

God made you Special and He loves you very much!

(God's original design and the Father's Love)

Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians 2:10 (AMP)

For we are God's workmanship [His own master work, a work of art], created in Christ Jesus [reborn from above—spiritually transformed, renewed, ready to be used] for good works, which God prepared [for us] beforehand [taking paths which He set], so that we would walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us].

Genesis 1:26-28 (NIVUK)

Then God said, 'Let us make mankind in our image and made for relationship, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals and over all the creatures that move along the ground.'

So God created mankind in his own image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

God blessed them and said to them, 'Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.'

1. God's Design – and Mankind's Fall from it

The foundations for who we were created to be – and also what has gone wrong – are found in Genesis.

Gen 1: 26-28

- We were created "in the image of God" - so we were made to reflect something of the fullness of God
- Made with authority and purpose
- Reflected across male/female divide - no accidents, mistakes or second-class citizens

Gen 3: 1-8

- V.1 Serpent = devil = created before fall of the earth
- V.2 The devil works on the basis of lies and deception:
 - Twists words of God – as against Jesus in Matthew 4
 - Questions the character of God – can you really trust Him?
 - Appeals to pride – you don't need God, you can do it on your own; you can find your own identity aside from God
- V.7 Adam and Eve sin – key part here:
 - They become self-aware rather than God aware:
 - look at themselves and try and find their identity and definition there
 - They start to withdraw:
 - hide from one another and hide from God
- In a life separated from God
 - We use our own effort to try and prove or validate who we are:
 - many do this through work, career, looks, relationships etc
 - Most of us spend our time hiding who we really are inside
 - This then produces:
 - blame/conflict
 - enemy power in our lives

2. Restoring our original Design

God wants each of us to become the person He made us to be, living life well for the display of His splendour, His glory!

Romans 12:2 NIV

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Each of us is significant, unique and has a special calling on our lives which only we can fulfil. No one person's calling is more important than another's. It is important for us to discover and walk in our true God-given personal design if we are to know the fullness of God's freedom and fruit in our lives.

I will make a very poor someone else, but I can be an excellent me!

We will never find fulfilment in comparing ourselves with others or trying to be like them.

True humility is to submit our opinion to God and agree to believe His opinion. **Truth = God's opinion**

True humility is not about believing that we are insignificant worms, but humbly submitting to God and believing the wonderful, extraordinary things He believes about us.

It is not pride to believe that we are loved, significant, gifted, capable and have authority; it is true humility because in believing this, we are agreeing with God whether we feel like that or not.

In Living Free we will be using the tools of teaching God's truth and something called freedom prayer.

3. Freedom Prayer

Freedom prayer is a powerful encounter with God that sets captives free!

Freedom prayer is made up of Original Design prayer and Stronghold prayer

Original Design Prayer

(please refer to the yellow sheet at the back of your folder)

The purpose of original design prayer is to help us to discover, (by God's revelation), to accept and to believe who God has made us to be.

Exercising faith in Jesus to see ourselves as God sees us. It is having a God's eye view of ourselves and other people.

A powerful image!

This is how God sees me and has designed me! This is who God made me to be!

Stronghold Prayer

The purpose of Stronghold prayer is twofold:

Firstly to help us discover (by self or God) what is stopping us from living in our original design: the lies we believe about ourselves and the spiritual forces of evil that are coming against us & oppressing us and what sin is dominating or controlling our lives.

So it is asking: What is stopping me from being the person God made me to be?

Secondly, Stronghold prayer gives a framework that helps us to go through a process of surrendering to God and overcoming evil.

What are we aiming to accomplish using Stronghold Prayer?
(please refer to the orange sheet at the back of your folder)

Freedom prayer is a divine transaction: a legal transfer taking place in the Spiritual realm through repentance & forgiveness and rebuking evil spirits, which robs Satan of his footholds and restores the believer's freedom and authority to live in the fullness of who they are in Christ Jesus!

A key Truth that we need to soak ourselves in is:

God made you/me/us special and He loves you, me, us very much!

4. God is a good loving perfect Father

The bible speaks to us about God being a father. Jesus says pray to our Father in heaven (Matt 6:9)

A big part of the way that God wants us to experience and receive his love is through his Father's heart for us.

Because we have all had experience in relation to our natural fathers - and no matter how good they have been, they can't have fully modelled God's love to us. Many fathers have been absent or very poor fathers so it can make it difficult for us to receive God's love.

Our life experiences heavily influence and shape our views and opinions of the Heavenly Father - and therefore our growth as a disciple of Jesus.

