



Orphalseena

Study Guide

Orphaleena

**Journey out of Darkness
Study Guide**

Written by Sara Currey
Edited by Kendall Emmert

Dungeons

For as long as she could remember, she had lived in the
dungeon of a castle...

“You will open the eyes of the blind. You will free the captives from prison, releasing those who sit in dark dungeons.” (Isaiah 42:7, NLT).

Dungeons, prisons, cages, and jails...they may carry different names, but their purpose is the same: to hold one captive. It's that dark, isolating place where no one plans on staying in, let alone visiting. Somehow we find ourselves crashing there and, eventually putting up curtains and calling it home. How does one wander so far away from beauty and gardens, fountains and freedom, exchanging it all for a claustrophobic, cramped cell?

I'll go first, getting uncomfortably personal. The prison of *I can't* has been one of my darkest and most debilitating dungeons ever since childhood. This cell has bound me and made me its slave more often than I'd like to admit. For example, in producing this book, *Orphaleena*, the prison bars of *I can't* started lining up against me pretty quickly, building walls and obstructing my view of who I really am. Lie by lie, bar by bar, they threatened to lock me in and shut the light out.

Questions assaulted me, accusing fingers pointing through the bars: Who are you to think you can write a book? Did you think you are an author? Aren't you just a stay at home missionary mom? I began to engage these accusations, slowly aligning myself to the lies. I wasn't a real author, just a wannabe. A wannabe chef, a wannabe musician, and now a wannabe author. Do you see where this stinkin' thinkin' was taking me? Bingo! Right back to the dungeon! My true identity was in danger of being stolen. Fortunately, this identity battle did not end there. I did not resign.

In order to answer the question of what makes us leave the safety of our Father's care and wander far from home, we must first ask another question. Instead of what, let's ask who. Who questions my Father's love for me, clouding my mind with doubts of who I am and who He is?

Enter the Magician. We'll be discussing the Magician in our next section, exploring how He presented himself in the story of Orphaleena.

Spend a few moments right now and take an inventory of your spiritual living space.

Look around. Where are you living? Are there elements of beauty, freedom, and creativity budding in spite of life's hardships? Or does doubt, fear, and shame describe your décor? Our living, as children of the King, reveals what we really believe deep down. I can say a lot of Biblical truth, but if I'm chained to a wall, I'm chained to a wall.

John 8:30-36 says that we will know the truth and the truth will set us free - free from bondage and slavery to sin. It's not simply reciting, quoting, or even memorizing Scripture. It is believing what God says to be true and knowing that Jesus is the truth, the one who breaks every chain.

God's truth exposes the lies and unbelief that hide in our hearts. If we are enslaved, it is because, at some point, we have exchanged the truth about God for lies. Once you believe the truth, you will be free.

This is the Good News! It isn't too late to cry out to God and confess your sin of unbelief. He listens hard to repentant hearts and He won't turn away. Call out to Him right now.

The Magician

The Magician's answers made Orphaleena sad,
even frightened...

“He has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies,” (John 8:44b, NLT).

I've had many “false friends” in my 40 + years on this planet. In fact, I'm unpleasantly discovering the ways which I have wasted myself and my family with them. These friends of mine are the LIES I have believed. I've invited in these “friends,” entertained them, given my sweet, precious time to them. I've listened to them and believed what they've whispered to me for many years.

The thing about lies is that they can cloak themselves in truth. I am 100% for acknowledging my shortcomings and my failures. Confession leads me down the path to godly sorrow, pointing me to freedom. When I name and repent of my mistakes, I am no longer bound to them.

So, with this in mind, I'd like to tell you the name of my first false friend the Magician sent me. Her name was Orphan. She invented many stories about who I was and who I wasn't: fatherless, loveless, worthless, and shameful. Once I invited her in, she never wanted to leave. Getting rid of her has been painful. And believe it or not, she still tries to drop in every now and then.

From the very beginning, the Magician (more commonly referred to as the devil) has been sending you and me misleading, untruthful, phony friends called lies. He weaves them so intricately into our lives that we believe they are part of our identity.

