

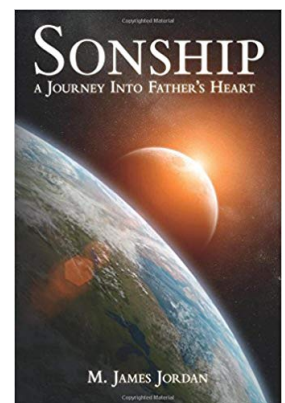
“You are a faithful God” ~ Psalm 31:5

- **The Text:** ¹ O LORD, I have come to you for protection; don't let me be disgraced. Save me, for you do what is right. ² Turn your ear to listen to me; rescue me quickly. Be my rock of protection, a fortress where I will be safe. ³ You are my rock and my fortress. For the honor of your name, lead me out of this danger. ⁴ Pull me from the trap my enemies set for me, for I find protection in you alone. ⁵ I entrust my spirit into your hand. Rescue me, **LORD, for you are a faithful God.** (Psa 31:1-5 NLT-SE)
- Notes:
 - **The context for understanding God's faithfulness is “family”**...God is Father. Jesus is his Son, and it is through relationship with Jesus that we are “born again into God's family.”
 - ¹² to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. ¹³ They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God. (John 1:12-13 NLT-SE)
 - God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. (Eph 1:5 NLT-SE)
 - **Examples of God's faithfulness to covenant**...Accounts of covenants between God and His people can be found approximately 277 times in the Bible. Deuteronomy 7:9 says “*Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments.*” Here are some examples of God's faithfulness to keep His covenants:
 - To **Noah** (God will save Noah and his family) ~ Genesis 6:17-18; 9:9-17
 - To **Ishmael** (God will bless Ishmael and his descendants) ~ Genesis 17:18-20
 - To **Moses** (God will spare the Israelites if they obey) ~ Exodus 19:5
 - To **Jacob** (God reaffirms everlasting covenant to Israel) ~ Psalm 105:10
 - **The issue of sin**...Scriptures of God's faithfulness are scattered throughout the bible, yet none however are as life-changing as those that proclaim His forgiveness of our sins. There are many Old Testament prophecies promising a coming Messiah or Savior. **God's faithful promise** was fulfilled in the New Testament when He sent Jesus to atone for our sins. No matter what sins we have committed, no matter how "bad" we are, **God is faithful** to forgive us if we accept Jesus and repent of our sins.
 - God **sent** His Son, through Him we have everlasting life ~ John 3:16

- Christ died to **atone** for our sin ~ 1 Thessalonians 5:9-10
- God's promises to **remove** sins ~ Romans 11:25-27
- God **ordained** Jesus, author of eternal salvation ~ Hebrews 5:5-10
- God will **toss** our sin into the depths of the sea (never to be remembered again) ~ Micah 7:18-19
- **Faithful to fulfill His promises...** God is so faithful that anyone who seeks Him can find Him. Faith is a gift, but even a gift must be opened to be enjoyed. As we implement our faith, **we begin to realize more and more about God's faithfulness to us.**
 - 1 Corinthians 1:9 ~ "God will do this, for he is faithful to do what he says, and he has invited you into partnership with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord."
 - 1 Corinthians 10:13 ~ "The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure."
 - 2 Thessalonians 3:3 ~ "The Lord is faithful; he will strengthen you and guard you from the evil one."
- **God's faithfulness and the "Orphan Spirit."**
 - "When the Lord opened my eyes to this verse in John 14, I saw that this verse could be the key verse to the whole New Testament, perhaps even the entire Bible. It is amazing when an "odd little verse" suddenly comes into incredible significance. The verse that has changed everything for me is John 14:18. It is a simple little verse but there is so much in it. Jesus said it and John wrote it down,

'I will not leave you as orphans. I will come to you.'

- When this perspective dawned on me I felt, for the first time in my life, that I began to understand the basic problem of humanity. The basic problem not only of our individual struggles, but also the struggles that we have in relationship with each other. The basic problem of church life, the friction between denominations, family disputes and even the wars between nations. I suddenly saw the root problem of humanity's struggle on this earth throughout history." ~ **M. James Jordan, *Sonship: A journey into the Father's heart.***
- These words did not originate in the heart or thinking of Jesus. They did not come from his understanding of theology, but **they originated in the heart of the Father.**
 - ⁴⁹ I don't speak on my own authority. The Father who sent me has commanded me what to say and how to say it. ⁵⁰ And I know his commands lead to eternal life; so I say whatever the Father tells me to say." (John 12:49-50 NLT-SE)
- The Father's words echoed in the heart of Jesus, "*I will not leave you as orphans. I will come to you.*" This faithful promise has reverberated through the ages, recorded for all time. The bottom line is that **the Father sees the whole human race as orphans.** He sees all of us as orphans.
- **The Orphan Spirit was conceived before the creation of man.**
 - To understand this worldview of orphan-ness, we need to trace it back to its origin. The heading of Isaiah 14 in many of our bibles says, *The Fall of Lucifer*. The specific text reads, "*How you are fallen from heaven, O shining star, son of the morning! You have been thrown down to the earth, you who destroyed the nations of the world.*" (Is 14:12 NLT-SE) This is followed with three "I will" statements that led to Satan's exile, the last one being... "*I will climb to the highest heavens and be like the Most*



High." (v. 14) When Satan said that he wanted to be "*like the Most High,*" **he wasn't saying that he wanted to lead along side God, but he wanted to replace him!** Obviously, if that happened Satan would be the ultimate authority in the whole universe.

