



# A Primer on Spiritual & Physical Adoption

*A Guide for Parents & Churches*

*Reviews & Applications from the Book "Adopted for Life"*

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## Introduction

Your longing to be loved is innate. No one had to teach you to want to be tenderly held and accepted. God made you this way. Granted, for many the desire may be unmet, but it is never absent. For a moment, imagine the faces of 140,000,000 children alive today who are void of anyone ready to shower upon them the love they crave. No, really consider each of these children. They are the world's orphans. Their number is growing continually. If you were to start counting right now at the pace of one number per second, it would require the next four and a half years of your life to reach 140,000,000, and that's only if you never stopped counting day or night. Each methodical second represents a child who longs to be loved.

The vast majority of these precious little ones are neglected. They may have food and water, and in special cases, their own bed. But day after day, after day, after day the heart-emptiness remains the same. No hug. No mother-initiated joy-sustained playtime. No deep-into-the-eyes wonder-filled look from dad followed by a tender kiss on the forehead. No audible presentation of the gospel of God's everlasting love in Christ. Never. Ever. Not today. Not for a lifetime.

Precious few of the world's orphans are privileged enough to receive compassionate care in an orphanage. Even with well-equipped, and large-hearted caretakers, the need of each child is simply too great. We praise God for the many caretakers who try. You are among my heroes. Yet, even the most capable know they do not possess the powerful intangibles of a loving family.

Now, instead of looking at the current orphan-care crisis, look forward. Gaze into the bottomless ocean of the soon coming eternities. See the exalted Lord Jesus Christ so powerfully diffusing His fullness into each redeemed soul so that none will want for marriage, or children (see Mt. 22:29-30). We will be so drenched in the love of God that spouses and children will be no more. For we will all will be siblings of our Elder Brother (Rom. 8:29). For the Christian, the Triune God will endlessly manifest His agape love to us in Christ, our "Everlasting Father" (Is. 9:6). That's the capacity of the heart of God. Here, in Christ, is love, vast as the ocean.

I've asked a few people in our church who have been adopted to contribute to this resource. Each was once orphaned, and each has been lovingly rescued. Some twice. The few minutes it will take you to read these pages have been prayed over. I've beseeched the great God of heaven to cause a line or two to stick like a thorn and fester. From love, I'm praying the splinter will not be extracted until it has first caused you to think biblically and pray ferociously about your God-given role in caring for the orphan. If your spirit is whetted for more, take up Russ Moore's hard to put down little book, *Adopted for Life*. His effort, as you will soon see, will leave you gloriously wrecked.

Most of all, I pray that you will hear the risen Lord Jesus singing over your longing soul, "I will not leave you as orphans, I will come to you." (Jn. 14:18)

Adopted by the King, Ephesians 1:3-5; Romans 8:15; Galatians 4:4-6,

Pastor Jordan  
Grace Church  
Memphis, January 2011

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## Reflections from an Adopted Married Couple

Do you want to be deeply encouraged by God's promises to you as a child and heir through Christ? Are you looking for a way to serve His kingdom mightily but don't feel called to overseas missions? If so—and this should be so for every child of God—then I heartily encourage *Adopted for Life* to you, for the sake of God's glory, and your own joy in Him.

"Adoption is, on the one hand, gospel. In this, adoption tells us who we are as children of the Father. Adoption as gospel tells us about our identity, our inheritance, and our mission as sons of God... We believe Jesus in heavenly things—our adoption in Christ; so we follow him in earthly things—the adoption of children." Thus Russ Moore summarizes the Biblical case for adoption. But you don't have to take his word for it—*Adopted for Life* is full of Old and New Testament passages that leave no doubt about the Christian's duty to care for the fatherless.

Moore lays out the case that we are adopted in Christ with verses that should warm the heart of any believer. The Biblical exhortation to seek out widows and orphans (James 1:27) flows naturally from meditation on being an adopted child of God (Gal. 4:4-7) and God's fatherhood to the fatherless (Ps. 68:5). *Adopted for Life* serves as encouragement and guidance, though the Biblical case for adoption always remains in the highest regard. Adoption is no mere command: Moore lets Scripture speak for itself, and shows adoption to be equally Christ-exalting, joy-expanding, gospel-preaching, and eminently feasible for the Christian family.