So what's so deadly about lies? The answer resides in the question itself: death! I've learned the long and hard way that

lies butcher our belief, they tear at the very fabric of identity: who we are, and most importantly, who God is. Death was the Magician's goal from the beginning. It still is. He lost the most important battle to Jesus. Now he ruthlessly goes after His most precious creation, His children, knowing this can hurt Him.

Right now, take a moment to pray and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to your heart any false friends with whom you've been keeping company.

Do you remember the first time you let them in? Maybe opened the door during a traumatic event like a death or a sexual assault? Perhaps divorce or drugs left you so scarred that those jagged lies somehow felt comforting? Friend, no matter how harmless or insignificant these lies may seem, they are dangerous! They are not your friends.

Their goal is death. The death to your belief in God's true character and in your true identity. If satan's job is to deceive us, to keep us from the Truth and from the One who can set us free, then let's foil his plans right now. It's time to kick out these false beliefs and shut the door!

Warning: Be aware of the Blame and Shame Game. One of the Magician's favorite tools of torment is to heap condemnation on the one who is actively seeking freedom. Although he has sent them to you, he will blame you for letting in these wolves in sheep's clothing. He will try to use shame to keep you from your promised freedom. Be aware of his tactics.

Invitation

It was an invitation to a ball...

“For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost,” (Luke 19:10, ESLV).

Who doesn't enjoy receiving an invitation to a party? Whether it's a birthday, graduation, or a Christmas party, there is something appealing about someone, somewhere, requesting your presence. There are many different invitations, but only one is sacred: The Great Invitation.

Jesus is calling, requesting, and seeking out lost ones to come home to the wedding feast. He came to seek out the hurting, the hungry, the poor, and the weary. But - and this is astonishing - He also came for the self-sufficient ones who think they have their lives under control. Ones who still have the determination to “do it all” themselves, instead of relying on Him.

What? I thought Jesus was sent for the down-and-outers, you know, the needy. The truth is, we are all born into sin, no matter how capable we may appear. The sooner we recognize our helplessness and admit our need for a Savior, the sooner we can accept His invitation and begin this divine journey.

You and I have been invited to a new Kingdom of Light where the King reigns. And where He is, there is fullness of joy (Psalm 16:11).

Today, Jesus is hand-delivering you an invitation to come away with Him to His kingdom. Will you accept His intimate invitation of dancing 'til dawn? Yes, it may mean leaving the comforts of a dungeon, a Magician, or a particular potion...but He's inviting you to something eternally wonderful. You're not just leaving dungeon realities behind, you're moving toward truth.

If you've never believed or confessed your faith in Jesus Christ, what's holding you back? Jesus came that you might have real life, and have it to the fullest (John 10:10).

Potion

Potion to help her sleep and help her forget...

“For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures,” (Titus 3:3, ESV).

The “potion” is our addiction to something we may use or rely on to avoid pain, to self-soothe, or to escape an uncomfortable reality. These potions may seem as harmless as busyness or cleaning. They may even fit into our idea of “being a good Christian.” They could be as simple as thought patterns we allow ourselves to follow. But what are the driving motivations behind the actions? Eating is a God-given pleasure, but we may think we deserve to eat what we want, when we want, or eat for a short-lived pleasure to dull the pain. Other potions are much more dark and destructive. We may use drugs such as methamphetamines or even cut ourselves.

In John 8:34, Jesus said, *that anyone who sins, is a slave to sin.* But where do you draw the line between committing a sin and allowing a sin to become your master? We don’t suddenly decide to become an alcoholic or perfectionist. How do addictive behaviors form? Danny Silk with KYLO ministries has an insightful definition and explanation about addiction. He writes,

“Feeling connected to those we are in relationship with is vital. Addictions are cycles that emerge in our lives when we cannot reduce our pain and anxiety through loving, intimate connections with people.”

In other words, when we cannot connect, we disconnect. A disconnected soul is a lonely soul and is more susceptible to unhealthy relationships and addiction.

At the risk of being personal and slightly uncomfortable, I’ll share one of my ongoing struggles. The “silent treatment” is one potion that I’ve wrestled with for years. In the past, if you hurt me, or irritated me, poof! I was gone faster than Houdini the magician! A skillful disappearing act. It has taken much

effort and courage for me to cast off those false comforts of silence and retreat and move purposefully towards intimate connections with my family. I'm choosing to say no to punishing them with my silence.

