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You will see as we progress through these 9 intrinsic Needs that God has designed us with that there is a little bit of overlap in a few of them. The 'Need to be Needed' falls somewhere between Worth and Acceptance. You have value/worth to God; and because you have value/worth, you are *needed* for God's plans and purposes; and because you have worth and are needed, God made provision to accept you through the work of His Son and the finished work of the Cross; He then gives you a new identity from which to operate, so that you may experience *His Blessings, His Life, His Fullness* and *His Freedom* and fulfill the plans and purposes of God for your life; which include bringing Blessings, Life, Fullness and Freedom to *others*.

Does God "*need*" us from a technical standpoint, that He couldn't do what He wants to do without us? No. But He *chose* us. He wanted a Family first and foremost, so He created us, He redeemed us and adopted us and then allowed us to co-labor with Him in the redemption of all of creation.

I think all of us, if we were to be 100% honest, would say we have either had times in our lives or, are maybe even still in one of those times currently, where we have felt lack of worth/value, lack of acceptance and have felt like we were not needed; perhaps all three... and that we've experienced those things, both with God and man. We've heard phrases in our heads and hearts like "God doesn't need me, what good could I be to Him?" or "I'm not needed in the church; I don't have anything to offer."

The enemy of your soul wants to keep you from discovering your identity in Christ and that you have worth/value, that God will accept you, and that you are needed to fulfill the purposes of God in His Kingdom. If you do come to the realization that you need these “needs” filled, he will push you in the direction of getting them filled illegitimately, apart from God.

As I mentioned, God desires you, first and foremost to be in His Family. The Family of God is the primary identity of His Church. When God becomes our Father through adoption, we take on identities of His sons and daughters. That also means that we are now all brothers and sisters. As fathers and mothers of the faith and brothers and sisters, we have a responsibility to care for (**Galatians 6:2/Philippians 2:4**), encourage (**Hebrews 3:13;10:24-25/1st Thessalonians 5:11**) and exhort/instruct/correct the other members of our family (**Galatians 6:1/Matthew 18:15-17**).

King David is a great example of this in the Scriptures: He was undervalued, overlooked and constantly rejected. He wasn't even invited to his own coronation. He was sent to watch sheep, while his brothers were sent to war. Then he was sent to be the lunch delivery boy, but ended up slaying a giant and becoming the King. God was cultivating David in those 'hidden' places. He used his musical skills in the fields to first comfort a tormented King, but then to raise up worshippers for the Tabernacle. God was training David to be a shepherd, who would fight lions and bears to protect the sheep; and developing in him a shepherd's heart for a whole Nation.

Over and over in the Bible we see God choosing the most unlikely candidates to fulfill His plans and purposes: Noah got drunk, Abraham was a liar, Jacob a cheater, Moses a murderer, Gideon a

coward, Esther was an orphan, David an adulterer, Rahab was a prostitute, Peter had a temper, Thomas doubted, Paul persecuted the Church, and the list goes on.

“...but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are, so that no man may boast before God.” -1st Corinthians 1:27-29

You’ve probably heard, “If God can use a donkey, then He can use you!” (**Numbers 22/ Matthew 21:2-3**) God has need of you. He’s not looking for your ability, He looking for your availability. He created you with plans and purposes in mind (**Ephesians 2:10/Psalm 139:16**).

And the Body of Christ has need of you and you have need of the Body of Christ. In **1st Corinthians 12**, the Apostle Paul explains how the Body of Christ was intentionally created to be interdependent of one another. The Body cannot function properly or grow without each individual doing their part:

“...from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.” -Ephesians 4:16 (Colossians 2:19)

God said from the beginning: *“It’s not good for man to be alone.”* There are no “Lone Rangers” in the Kingdom of God. Turn to your neighbor and say “I need you” and “You need me.” This will require

you to understand your biblical identities, to discover your calling and your gifts and to be a good steward of all of those in relationship to others, because God designed it that way.

You have need of God's design for living in relationship to others which includes: agape' love (unconditional, selfless and sacrificial), vulnerability and intimacy (and we will talk about those in the coming weeks). All of what we've talked about today, only works in the context of an intimate relationship with God the Father, through Jesus the Son, made possible by the Holy Spirit. You must come to God on His terms and they are laid out very clearly in the Bible:

- Repenting of (turning away from) our sins and sinful lifestyle (**Acts 2:38**)
- Making Jesus the Lord of your life (**Romans 10:9,10**)
- Following Jesus (**John 10:27**)
- Living like Jesus (**1st John 2:6**)

Going to church doesn't save you. Praying a singular prayer once upon a time doesn't save you. Reading your Bible doesn't save you. You must be born again (**John 3:3**). As I've said before, "God loves you as you are, but loves you too much to leave you as you are."