With the Biblical imperative to adopt orphans established, several chapters are devoted to addressing difficulties that scuttle many adoptions before they are ever begun. How much will it cost? What about all the paperwork? Is it okay to specify a race, gender, or healthy child? What will the neighbors think? All of the practical and even "earthly" questions that you may have never pondered, and almost certainly would be hesitant to voice, are discussed. Through the advice, Moore never loses sight of his core beliefs. "People will often ask me what the key to raising adopted children is. I tell them that honestly, we don't know—we don't have any adopted children. The term 'adopted kid' assumes an ongoing difference... that's not what adoption is—at least not adoption that reflects the mystery of Christ." Honest prose like this makes the book very readable and easy to understand, even when dealing with profound truths.

*Adopted for Life* is a blend of Biblical exposition, theological musing, personal storytelling, and practical troubleshooting. It will make pessimists uncomfortable, and will encourage well-meaning but unsure Christians to bring their fears before Jesus in prayer.

The ultimate goal of the book is to see God glorified through an increase in Biblically-informed adoptions, and more broadly through spurring God's people to live victoriously in Christ. "[Jesus] is the obedient Israel, and he receives the blessing of God. He is the One who bore the curse on our behalf, every bit of it (Gal. 3:13). If you've believed in Christ, you are blessed and not cursed, whatever the situation you see around you." Amen! Christians would do their God and their own souls a disservice if they fail to seriously pray over adoption, and *Adopted for Life* is an excellent resource for all adopted sons of the Most High.

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## Reflections from an Adopted Single Lady

There is a phrase in the Bible that some of us consider the most important two words there are. Two little words that carry with them an entire tome of explanation; these two words can explain the entire life of a believer and can rarely be fathomed by anyone who has not experienced them. These two words are “in Christ.” After that long introduction to these two words, I now want to say that I both agree with and disagree with the importance of these two words, because I think that there are some other words that need to come first, before “in Christ” can happen in a person’s life.

My story began over 30 years ago, while I was carefully and quietly being knit inside a woman’s womb. Unbeknownst to me, I hadn’t been planned or even wanted and the revelation of my mere presence was enough to drive this woman to beat her pregnant stomach in anger, hoping to terminate this parasite that was growing inside her. My earthly father, whom Russell Moore illustrates in his book *Adopted for Life*, as a fanged, coiled serpent, lay coiled at the end of her hospital bed, delighting in her misery and coaxing her to hand me over to him. This could have gone badly for me and my story could have ended there. But, this is where two more words became of utmost importance, in my case anyway. These words are “but God.”

So, maybe this woman didn’t want me because as Moore points out, while God sees all children as a blessing, humans only see them as a blessing when they are not in the way or being too loud, or causing trouble. But God had a plan for me (there are those words again) and interceded in the form of my mother’s best friend, who happened to be a nurse at that very hospital and who also happened to be a Christian.

After several adoption attempts had fallen through for my adoptive parents, for various reasons, they finally received the news about me. I was born a few months later and was handed to my adoptive mother straight out of the delivery room. My adoptive dad, because he had been heartbroken too many times before, refused to meet me until I came to his home and even then, until he was officially off work for the day. So, when he got home, he was led upstairs where I was sleeping in my crib. He picked me up and said to me, “My baby girl, what took you so long?” This was the first time I had heard these words, but it would not be the last. Here is the other important word; adopted!

It was love at first sight and my dad and I were inseparable for the next 3 years. Then my family received the news that he had cancer and that he would not live. My very first memory is of me sitting beside him on his hospital bed and him telling me that he would have to leave and would not be coming back. I can remember his funeral, where just as Moore parallels the image of the outstretched arms of an infant to his parents, to the outstretched arms of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane crying out to His father, I too cried out for my father to save me. Once again, my story could have ended there. But God...Adopted!

See, it was not just one time that God planned for me to be adopted, it was twice. He interceded on my behalf before I even made it into His world and then He did it again later and gave me a second life. While He chose to take away my father on earth, He gave me a greater Father in Heaven. This time it was one who would never leave me, one who said, “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.” (Jn. 14:18) Not only did God invite me into His world, He

invited me to His table and as I entered His house, He asked “My baby girl, what took you so long?” But God adopted me, in Christ.

