

Soul Issues with Gifting

The soul uses our giftings to create an identity and to feed our self-worth, but Father changes that for us.

It's normal to have our identity in our giftedness, or in a vocation where we're skilled. When asked who they are, these skilled people will identify themselves in relation to their giftedness. This (again) is normal in the world. Tell me if I'm not wrong: In the world, a person who is skilled in painting calls themselves an artist. A gifted medico calls themselves a cardiac surgeon. A gifted classical guitarist calls themselves a maestro.

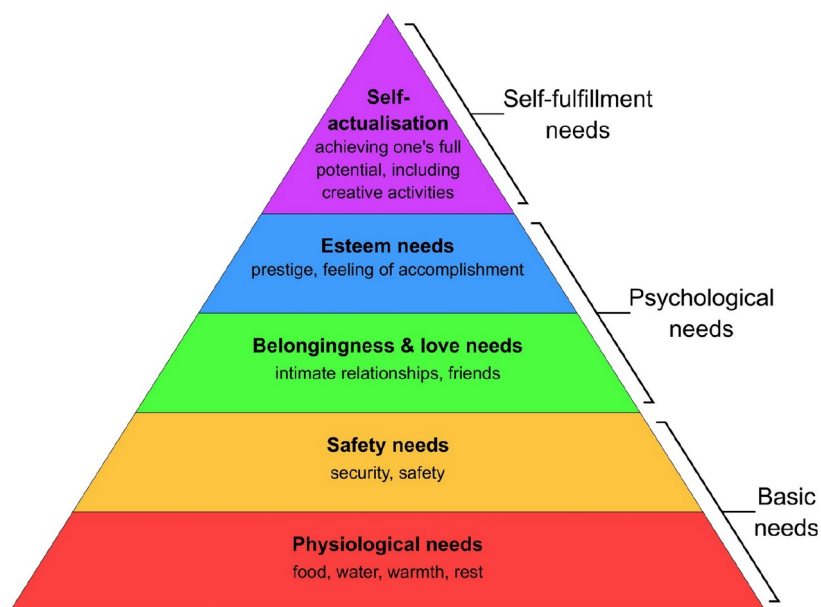
I could go on, but you get the picture.

The same occurs within the church, among Christians. When asked who they are, they're: A preacher; a worship team member; an evangelist; a healer; a prophet; an apostle; etc. They identify who they are, according to their giftedness, or their vocation which comes from their God-given gifts. In other words their identity is in their gifts.

This identity is a soulish thing. We think identity comes from what they think, but that's wrong. A person moves with their soul – their emotions and feelings. While the mind can override the soul, in regards to identity, it usually doesn't.

Why the soul? Well, it all revolves around the base desire for self-worth, which we FEEL, not just think about. It's our emotional state that drives us for self-worth, even though we might think it's our mind. We feel good about ourselves when we believe we have self-worth (i.e. we have value in the eyes of others), and that moves to our mind, and we then believe life has a reason and a purpose for us to be alive.

When we find something that gives us self-worth, and we embrace it wholeheartedly, we eventually come to a place of self-actualization, the highest plain of Maslow's 'Hierarchy of Needs'. That's the pinnacle of the drives that humans have in their lives. Like all the others below it in the pyramid, it's a force that unconsciously drives each one of us.¹



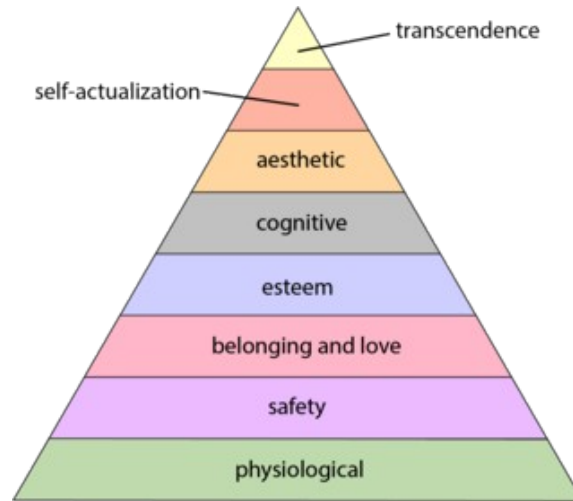
In modern Western societies, the lowest 2 needs are usually met in daily life, so people spend their days working to achieve the top 3 levels, even if they don't know they are doing it. Those who find satisfaction in the 'Belonging and Love' level, work on the need for self-esteem. The few who find they have enough self-esteem look to becoming self-actualized. That's how the theory goes, but as we found out previously,² the psychological needs and the self-fulfillment needs usually occur in a person simultaneously.

1 – GRAPHIC: By Androidmarsexpress - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0 commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=93026655

2 – "Spirituality and Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs"

canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/Spirituality-and-Maslows-Hierarchy-of-Needs.pdf

You can see from Maslow's research³ that the top 3 levels are to do with the soul and the mind, while the others deal with the body. Maslow added to his list, much later on, a spiritual level which he called Transcendence. Here's how his list now looks, but using a different graph to represent needs:⁴



(Read more about transcendence and spirituality on my website.⁵)

Esteem, recognition (Cognition) and Self-actualization are all fully functioning in every person's life, at one level or another. The thing is, the majority of people don't know anything about it. All they do is follow their soul because there's a 'hunger' that they can't seem to satisfy. There's a 'thirst' that can't be quenched, until a point is reached where they feel satisfied and no longer work at meeting the need that had been driving them. This is usually the point at which they are content with the identity that they've crafted for themselves.

