

Basic needs – Sunday 21st September, 2014

**“Let them give thanks to the Lord for His lovingkindness,
And for His wonders to the sons of men!**

**⁹ For He has satisfied the thirsty soul,
And the hungry soul He has filled with what is good.” Psalm 107:8-9**

Beloved in The Lord,

Every single human is a unique being created by Almighty God. God has given every person a set of talents and abilities. Every person is different and yet there are some basic needs that we all possess. There are basic needs that are universal.

Today I would like to consider three of these basic needs and show you that God is able to fulfill each one of them.

The three basic needs we will discuss are:

1. The sense of belonging.
2. The sense of worth.
3. The sense of competence.

There are of course other basic needs that are universal, but we will consider these three today.

Firstly the sense of belonging. God has created us in such a way that we need community. We are not created to live in isolation. That is why solitary confinement is such a torturous form of incarceration. Deep down all of us crave company. We have a need for some form of fellowship. We need to have a sense of belonging. That is why there are some many different types of clubs and organisations in society.

The need for fellowship, a place to belong, is one reason why Jesus instituted The Church. The Church, our local congregation is our spiritual family. All who believe on The Lord Jesus Christ are our brothers and sisters. We are not alone in our spiritual journey. We have fellow pilgrims to love us, support us and care for us. The congregation is very important and it is important to belong and to be active if at all possible.

The Bible teaches us: ***“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name” (John 1:12).***

When we receive Jesus into our heart as our personal Lord and Saviour, then we become children of God. We become members of God’s family. We are a part of Jesus flock of sheep, that He shepherds as the Good Shepherd. When Jesus is our Good Shepherd, then as David so beautifully puts it – we lack no good thing.

“The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. ² He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters. ³ He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness For His name’s sake.

⁴ Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You have anointed my

head with oil; My cup overflows. ⁶ Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life, And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever” (Psalm 23).

Praise The Lord! In Christ Jesus we have The Good Shepherd, who loves us; who cares for us; who provides for us; who will never leave nor forsake us. When we are His – we are blessed. When we belong to Him we have peace, joy and every blessing. Belonging to Him we are secure always. So we see that in Christ Jesus our basic need to belong is met.

The second basic need is a sense of worth. So many people just simply do not understand that they are precious and valuable to God. So many people are living with a very low sense of worth. This low sense of worth robs them of joy and fulfilment in life.

Jesus said: ***“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly” (John 10:10).***

One way that the Devil steals our life is to implant a feeling of worthlessness into our being. He continually says things like: “You are nothing. Nobody needs you. Nobody loves you. You have nothing worthwhile to contribute.” Please, please understand that these are lies fabricated in the pit of hell itself. What does God say?

To answer that we need to consider what price God paid to redeem us. The value of a thing is often measured by the price that someone will pay for it. The higher the price the greater the value.

To redeem us from sin and death, God paid a tremendous price. One that cannot be estimated. He shed the blood of His own dear Son to redeem us, to pay our sin debt in full. We read:

“you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, ¹⁹ but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ. ²⁰ For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you ²¹ who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God” (1.Peter 1:18-21).

You cannot place a value on The Blood of The Lord Jesus Christ. His blood is the greatest value in all of the universe. God paid the greatest price, because He loved you and me.

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life” (John 3:16).

God so loved you and me, that He shed the precious blood of His only begotten Son, so that we would not be lost eternally, but that by believing on Jesus we could be His forever, as a child. Never ever believe the Devils lies that you are worthless. You are extremely precious and God has a plan and a purpose for your life.

We read in Paul’s letter to the Ephesians:

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them” (Eph.2:10).

Before you were born, before the world was created, God knew you, He had you planned and He had a life prepared for you to live. Don't ever, even for one moment, doubt His love for you, nor your worth to Him.

The third basic need is the sense of competence.

If you are in Christ Jesus then never believe that you are incompetent to achieve the purposes that He has for you. If God gives you a task, He equips and empowers you to do it. Paul wrote: ***"I can do all things through Him who strengthens me" (Phil.4:13)*** another way of putting it is "I can do all things through Him who empowers me from within."

This is the truth. Herein lies the key. It is not I can do all things in my own power- no. Not even in other peoples power. It is through Christ who dwells in me through The Holy Spirit. Jesus put it this way in using a vine as an illustration: ***"I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing" (John 15:5.)*** You see if and when we abide in Him, then we can do all things, that He purposes for us to do.

Jesus said to His disciples: ***"but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth" (Acts 1:8).***

The Holy Spirit is the one who empowers us. He works through us if we let Him; if we trust in Him. We read in the Old Testament:

"This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel saying, 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the Lord of hosts" (Zech.4:6).

Praise God! You see He gives us Himself. He gives us The Holy Spirit, who abides in our heart when we believe in Jesus. He empowers us to live and fulfill His purposes. He can do all things. We just need to learn to trust in Him.

See how wonderful our God is?

Our text began with the statement: ***"Let them give thanks to the Lord for His lovingkindness, And for His wonders to the sons of men!" (Ps.107:8)***

We have so much to be thankful for. He supplies all of our needs. He loves us with an everlasting love. He gives us a place in His family. We belong to Him. He values us with tremendous worth. He gives us abilities and empowers us to live and work, in a way that glorifies His name. He supplies/meets all of our needs.

Paul says it so well:

"And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus" (Phil.4:19). So with Paul we say: ***"Now to our God and Father be the glory forever and ever. Amen" (Phil.4:20).***

Amen.

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All Bible quotations taken from New American Standard Bible.