If we have experienced the time, presence, fun, provision, protection, wise advice, clear boundaries set for us, the truth spoken in love to us by our natural father... it will help us experience our Heavenly Father's love.

But if our natural father was absent, not good to us, and so on, we can live in hurt, be stuck and have major problems relating to God as Father.

God wants to set us free, to bring his healing and help into our lives. We need to have truth encounters with God! So let us soak in God's Truth about us.

5. We are God's Children - God has adopted us!

1 John 3:1(NIVUK)

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!

Romans 8:15-16 (NIV)

The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."
The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

Galatians 4:6 (NIrV)

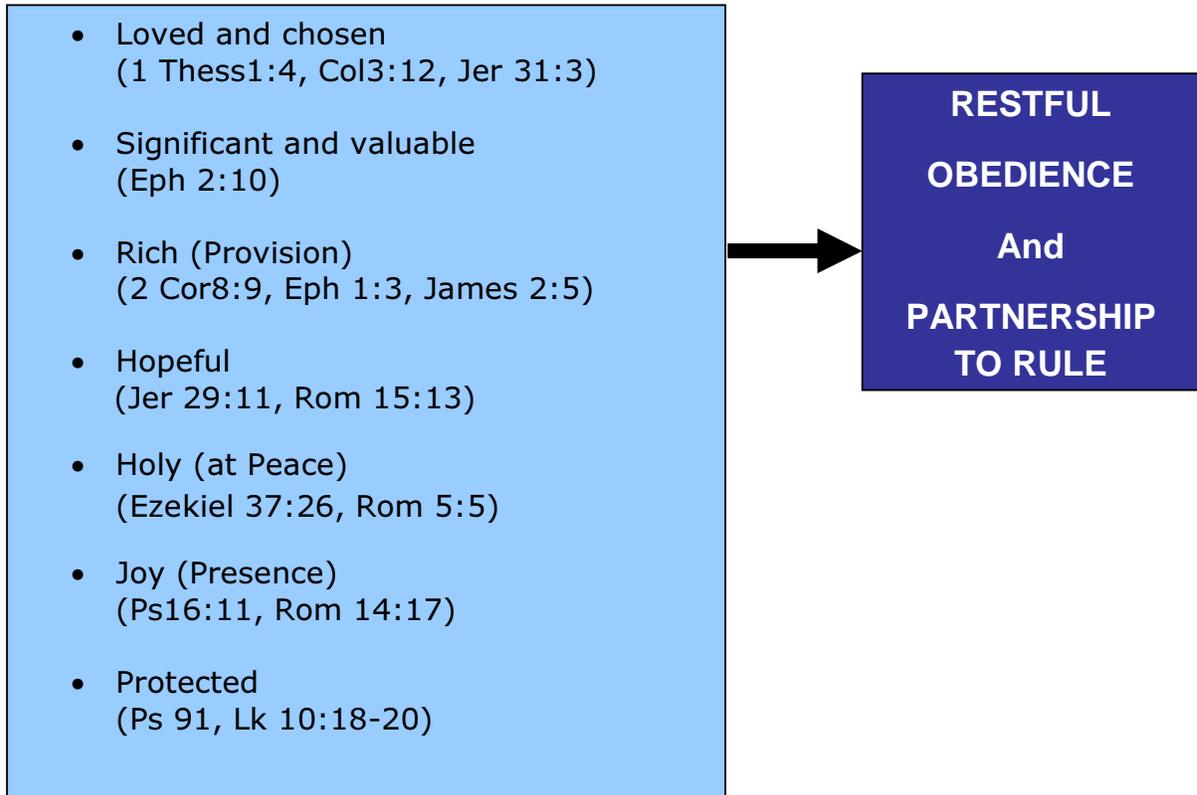
Because you are his children, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts. He is the Holy Spirit. By his power we call God "Abba." Abba means Father.

Ephesians 1:5 (MSG)

Long, long ago he decided to adopt us into his family through Jesus Christ. (What pleasure he took in planning this!)

Sons and Daughters

Live from Rest and Security in knowing they are:



God is your heavenly Father. His love for you as His child knows no comparison. His banner over you is one of love, grace and forgiveness but too often we are bound and held captive by the lies of the enemy and we go through life never knowing the true heart of the Father.

Get to know your Heavenly Father:

Psalm 139: 13-16, Eph 2:4, Rom 8:29-30, Eph 1:5, John 3:16, Rom 8: 37–39, John 14:1, John 14:10

Jesus reveals Our Father's heart to us:

Mark 1:11, Luke 15:11-32

Live by Orphan attitude or a Child of God attitude?

