup>5</sup> but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him:

E. "whoever has my commandments and keeps them"

1. John 14:21–23; <sup>21</sup> Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him." <sup>22</sup> Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, "Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?" <sup>23</sup> Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.

#### IV. Our home

##### A. God and Jesus will come and make their home with us

1. Romans 8:9–11; <sup>9</sup> You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup> But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup> If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

##### B. We are His dwelling place

1. I have often wondered why God kept us and didn't just destroy us off the face of the earth

2. Even with the flood, he saved 8 people

3. God always had his eye toward the future

4. We were created to be His dwelling place!

5. The tabernacle, the temple of Solomon, Herod's temple, were all just temporary houses while God waited for Christ to perfect us

6. I understand more fully now us being God's righteousness

#### V. We are not Orphans

A. Christians are never alone

B. We manifest His presence in us through love

C. He is with us always, The Father, The Son, The Holy Spirit