I'm sure God's heart breaks when he sees His Creation, you and me, living separately from Him. We have pushed away the very relationship that could save us from our enslavement and give us freedom. God created us for deep, intimate connection with Himself and with others. In fact, relationships are the pathway He provides for moving out of our addiction.

Did God draw to your attention any of these unhealthy attitudes, actions, struggles or addictions that may be causing you to feel isolated from Him or disconnected from significant people in your life?

If you identified any habitual, sinful attitudes or actions in this list, please take the time to confess it to God and receive His abundant forgiveness. Consider sharing it with someone you trust.

The Bible tells us to confess our sins with one another so that we may be healed (James 5:16). Be encouraged. Choosing intimate connection with God and with those in the body of Christ can help break the power of addictions.

At the same time, if you struggle with a physically destructive addiction, you may need to seek professional help. If this is the case, please do not hesitate to do so.

Please take a moment and read the list below.

“Potions”

Controlling Addiction: the state of being enslaved to a habit or practice or to something that is psychologically or physically habit-forming

Various addictions and compulsions:

- Pornography
- Stealing
- Drinking - Alcoholism
- Smoking
- Drugs
- Workaholism
- Shopping – overspending
- Sports
- Video gaming
- Social media – FB, twitter, etc.
- Internet
- Fantasy and daydreaming
- Gambling
- Sexual promiscuity
- Cutting - self-mutilation
- Bulimia or Anorexia
- Hoarding
- Gluttony
- Texting
- Exercising
- Romance Novels
- Cleaning
- TV/Binge watching

Various underlying sinful motivators that may contribute to the above addiction/compulsions:

- Perfectionism
- Self-hatred, loathing, negative image
- Self-pity
- Pride
- Fear
- Anxiety
- Rebellion
- Lust
- Unforgiveness, bitterness
- Idolatry
- Performance driven
- Jealousy
- Rejection
- Materialism

The Rescue

You called for me and I am here, he said.

“He reached down from heaven and rescued me; he drew me out of deep waters.” (Psalm 18:16, NLT).

Merriam-Webster’s dictionary defines the word *rescue* as saving someone, or something, from danger or harm. I’d like to go a step further. Rescuing is more than what you are being saved from. It is also what you are being saved to.

We all love a rescue story with a real life hero. The hero braves the elements and fights the enemy, saving the vulnerable victim who cannot save herself! And so...the Manservant rescues Orphaleena by bursting into her cell and showing her the way out!

But she is surprised. She hesitates to leave the dungeon. This is not what we expect in a rescue story! We can see that sadly, Orphaleena is unaware of her bondage. We, too, can be so acclimated to our prisons that we are bewildered when the hero actually arrives!

Are we fully aware of the extent of our trouble? Do we understand the incredible liberty that awaits us? We feel the pain, we know the desperation, but do we see the evil forces working to keep us enslaved?

Jesus sees the danger clearly and knows exactly what is at stake: our hearts. He stands by, ready and waiting to break through our imprisoned hearts. Like a gentleman, He is waiting for our response to His invitation. He is waiting for a shout, a call, or even a whisper for help. We are powerless to save ourselves, so He waits to enter into our lives and deliver us.

God will rescue us if we allow Him. Jesus paid the price for us and we are not longer slaves, but daughters of the King! Our loving Father bought back our freedom in exchange for His own Son’s life (Galatians 4:7) .

He sees you deep within your cell, deep within your prison. No cell is too hidden, no bars too impenetrable, to keep Him from reaching in and drawing you out.

Call out to Him in your trouble. He will save you.

*“Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,
And he saved them from their distress.
He sent out his word and healed them;
He rescued them from the grave.” (Psalm 107:19,20, NIV).*

Tunnels

The Manservant led her out of the dungeon and through the dark tunnels under the castle...



“Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:9b).

After the departure and before arriving, there is the journey. The long road that separates the two. It is on this path where life happens with its bumps, turns, its ups and downs.

Tunnels are a part of this journey through life. We may find our paths narrowing and descending down where daylight has been extinguished by darkness. Great strength and courage are required to traverse these depths.

