

- e) Verse 21a – Blamed others – Said the soldiers took the animals.
- f) Verse 21b – Justification – Said it was used for a sacrifice to God.
- g) Verse 22 – Confrontation – Saul had indeed disobeyed.
- h) Verse 23 – Consequence – Lost his place of influence.
- i) Verse 24 – Realization – I sinned, because I was afraid.

- Saul was “needs-driven” into becoming a great leader, because “he was small in his own eyes”, meaning he had a deep lack of self-worth, he felt “insignificant”

Proverbs 29:25, NIV – *“Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is kept safe.”*

THE BENEFIT AND NECESSITY OF TRIALS

- “Trials” can reveal when we are needs-driven, rather than spirit-led.
- When a trial comes, ask:
 - “What need in me, has been revealed by this trial?”
 - “What response in me, reveals that I am being need-driven?”
 - “How can I put to death this response, and this motivation, and instead, let the Holy Spirit fulfill this need?”
 - “What ‘Word’ can I use to overcome my “need-driven” motivation in this area?”

USING GOD'S WORD TO OVERCOME OUR “NEEDS-DRIVEN” MOTIVATIONS

Hebrews 4:12, NIV — *For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.*

- God’s word divides our soul (our needs-driven motivation) from our spirit (Spirit-led motivation).
- God’s word brings judgment on our thoughts (our thinking) and the attitudes of our hearts (our motivations).
- We must submit every “needs-driven” response, to the Spirit of God
- And we must find our refuge and fulfillment in our relationship with the Lord.

SUMMARY

- Sanctification occurs, as trials reveal our hidden motivations, and we submit to being Spirit-led, rather than needs driven.

SOUL TRANSFORMATION

Part 1 - Needs Driven To Spirit-Led

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SALVATION AS AN EVENT

John 3:3-6, NIV — (3) *In reply Jesus declared, “I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.”* (4) *“How can a man be born when he is old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb to be born!”* (5) *Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.”* (6) *Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.”*

SALVATION AS A PROCESS

1. Our Souls Are “Being Saved”

1 Peter 1:6-9, NIV — (6) *In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.* (7) *These have come so that your faith — of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire — may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed* (8) *Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy,* (9) *for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.*

2. Soul Salvation Comes Through Soul Transformation

2 Corinthians 3:18, NIV — *And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.*

- a) A Trial Comes To Us
- b) We Choose To Unveil Our Faces
- c) We Choose To Reflect The Lord’s Glory
- d) We Are Transformed Into The Likeness Of The Lord As We Reflect His Glory

3. Soul Transformation Involves An Ongoing Choice

Romans 8:12-13, NASB – (12) *So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh – (13) for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.*

- “Flesh” = “Human nature with it’s frailties, corrupt propensities, and passions”
- “Living according to the flesh” = “fulfilling our God-given needs in our own way.”
- We are to put to death the “flesh” (the soulish tendencies) by being led by the Holy Spirit.

“NEEDS-DRIVEN” LIVING

1. The Marks Of Being “Needs-Driven”

- a) Fulfilling God-Given Needs In an Ungodly Way

Colossians 3:5, NASB – “*Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry.*”

- b) Living As A “Double-Minded” Person

James 4:8, NIV – “*Come near to God and He will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.*”

- A double-minded person is a person who lives with an internal conflict, between being “needs-driven” and being “Spirit-led”.

2. How Can We Tell If We Are Needs-Driven?

- a) Reaction To Lack Of Appreciation Or Approval
- b) Misinterpreting Other People’s Motives
- c) Sense Of Rejection Or Abandonment
- d) Reactive Anger
- e) Passive Anger
- f) Over-Reaction
- g) Compensation For Weaknesses
 - i. Saul
 - ii. Jacob
 - iii. Great Speaker
 - iv. Great Leader
 - v. Great Entertainer

3. Other Examples Of Needs-Driven Behaviour

- a) Perfectionism: Need for approval and/or acceptance
- b) Sexual Promiscuity: Need for unconditional love, acceptance, or security
- c) Workaholic: Need for value, acceptance, success
- d) The Office Clown: Need for attention and acceptance
- e) The Abrasive Neighbour: Need for approval and love

4. The Deceptive Nature Of Needs-Driven Behaviour

5. The Danger Of Needs-Driven Behaviour

- Continuing fulfillment of needs-driven behaviour leads to needs addiction.
- Needs addiction leads to a state of constant unfulfillment, depression, chronic anger, etc.

6. A Biblical Example Of Needs-Driven Behaviour – King Saul

1 Samuel 15:17-24 NIV – (17) *Samuel said, “Although you were once small in your own eyes, did you not become the head of the tribes of Israel? The LORD anointed you king over Israel. (18) And he sent you on a mission, saying, ‘Go and completely destroy those wicked people, the Amalekites; make war on them until you have wiped them out.’ (19) Why did you not obey the LORD? Why did you pounce on the plunder and do evil in the eyes of the LORD?” (20) “But I did obey the LORD,” Saul said. “I went on the mission the LORD assigned me. I completely destroyed the Amalekites and brought back Agog their king. (21) The soldiers took sheep and cattle from the plunder, the best of what was devoted to God, in order to sacrifice them to the LORD your God at Gilgal.” (22) But Samuel replied: “Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams. (23) For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has rejected you as king.” (24) Then Saul said to Samuel, “I have sinned. I violated the LORD’S command and your instructions. I was afraid of the people and so I gave in to them.”*

- The Process Of The Fall Of A Great Man:

- a) Verse 17 – Placed in a great and influential position – King over Israel.
- b) Verse 18 – Given an important mission – Conquer the Amalekites.
- c) Verse 19 – Disobedience – Took some of the plunder.
- d) Verse 20 – Distorting the truth – Did some of what he was asked.