The importance of the burden of adoption for the Christian is much deeper than most people can imagine. We throw around the word adoption in relation to dogs and cats but this is not it at all. There are members of Grace Church that still don’t “get” what it means to adopt. God felt this burden to be of such importance that he created us in His image (Gen. 1:27) and named Himself “Father of the Fatherless.” (Ps. 68:5) Not only did He call us to share His burden, God made it a part of who we are. So, like Russell Moore, in my weakness, I too am angered when I get asked if I have ever met my “real” parents. My reply would be, “Yes, I have known them for 30 years, my mom lives in Marion.” But just like the people who asked Moore, this is not what they mean. People mean the parents who gave birth to me, my parents by blood. I want to reply, “Oh, you mean the donor who gave me half of his DNA and then cared so much about me that his name wasn’t even on my birth certificate?” It read- Father “unknown.” Then by mother you mean the woman who cursed my existence and desired to see me perish before she would take on yet another mouth to feed?

See, people cannot separate the element of blood with parents and family. But as Moore points out, human blood has little to do with anything. Christians need to be clear on this one point, if nothing else. Our very existence as Christians depended on adoption. The final deciding factor in Christ being able to take on the role of the Messiah rested on Joseph saying “yes” to adoption. Joseph had no physical role in the existence of Jesus. Jesus was not his blood, but I feel pretty certain he would have never commented that Jesus was not his “real” son. He loved Him as any earthly father should love a child.

Beyond that, our salvation as Christians rests on the adoption of us by the Father. He adopts us into His family and allows us to share in the inheritance to the same degree that Christ does. I would challenge anyone to ask God if we are His “real” children!

I am grateful that Russell Moore took the time to write *Adopted for Life* from his personal perspective. I think it is necessary for people who think they have no personal experience with adoption to see its trials and triumphs. But, I also urge anyone who reads this book as a Christian to remember that if you claim that title, you DO automatically have a personal experience with adoption. The security that you have in your salvation should be the same security that adopted children have in their families on earth. But as you are resting assured that no one can “snatch you from the Father’s hand,” there are millions of children who aren’t even sure what their fate in life will be. (Jn. 10:27)

Moore presents adoption as a burden for every Christian. He reminds us that even if we do not feel personally called to adopt children into our homes that there are many other ways that we can help; emotionally, physically or financially. God has called all of us specifically. James 1:27 says, “Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this; to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.” There are no exclusions in this verse; no exemptions. All of us are called.

If your life has been changed by God; if you have a life that is “in Christ,” then something, or rather Someone, had to get you there. That someone is God. He threw that “But” into your life

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and adopted you so that you could live in Christ. But God adopted [you] in Christ! If God felt that adoption was important enough that He sent His only Begotten to be adopted and allowed the salvation of the world to rest on the shoulders of adoption, how much more so should your burden as Christians to adopt others be?

### **Reflections from an Adopted Single Man**

I say with reverence, that God did not merely forgive your sins. He did not stop when he paid your price in Christ and made you clean. He did not stop when He promised you eternal kindness when all you had to contribute was your sin. It sounds silly to say that anything could be added to total forgiveness and infinite kindness. But there was more. He planted you firmly in His family. He made you his child. It would be a miracle for the holy, sovereign God to tell any man to call Him, "Loving and kind God." And He said, "I am your Father, call me Father."

But you were not always His son: you once were an enemy. Indeed, you are now His son, but you became His son. There was a massive transition from wrath to love. This idea can lead to a wide open door for doubt and unbelief. See if these questions resonate with struggles in your own heart, "Well, if at one point I was an enemy, and now I am His son, am I really His son? Am I in some way second tier? Am I in any way an illegitimate son? Is my Father only mine by title, but not in reality? Am I just supposed to call Him a certain name now, but that Father-son relationship isn't really a tangible reality? Is he hesitant to Father me? Is His love reluctant? How could he call Himself my Father, and love me?"

These questions are at least part of why adoption is so relevant to every believer. Dr. Moore put it this way, "...adoption confuses contemporary culture because we can't decide whether the adoptive family is 'as begotten' or if blood kinship is what really matters." His quote contains the exact same inward struggle and questions from the previous paragraph, but written about physical adoption instead of spiritual. Are those little kiddos with their new mommy and daddy real sons of their new parents, or is their sonship unreal, second tier, illegitimate, reluctant, and hesitant?