But where do we find this superhero power to continue on when we can't push ahead, our bodies frozen in fear, and we can't see any light at the end of our tunnel?

Before exploring where our strength lies, let's discuss a lie we're currently being told. There is a popular message today suggesting that the answers to life's struggles lie deep within us. When we are weak or fearful, we are told to look within, perhaps give ourselves a pep talk or recite a few positivity quotes: You've got this! You can do it if you set your mind to it! Visualize it into being!

Has this ever really worked for you? In the deep recesses of depression, chronic pain, or the inconsolable grief of losing a child, does looking inward bring hope? The depth of help or healing that our souls need isn't found inwardly. It's looking outward and upward to Jesus Christ, who is the answer! He is strength and power! He is the One who gives me *courage* to wholeheartedly move forward in the face of fear.

To understand this truth, let's look at a real-life example from the Old Testament. Joshua, Moses' successor, finds himself quite literally, on a journey through an in-between place. He is leading the Israelites out of the harsh wilderness and into the Promised Land. They have many miles to go and many battles to fight with dangerous, violent people who will not easily give up their land to the people of God. The tunnel they must travel through ends in the life or death of themselves or someone they love. So how did Joshua get the courage to step forward into imminent danger? Was he telling himself, "You've got this, Josh!?" No.

He was given it. God's promised presence gave him courage. The God of, "I will be with you, I will never leave you" was going to be accompanying Joshua through the "taking of the Promise Land" tunnel.

What does this mean for us today? Everything. No tunnel is too long, too dark, or too scary to navigate because the God of the universe is with us. He gives us the ability to wholeheartedly move forward in the face of pain or fear because He is holding our hand.

I do not know the present tunnel or tunnel through which you are walking, maybe crawling, but God does. Will you take His hand? He won't let you go. Remember, it's not the length or the darkness of the tunnel that is significant, but the competency of the Guide who is leading you. He knows your situation better than you do.

Can you take His hand and receive the courage that He is offering you? He will never leave you, forsake you, or forget you.

Birthmark

He gives each child a heart when they are born-
a piece of his own heart so that they never forget who they
are...

“And you also became God’s people when you heard the true message, the Good News that brought you salvation. You believed Christ, and God put his stamp of ownership on you by giving you the Holy Spirit he had promised,” (Ephesians 1:13, GNT).

I have a Holy Spirit tattoo! Do you? This God-stamp I bare doesn’t consist of man-made ink, but is supernatural in nature.

Like Orphaleena, I received my birthmark when I was a child. I heard the Good News that Jesus had died in my place and I believed the Gospel message to be true. At that moment, I confessed my sins and I was forgiven (Ephesians 1:3). As a daughter of the King, I wore my new heart stamp proudly. It wasn’t until years later, however, that I would discover the divine Presence of my birthmark.

When we are born-again, rescued from the clutches of sin, and graciously received into God’s family, the Holy Spirit comes to live in us. The Spirit is a seal identifying us as God’s own. His presence in our lives is a guarantee and deposit of all that is to come (2 Corinthians 5:5).

The Holy Spirit *lives* in us, speaks to us, produces His fruit in our lives (Galatians 5:22-23), but He does not *control* us. We have been given the freedom to choose. And with those choices, we can either delight or grieve the very heart of God.

The Holy Spirit speaks Truth, which leads us to life and intimate fellowship with God. Satan speaks lies and tries to deceive us with our sinful desires, leading us toward death.

Who you listen to will determine where you are led.

We can, as children do, unintentionally or mindlessly wander away into danger. God’s Spirit works to continually call us back

home and into fellowship with Him. Even if we intentionally and rebelliously run away for a season.

As with Orphaleena, the invitation to the ball was her invitation to return home. Have you received an invitation from your Heavenly Father to leave the dungeon and return home?

Do you see your heart mark, the Holy Spirit's seal of ownership, as an undeserved, extravagant gift? Or rather as a spade, a burden, or a prison sentence hanging over your head? Has your love for the King become a chore?

How would you describe your relationship with God today? When questions arise and doubts surface, do you cling to your heavenly Father, or do you question his intentions toward you? Do life's painful struggles and losses drive you closer to Him, or do you push Him away, doubting His protection and love?

