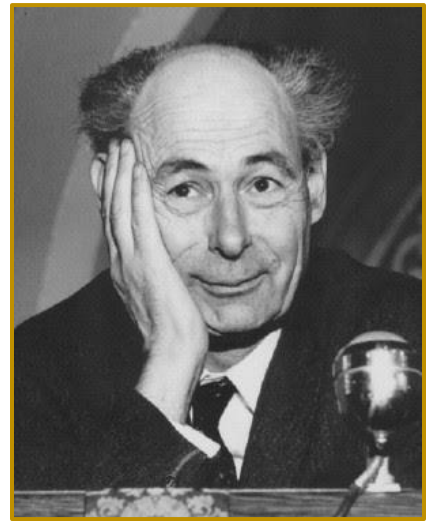


# The Leadership of Orphans

In his book, *Creative Suffering*, the Swiss physician and counselor Paul Tournier recalls his surprise upon reading an article entitled *Orphans Lead the World*.

The article, which appeared in a respected medical journal, surveyed the lives of 300 leaders who had a great impact on world history. After searching for some common thread, the author discovered that all these leaders had grown up as orphans, either actually, through the death of or separation from parents, or emotionally, as a result of severe childhood deprivation. His list included such names as Alexander the Great, Julius Caesar, Maximilien Robespierre, George Washington, Napoleon, Queen Victoria, Golda Meir and others.



“So there we are,” writes Tournier, “giving lectures on how important it is for a child’s development to have a father and a mother performing harmoniously together their respective roles toward him. And all at once, we find that this is the very thing that those who have been most influential in world history have not had!”

Tournier himself was an orphan, and he pondered the orphan phenomenon soon after the death of his wife, when he felt orphaned once again in old age. Previously, he had judged each major event of life, success or tragedy, as either good or evil. But now he began to perceive that circumstances, whether fortunate or unfortunate, are morally neutral. They simply are what they are; what matters is how we respond to them, he believed.

What you as a Christian – whether born or reared as an orphan or not – must understand is that you are a child of the King of the universe. Nothing, therefore, in this world can defeat you. The events that occur each day, regardless of how painful they may be, are opportunities for you not only to build your fortune, perhaps, but also to build your character and your spiritual stature.

Can you see how this can cause you to approach your difficulties differently? Stand tall, Be victorious. This is who you are.

Knowing that we are children of the King should make us more aware of our relationships with others. We are to live our lives as Christ would – in love and service to others.

*But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God (John 1:12 ESV).*

– Beecher Hunter