So when the Christian hears from the fallen depths of his mind that God is not really his Father, or when the adopted child hears from the world that he is not truly the son of his parents, what can be said? Or, one might ask, how do we know that adoption results in real sonship? "Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!'" (Gal 4:6). Our sonship is real because it is founded on the Spirit of God making his happy abode in our hearts. It is not based on the flesh, but on the Spirit. Therefore, it is not our biological background, our sin, our skin, our righteous deeds, our knowledge, our capability, our personality, our worth, or any other aspect in ourselves at all. Are you a son? Put no confidence in the flesh. The Spirit of God has united you to the True Son. Consider every fleshly merit you have as loss, and gain Christ, and have a Father.

The Spirit of God marks the Son of God. Our identity as sons is entirely alien to ourselves, is only from grace, and all at the same time is entirely real. Build your sonship foundation on the Spirit of God testifying that you are a son. Why is our sonship legitimate? It is because the Spirit of

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God unites us to Jesus, not to our flesh. Because by the Spirit of God we are in the true Son of God, we are legitimate, beloved sons.

The same can be applied to adopted children. It is not their biological background or flesh that determines family belonging. The picture of our own spiritual adoption greatly outweighs the genetics that created a child. Adoption is real. It produces children who really do belong to their parents. They are not second tier. Their parents are their parents. "We believe Jesus in heavenly things so we follow Him in earthly things." As our Father lovingly persuades us of the 'realness' and majesty of our own spiritual adoption, the idea of adopting physical orphans will become more and more beautiful and sweet to our souls.

I am praying for Grace Church that the Holy Spirit will only continue onward in helping us, the weak and yet beloved children, in apprehending the indescribable gift that our Father gave us, when he predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus.

### **Reflections from an Adopted Married Mother**

"But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God." (Galatians 4:4-7)

*Adopted for Life* by Russell D. Moore serves the Christian as an eloquent reminder of his own adoption by God the Father and aids also in encouraging and educating the believer on missional adoption and its responsibility in every Christian's life. The entirety of this book is marked by the Gospel of Jesus Christ. And the way Moore incorporates the adoption process he and his wife experienced when God called their two sons home from Russia with the true, full, unhindered, unaltered Gospel of Jesus Christ is remarkable and eye-opening. Very poignantly stated at the end of the book, Moore says, "The most important aspect of creating an adoption culture is preaching the gospel." The reality of this statement is unshakable.

Undeniable in this book is the connection between missional adoption and spiritual adoption. On pages 46-47 Moore paints the visual of when his boys left the orphanage with their new parents – seeing the sun, feeling the wind for the very first time. Their first and only response was defense! They hated it; they clawed their parents, wanting to go back to where they were "comfortable." Then Moore gives the reader the Gospel: "Our Father tells us that we too are unable to grasp what's waiting for us – and how glorious it really is. It's hard for us to long for an inheritance to come, a harmonious Christ-ruled universe, when we've never seen anything like it. We just can't imagine 'the glory that is to be revealed to us.'" (Rom. 8:18)

What marks this book as piercing is its foundation – from cover to cover the Gospel is not just laced as though it were merely "a part" of adoption. Because the believer has been adopted by God the Father, he has experienced adoption himself. Ephesians 2:4-7 says "But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up

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with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus." Those who are known by God were brought out of the orphanage which was leading them to death, but God didn't end there! He made believers co-heirs with Jesus, the King of Glory, the Maker of Heaven and Earth. Christians know adoption – it's written all over their lives.

Again Moore says on page 78, "The kingdom of Christ is characterized in Scripture as a kingdom of rescued children." And he ends the paragraph, "When we protect and welcome children, we're announcing something about Jesus and his kingdom." On page 73 he says, "When we adopt – and when we encourage a culture of adoption in our churches and communities – we're picturing something that's true about our God. We, like Jesus, see what our Father is doing and do likewise (John 5:19). And what our Father is doing, it turns out, is fighting for orphans, making them sons and daughters."

This book is easily a must-read for every believer and also for families of those moving toward adopting children into their family. Each Christian has a responsibility in adoption whether in prayer, financial support, or actual adoption because the Father has rescued them and the response is necessary.

### **Reflections from an Adopted Married Father**

"First think about it biblically, correctly, and the right actions will follow." This was one of the things our marriage counselor told us prior to marriage. He was talking specifically about how the world "tells us to have the right feelings about a potential marriage partner first, then the right actions flow from those right feelings," i.e. you get married. The problem is feelings are so fickle and can change on whim. Thank the Lord there are many passages in the scripture to help us first think correctly about marriage, which in return give us a sure foundation to act biblically during marriage (i.e. Eph. 5).