Would you take a moment and trace your steps back to the voices to which you listened? Choices you made that distanced you from God? Or brought you closer to Him? Do you know how to find your way back to Him?

"Return to the Lord your God, for he is merciful and compassionate, slow to anger and boundless in loyal love—often relenting from calamitous punishment," (Joel 2:13 NET).

How does one become a daughter of the King? Do you have a birthmark? Are you a child of God?

We are all created by God, but not all of us are His children (John 1:12-13, ESV). If you haven't yet made a decision to give your life to Jesus, God's only Son, what is holding you back? He is waiting with arms open wide to receive you.

"If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved," (Romans 10:9).

The Cloak of Shame

As soon as Orphaleena caught a glance of the King running towards her, she crumpled to the ground in shame...

“And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the Lord God among the trees of the garden,” (Genesis 3:8, NKJV).

The cloak of shame that Orphaleena wore is as old as sin itself. It has been clothing mankind for thousands of years and we still wear it today. The desperate attempt to cover up and hide ourselves is nothing new.

Adam and Eve felt real guilt for failing to keep God’s standard. They experienced true shame for damaging the relationship they had with their Creator. What drove them to hide from the very Presence of the One who breathed life into them? I believe it was shame.

David Powlison writes, *“guilt is an awareness of failure against a standard. Shame is a sense of failure before the eyes of someone.”* While guilt involves breaking a standard, shame provokes the tearing of a relationship.

Healthy guilt is like an alarm clock that awakens us to a sinful behavior. Healthy shame alerts us, giving us a sense that we need to bring restoration relationally. Well-placed shame, however, is not what I want to explore in the section. I want to discuss its counterfeit: the weighty, smothering shame that hangs like a heavy cloak on so many of us today.

This cloak of shame is so heavy that it squelches our joy and robs us of the fullness of life. Its foul odor reeks of worthlessness, rejection, and the lie that we will never be good enough. Shame’s cloak is made of fabric that is laced with humiliation, disgrace, and dishonor.

Even so, while we were caught in the clutches of sin, Jesus Christ came into our lives. His presence, Emmanuel, *annihilates* shame from our lives. He endured the shame so we

don't have to. He gave His life for ours and exchanged His righteousness for our sinfulness (Romans 5:8). He took our old, shame-laden cloak and replaced it with a new robe of righteousness (Isaiah 61:10).

We are divinely clothed.

If we intimately know that Jesus Christ is the destroyer of shame, then we also know that it is His Grace that covers us, not a cloak. We have Jesus' blood, flowing from the cross, over us and through us. We have been reborn and now have His DNA: the Holy Spirit living in us. Shame must flee!

So why are we still struggling? If we are free from shame, why can't we break free from the humiliation of past failures?

Let's unearth some of the destructive devices of toxic shame and get free from its grasp!

The enemy's ultimate goal is to keep us from an intimate relationship with our Father. One of the ways he effectively does this is through shame. Shame provokes us to hide from Him, either out of pride or out of humiliation, rather than pursue Him in our failures. Shame covers up our true, God-given identity. Shame lies to us and tells us that at our very core, we are a disappointment, a mistake, and a failure to ourselves, to others, and to God.

But shame is no match for the grace and compassion of God! Grace runs to the one who returns (Luke 15:20). Grace covers up our nakedness and restores our dignity. Grace clothes our humiliation and gives honor.

Receive our Father's embrace, and believe He completely loves and accepts you. Shed this distorting cloak of shame and be free from your mistaken perceptions, as well as other's perceptions of you.

Who you are can be celebrated. You are forgiven and free!

Know this truth: You are NEVER a disappointment to God!!!

Take some time to pray and then look into God's mirror to examine yourself.

Is there a cloak of shame that you're wearing at this very moment? Is it linked to a specific recent memory or one in the past? If it has been dealt with at the cross of Christ and yet you can't seem to shake it, consider some of the following hooks that Satan uses to lure us back under the cloak: pride, people-pleasing, perfectionism, unbelief in God's Truth. Does shame keep you from reconnecting with certain people? Are you still experiencing unhealthy shame that keeps you from connection?

When you fail to respond to God in a healthy way, whether through a sin issue or fear, do you cover yourself and hide? What would baring your soul to Him right now look like?