- When we live as orphans we choose to believe the devil's lies instead of God's truth. The Enemy is a father too!

Jesus describes the devil (John 8:44):

*"You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language for he is a liar and the **father of lies.**"*

(See also Genesis 3:1 and Luke 4:3)

- Satan's plan is to rob you of your identity as a son/daughter of the living God – in Genesis
- Our own disobedience and rebellion
- Letting ourselves believe we are insignificant and without value
- Disbelief – not believing God truly loves us and that he is good and kind

What are the symptoms of an Orphan attitude?

- Living out of a restless pursuit for security and meaning.
- Always trying to get 'there' or giving up!

Passive, Giving up

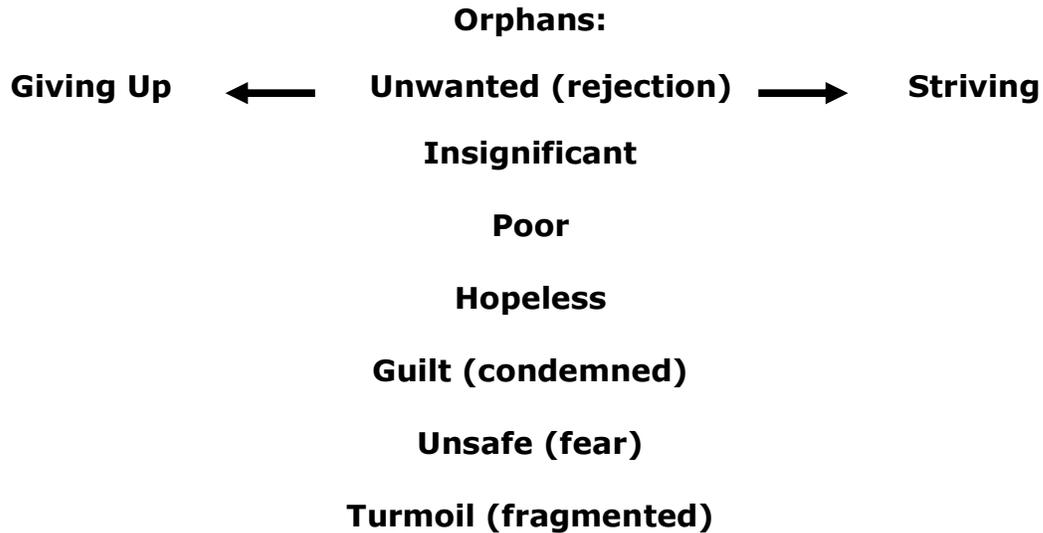


Active Striving



- Loved and chosen
- Significant and valuable
- Rich(provision)
- Hopeful
- Holy (at peace)
- Joy(presence)
- Protected

Sons and daughters walk with God, Orphans work for God



Child of God lives the opposite!

In an orphan state we live as servants not sons/daughters of the King.

In doing so we reject the sacrifice of a saviour and the love of a gracious and forgiving Father. We need to learn to live in the Father's love.

When we understand the Father's love for us and live in it, we begin to operate as children of a supernatural God and not just products of our natural parents, or the circumstances in which we were born and raised on earth.

Choosing to live as a son/daughter of the King means:

1. Being safe in your Father's arms:

John 9:29, Romans 8 15-16

2. Being at one with the Father and Son:

John 14 20-23

3. Being at peace:

Philippians 4:6 Luke 8:22, Psalm 91:1-2

4. Not striving yet fruitful:

John 15:5, Matthew 6 31-35

5. Being forgiven and free:

Romans 8:1, 1 Psalm 103.12

6. Trusting in your heavenly Father's plans for your life:

Jeremiah 17.7 -8

7. Choosing to stand firm in your freedom

Galatians 5:1, 2 Corinthians 3:17

8. Knowing how valuable you are

1 Peter 1: 17

9. Living in restful obedience:

1 Peter 1: 15

10. Living in love:

Matthew 22:37

6. Journey with God

The journey into the Father's goodness and love is a lifelong journey for us all, because the depths of His goodness and love are infinite!

It is above all a journey of the heart to experience Him as the perfect Father - and Jesus is committed to leading us all the way!

Questions to consider:

- In what way(s) have you experienced the Father's love for you?
- What would you say is the dominant attitude in your life:
 - Orphan?
 - Child of God?
- Have you recently recognised a specific manifestation of the orphan attitude? If so, what?
- What characteristic of God do you most meditate on and think about?
- What is your "knee-jerk" answer to the following question:
 - "Is God pleased with me or angry with me?"