I believe this same principle is true in regards to adoption. We as Christians, and churches as a whole, have not been as involved with adoption, not because we do not care, but because we have not thought biblically about adoption (p.177). Truthfully, when someone mentions adoption or adopts we usually admire them for it but are rarely moved beyond these emotions into the active participation of adoption. If we are to change we must first begin with our thoughts about adoption. We must "first think about it biblically, correctly, and then the right actions will follow." I would agree with Moore and say adoption is first gospel and adoption is second a mission.

First, the doctrine of adoption is the gospel, and it is about Jesus. As a Christian we have been adopted into the family of God. This was no small feat. Think of who we were before being placed into God's family. We were weak, ungodly, sinners, enemies, dead in our trespasses and sins, ruled by the same spirit that is at work in the sons of disobedience, by nature children of wrath, separated from Christ, strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. (Rom. 5:6-11; Col 1:13; Eph. 2:1-3, 12) We were far off from God. (Eph. 2:13)

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"But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ." (Eph. 2:13) How near have we been brought? "... you are no longer strangers and aliens but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God (Eph. 2:19) We have been delivered from the domain of darkness and transferred into the kingdom of his beloved Son (Col. 1:13). "See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called the children of God, and so we are. Beloved we are God's children now..." (1 Jn. 3:1-3). How did we become God's children? In love, He predestined us for adoption through Jesus Christ (Eph. 1:5). "God sent forth his son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons, and because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying "Abba! Father!" (Gal. 4:4-6, see also Rom. 8:15)

I agree with C.J. Mahney that most of us have no trouble believing that God has justified us in Christ. But God's loving provision does not stop with justification. He not only forgives us our sins, he declares us righteous and adopts us into His family. He takes sinners, His enemies, forgives them and makes them HIS children! Thinking biblically of adoption, stirs our love for the Gospel! It also leads us to be on mission, to act biblically through the relationship of adoption.

Adoption is a mission. I do not believe that everyone should adopt. But when our minds and hearts have been stirred through biblical meditation of the doctrine of adoption we all must act appropriately. For some it will mean adopting a child/children. For others, it may mean supporting an adopting family by prayer and financial support. It could mean offering foster care, or volunteering at a pro-life pregnancy center.

Whatever way we participate in the adoption process we are putting faith to work and we can share the Gospel of Jesus Christ! I cannot say for sure how we all should participate in "caring for the least of these." It is clear that we all should be involved some how in some way (James 1:27) I can say start with meditating on the doctrine of adoption in the scripture, that will get us thinking biblically about adoption, which in turn will lead us to acting biblically.

### **Reflections from an Adopted Married Father**

It might be easy to write off a book like this one, assuming that it only has relevance to families who are actually considering adopting a child. However, author Russell Moore's ambition goes beyond asking young families to adopt orphaned children. "In this book I want to call us all to consider how encouraging adoption—whether we adopt or whether we help others adopt—can help us peer into the ancient mystery of our faith in Christ and can help us restore the fracturing unity and the atrophied mission of our congregation." As Moore explains, "The gospel of Jesus Christ means our families and churches ought to be at the forefront of the adoption of orphans close to home and around the world." It is the gospel that calls us to adopt but it is also the gospel that teaches us how to understand adoption. In fact, "as we become more adoption-friendly, we'll be better able to understand the gospel." And so this book is for anyone and everyone.

It is important to note that this is not a how-to book; it does not provide step-by-step instructions for adopting (since there are already plenty of books that do just that and do it well). "Instead I want to ask what it would mean if our churches and families were known as the

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people who adopt babies—and toddlers, and children, and teenagers. What if we as Christians were known, once again, as the people who take in orphans and make of them beloved sons and daughters?” No one can claim that every person is called to adopt. But it does seem that all Christians are meant to think about the issue since we all have a stake in it. After all, God himself has a stake in it as the “Father of the fatherless,” and the One who tells us that pure and undefiled religion is to comfort orphans.