A Name

O Leena, my daughter, you've come. You've come!!!

And I will be your Father, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty," (2 Corinthians 6:18, NLT).

Leena, not Orphaleena. Daughter, not orphan.

So what's in a name?

Today, parents choose their children's names for various reasons. They may name a child for sentimental reasons, for passing down a tradition or just because they like the sound of it. In Biblical times, however, Hebrew parents took naming their children very seriously. They believed a person's name was directly linked to their identity and would relate in some way to their purpose.

Sometimes, names are changed. In Genesis 17, we see the first name change take place with Abram. God changed his name from the father of many *people* to the father of many *nations*. His new name, Abraham, established a new identity, which enlarged his calling and made God's promise a reality. His name wasn't just changed, *he* was changed.

So what about you? What is your name? What does God call you?

Yes, we have a first name and last name given to us by our earthly parents, but there is a name by which our Heavenly Father calls us by. Do you know what that is?

Beloved.

He calls you *beloved*. Once you were unloved, but now you are loved, esteemed, favored and worthy of His love.

I John 3:1 says, "*See what kind of love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.*"

Beloved. How beautiful that God chooses to call you by this name. You are *be-ing -loved* by Him. He is calling you by an action that He, Himself is doing. Loving you. Your new role isn't earning his love, but receiving it.

Being not doing.

You don't have to be-perfect to *be-loved*.
You don't have to be-a spiritual superhero to *be-loved*.
You don't have to be-right to *be-loved*.
You don't have to be-someone else to *be-loved*.

His loving you doesn't depend on you.

God's love is unconditional. His love streams from who He is, not who we are. The Orphaleena mentality would like you to believe that God's love is conditionally based upon your actions. One big mess up, or a bunch of little messes, and He loves you less. This deceptive mindset leads the Leenas to live like Orphaleenas. It leads daughters to live like orphans.

1 Peter 2:9 says, "*But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.*"

God knows your true name: Beloved. He has chosen and blessed you so that you can carry out your purpose in this life. Your identity in Him leads you to your destiny in His Kingdom here on earth and in the one to come.

What name or names have you been responding to? Have you accepted them into your identity? Do you see yourself as a being-loved daughter of the King or as an unwanted orphan? Take a moment, quiet your heart and let God speak your name...Beloved.

The Ball

And with that they entered Leena's welcome home ball...

“But his father said to the servants, ‘Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet. And kill the calf we have been fattening. We must celebrate with a feast, for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found.’ So the party began.” (Luke 15:22-25, NLT).

What a warm welcome! What a gracious greeting! The faithful father, who has been watching daily and searching for his son's silhouette on the horizon, now spares no expense for this welcome home party. His son's return has no price.

There is something beautifully disconcerting about this story Jesus told. This parable not only opens up a floodgate of questions, but it threatens our sense of fairness. Has the father lost his mind? Has he forgotten that this is the son who stole and squandered the family's money? His gracious response to this deserter seems unjust.

This prodigal did not deserve the extravagant reception he received. He had dishonored his family. And yet, his father chose to honor him. He was treated like a decorated war hero returning from battle, rather than a scrounger from a pig's pen.

The father compassionately took his son's filthy rags and clothed him with a fine robe, a golden ring, and sandals for his bruised, swollen feet. He replaced his present state of disgrace, poverty, and unworthiness with the dignity, wealth, and authority that comes from sonship.

The emphasis of this parable and of Orphaleena is not what we might expect. These stories aren't intended for us to be spectators, judging other's sinful choices or addictions. Neither are they meant to condemn us for our own faults or past

wanderings. They are designed, rather, to point us to our Awesome Heavenly Father, who has been there all along.

God doesn't see your filthy rags or your failures. Instead, He sees His beloved child. The same compassionate Father who showered his prodigals with mercy is waiting for you.

Are you convinced that nothing, not even wandering away, can ever separate you from God's amazing love? Please take a moment and read the following verses out loud. This is God's promise to you.

"And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate me from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither my fear for today nor my worries about tomorrow-not even the powers of hell can separate me from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below-indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate me from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus my Lord," (Romans 8:38,39).

Return, return to the Father. He's holding a ball in your honor. And remember...

This is not

THE END

it's only the beginning.