- So, **Satan rejected God as father and was cast out of heaven.** He wanted to be fatherless. The very essence of his being is that he is fatherless. He is an orphan and wants to be an orphan. He had the perfect revelation of who God is and chose to reject Him. He was thrown to the earth **he became the ultimate orphan spirit.**
- The apostle Paul had a revelation of this truth when he wrote, "*You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God.*" (Eph 2:2 NLT-SE) Prior to becoming Christians, we were all living our lives under the influence and leadership of the evil one. He was leading us in disobedience. **He was leading us in his own orphan-ness.**
- **The Journey of the Orphan Spirit in Man** (To get an even clearer picture of this unfolding love story, take a look at **M. James Jordan's** book, ***Sonship: A journey into the Father's heart. Here's a brief re-telling of the story.***)
 - In Genesis 2:7 it says, "*God formed the man from the dust of the ground.*" As He was forming this man, there came a time when the body was finally completed. A perfectly formed adult male body, yet without life. Then, "*God then breathed into the man's nostrils.*" You have to get very close to someone to breathe into the nostrils. If you were watching this, what would it look like? It would look as if God was kissing Adam. **God took Adams lifeless face in his hands and Adam received, not only life, but the full love of the Father.**
 - **Adam became rooted and grounded in the Father's love from the very moment that he opened his eyes.** Then God created a wife for him. She didn't have another name at that point. They were both called Adam. **Love is oneness.** Adam (and Eve) had this oneness, just as we also desire to be totally one together. God had created a wonderful environment, which He placed them in. Adam (and Eve) lived in this garden, totally saturated in the love of the Father. He communed with them every day.
 - The first part of Satan's trap was to promise the woman that if she ate from the tree she would be like God. Eve loved God. **Most believers pray that God will make us them Jesus.** Why do we pray this? Because we love Him! Then Satan showed her that the fruit was beautiful. The woman looked at the fruit and saw that it was beautiful. She saw that it was good. Eve reached out, took the fruit and ate it. When she ate the fruit what happened? **Nothing at all.** Adam and Eve were so united that they couldn't even sin individually. It wasn't until he also ate that **the eyes of both of them were opened and the trap was sprung.**
 - **It was done.** The oneness between them was gone. "*Then the man—Adam—named his wife Eve, because she would be the mother of all who live*" (Genesis 3:20). This is where Eve gets a separate name. **They became two.** Then He banished them from the garden. When He banished them, Adam and Eve were heart-broken.
 - As God was driving them out of the garden, **He was pushing them out of being able to experience the Father's love.** They must have known as they left the garden that the relationship as it once was had ended. M. James Jordan writes, "*In leaving the garden they were leaving the environment of the Father's love and becoming more like the one cast out of heaven. They were becoming fatherless. In them the whole human race was becoming orphaned.*"
 - It gets worse for them when the one who was cast to earth like a lightning bolt began to create a deception. **A truly unholy alliance began to develop between the orphan spirit cast out of heaven and this orphan-hearted man and woman** who were now totally ignorant of how to live outside the garden. So, Satan began to lead the human race in a deception that continues right down through history to this day.

- Because of His faithfulness and great compassion, **God sends people to tell them of His love.** He sent lawgivers and judges, He sent kings and priests to express His heart and to show a way to live free of all the suffering. He calls a nation of people to be a witness but all of this was inadequate. **The whole human race is descending into an orphan life of suffering,** experiencing extraordinary levels of loneliness and brokenness. He saw His children suffer and a great cry was welling up within Him. He sent prophets. He sent mothers of Israel. He sent psalmists and poets who could eloquently speak His words. Yet, **not one of them could perfectly express His heart.** Not one!
- Finally, **the Father sends His own Son, who would be the perfect representation of Himself,** His exact image - His Son, who would not only say what He wanted to say but would say it exactly the way He wanted it said. He sent Jesus! Jesus came into the world, **totally disconnected from its orphan system,** and began to live a life as a Son. He was free of the orphan deception that infected the whole human race.
- In the last days, before He was killed by the world, He was finally able to say what had been boiling in His Father's heart, like a volcano, for generations. Out of the faithfulness of His heart, the Father was finally able to express what He wanted Him to express. ***"I will not leave you as orphans, but I will come to you!!"***
- As the Father saw them going out of the garden into orphan-ness, He had to stay behind. But He sent His Son to break down everything that stands between Him and us, and makes the promise, ***"I will be a Father to you and you will be My sons and daughters, says the Lord God Almighty!"*** (2 Cor 6:18).
- Jesus is not the doorway to get to heaven. **He is the door for the Father to come to us!** The curtain in the temple that was torn from the top to the bottom wasn't so that we could go in (Matt 27:50-51). **It was torn apart so that He could come out!**
- The **gospel** is simply this...**It is about a faithful Father who lost His kids and wants them back. Out of a faithful heart, He sends His Son to bring us home. He said, "Son, go and bring them home. Whoever wants to come, bring them home!"** This is the same faithfulness that **David** experienced and recorded for all generations in Psalms.
 - ⁷ "The LORD did not set his heart on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other nations, for you were the smallest of all nations! ⁸ Rather, it was simply that the LORD loves you, and he was keeping the oath he had sworn to your ancestors. That is why the LORD rescued you with such a strong hand from your slavery and from the oppressive hand of Pharaoh, king of Egypt. ⁹ Understand, therefore, that the LORD your God is indeed God. He is the faithful God who keeps his covenant for a thousand generations and lavishes his unfailing love on those who love him and obey his commands. (Deut 7:7-9 NLT-SE)
 - If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself. (2 Tim 2:13 NAS95)