Unfortunately, because people draw self-worth and identity from others, those longings are often only satisfied for a short time, until someone else cancels it. That's the foundation of peer pressure. People look for an identity with a group (group identity), otherwise they feel alienated, and therefore, not a whole person.⁶

Group identity is what fashion is all about.⁷



3 – en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maslow's_hierarchy_of_needs

4 – GRAPHIC: By EucalyptusTreeHugger. Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0 commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:MaslowHierarchy.png

5 – “Spirituality and Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs”

canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/Spirituality-and-Maslows-Hierarchy-of-Needs.pdf

6 – READ: “Social Identity Theory: Definition, History, Examples, & Facts” (14-4-2023)

www.simplypsychology.org/social-identity-theory.html

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Some people aren't interested in group identity and are quite happy to have an individual identity, and so, ignore peer pressure that might compel them to comply with those around them.⁸



There are many more scenarios related to identity in the world system, but I'll leave it there.

The important thing for us to consider is this: Is the soul's ambitions for self-development relevant for sons?

In regard to the soul, here's what Mike Parsons says about ego⁹, our soul and our identity:

"[The ego] is part of the mind that mediates between the conscious and unconscious, responsible for sense of personality [&] personal identity. So think of it as that which, in a sense, gives you self-esteem or self-importance. Now ultimately, you don't want that coming from self. That's where the ego has got out of control in relation to the soul, because it's part of our soul, not our spirit. And in regard to the soul, if our soul is giving ourselves our own self, as self-esteem, self-important, self-awareness, and all of that, then that's coming from our interaction with the world and our history and memory, which will all be part of that. Which is not a good thing. But in itself, the soul has, and has been given personality, and the perspectives of the soul – conscience, mind, emotions, will, choice.

All the soul 'gates' that are effectively operating in our lives are designed to operate with the spirit, in union with the body. So, no separation. The problem is, we've separated it all up and therefore our life – depending on what we've experienced in life – can drive us to performance or the need to think in a particular way.

So, ego, in one sense, is not bad, if our identity comes from our relationship with God and what he says¹⁰ about us."¹¹

(Permission to quote Mike Parsons received on 20-7-2020)

As I stated at the beginning of this article, even in the church system, godly giftings of all sorts can be used by believers for self-esteem, self-worth, self-actualization, notoriety, and even self-aggrandisement. These are all the bases for creating an identity in the world system, but which has been transposed into the life of the Christian.

In the Kingdom, none of that should exist, because there's no need for it. It's true that self-esteem, self-worth, self-actualization and identity are all needs that are built into us, but they were designed to be met by human's relationship with the Trinity, not from other people. Unfortunately, with The Fall, that got corrupted, and turned into self-fulfilment.

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9 – 'Ego': in psychoanalytic theory, that portion of the human personality which is experienced as the "self" or "I" and is in contact with the external world. It is not the same as Self-centredness which is colloquially called our 'ego', as in egotistical'.

10 – viz. From our personal communication with him.

11 – TRANSCRIPT: Mike Parsons (12-5-2023) "Ego and Soul" youtu.be/cXAYOLgKxY4 [0:19-2:00]

You see, here's how it's meant to be:

- Identity: We are sons (family) of the supreme, most powerful being in existence. There's no greater identity than that.
- Self-worth: We are connected to the supreme, most powerful being in existence who calls us 'his gems', because he values every single person as invaluable. We can get no better estimate of our worth than his. Our worth (not self-worth) is based on his estimate of our worth.
- Self-esteem: We are esteemed as humans and as sons by the supreme, most powerful being in existence. Therefore, we don't need self-esteem because we have worth, which is of such great value that self-esteem is irrelevant. Self-esteem is only of value when we think we have no value.
- Self-actualization: As sons of the supreme, most powerful being in existence, we work with him on his tasks to fulfil his plans. In that role there is no greater actualization that a person can reach. We impact the spirit realm, the natural realm – even the whole cosmos. And, we were created to be planet-managers, vice-regents of the King.

For the doubters, here's a confirmation from Father of our value to him:

*"Your perception of who you are in Me will become clearer as you put away all self-degradation. Come to Me with open heart and mind, and allow Me to reveal your true nature from a spiritual perspective. Let My love for you be a springboard that will propel you into all that I have in store for your future. **You are of great value to Me,**" says the Lord."*¹²

And his unconditional love causes him to believe in us, because he doesn't focus on our faults and failures:

*"Beloved, when the whole world is busy and chaotic, close your eyes and find my face. I'm smiling at you. When things feel out of control, and you don't handle things correctly, I'm still smiling at you. **Can you feel my heart for you? You move me in a way no one else does. You are the one I love... Even in your mess, I still love you. I know you and believe in you,** because I know who you're destined to be. **You are beautiful in the very depths of your being.**"*¹³

If we can train ourselves to receive the above 4 points from our connection with Father, and live out of them in concert with the love he pours into us, there's no need for any other source to provide them, including the inferior forms that we create for ourselves.

That's really how sons are meant to have all their needs met, without any downside.

WATCH: Mike Parsons "Redemptive Gifts - Soul issues" youtu.be/jp8SKObjdv8

WATCH: Mike Parsons "Ego and Soul" youtu.be/cXAYOLgKxY4

IMPORTANT: The soul isn't evil, it was given to us at creation. It has the function of allowing us to interact with the natural realm. It's role, for a son, should be functioning in union with the body and spirit, but with the spirit as the dominant component. That's the end goal Father is desiring his sons to achieve.

Laurence
10-5-2023

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(Readers will need to look up for themselves any scriptures alluded to in this document)

12 – Marsha Burns "Small Straws in the Soft Wind" (May 13, 2023) ft111.com/smallstraws.htm [ARCHIVE: ft111.com/straws2023.htm]

13 – EXTRACT: Brian Simmons (15-5-2023) "I Hear His Whisper..." "I am smiling at you." [distributed e-newsletter]

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