Through nine chapters, Moore first lays theological groundwork for adoption and then turns to matters that are, perhaps, just a bit more practically applicable (not that I wish to draw too firm a line between theology and practice). In chapter one, he explains why you ought to read the book, even if you do not want to. In chapter two, he explains what some rude questions about adoption taught him about the gospel of Christ. After this, he turns to what is at stake in this discussion and then gives pastoral counsel on how to know if you or someone you love should consider adoption. He looks to practical aspects of navigating the adoption process (reassuring readers that it is not nearly as bad as most people seem to believe it is) and then covers some of the uncomfortable questions that arise—health concerns, racial identity, and so on. The seventh chapter explains how churches can encourage adoptions and the eighth shows how parents, children and friends can think about growing up adopted.

He closes with some concluding thoughts which tie theology and practice into his own family (in which he and his wife adopted two boys before the Lord opened the womb and granted them two more, though he playfully insists he can no longer remember which of his sons are adopted and which are not!). In fact, Moore and his family figure prominently throughout the book as he describes the joys and challenges of welcoming adopted children to his family.

I know from talking to friends who have adopted that there are good books detailing the practicalities of adopting, whether that involves fund-raising or family integration or any other of the many factors involved. I know as well that there are many good books on the gospel and the doctrine of adoption. But I do not know of any that so perfectly put one within the context of the other. This book would make a valuable read for any Christian, and I believe it is a must-read for anyone who has ever considered adoption and for anyone who has a friend or family member who is in the midst of it.

### **Reflections from an Adopted Married Mother**

Russell Moore’s book, *Adopted for Life*, has definitely been a read that will have long lasting effects on my life and hopefully the life of my family. As someone who has, since childhood, had a passion for adoption, this book has helped tremendously in giving my heart a fuller understanding of the call we as “Adopted Ones” have in serving our Father.

The pictures that Mr. Moore draws out from his adoption experience are forged into my memory. Not necessarily the pictures of his two blonde headed little boys he rescued from the horrific sights of the orphanage in Russia, although those alone would stir anyone’s heart, but more impacting to me was the pictures he then related from his experience to the rescuing mission of God our Father through His Son, Jesus. How sweet it was to read the words of this book

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and feel my emotions rise and fall as my mind was drawn to these children in desperate need of a mom and dad to love them and nurture them and provide for them, to rock them and kiss them and comfort them, to hear their cries and come to them, to let them know beyond all doubt and no matter what...they belong.

Oh, but then to see a love far greater, a driving passion far more zealous than my own, a motivation far more pure and holy; to see a glimpse of the redeeming heart of my Heavenly Father. These things brought out the most pronounced emotions of all. Our calling to care for orphans stems directly from the example we see set by our own Adoptive Father. Our prayer should not be “if” but “how.” How would the Lord be pleased to use me in caring for the orphan? The thought of Adoption is a sweet concept to most but the reality of personally adopting can seem daunting.

Questions and uncertainties arise from all directions. How can we, small as we are, make a change or put a dent in the massive crises of neglected orphans? With so many needs, how do we know how to best be involved? Financially, can we afford it and can we continue to support them as they grow? Will they “fit in” in our family or will we have to work harder to really understand them and vice versa? Will our other friends and family accept them as part of us now? The questions and fears are limitless, I’m sure, but what keeps resonating in my heart after reading this book is this: These doubts and fears are all things that from a human fleshly perspective stand in our way. But nothing stood in the way of God’s rescuing effort. Right? Actually, everything stood in His way. All the forces of Satan himself from since time began have been focused on one great mission, one ultimate battle, destroying the redeeming plan of God to save a sinful people for Himself. Put another way, God’s eternal plan of adopting pitiful, dirty and undeserving fatherless orphans has always been under attack and fought against, even by the ones He was set on rescuing. But God would not be deterred. His plans will not be thwarted. What He determines He will bring to pass.

Oh to have even a small spark of this flaming passion towards the orphans of this world, to come to grips with the reality that this is not a battle with flesh and blood but with principalities and powers, to fully understand that we are not just giving them earthly families or a sense of belonging, we are not only physically rescuing them, but more importantly we are prayerfully pointing them to The Rescuer of men’s souls, the One who can rescue them from the domain of darkness, the One who would be their Eternal Father, the only One who can secure forever their right to be called His child. What greater need do they have? What greater comfort could we give? What greater joy could we receive than to know an orphan is now and forever home! “Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name, you are Mine.” (Is. 43:1)

“...That we might receive the adoption as sons. Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!”  
(Galatians 4:6).