**Divine Design – Model of Human Behavior**

1. **Motivation:** Foundational Need/Desire; 2) **Methods**: Faith & Focus; 3) **Maturity**: Fruit & Impact

**Review: Human Motivation System – Foundational Need/Desire**

* God designed man with an emptiness (koilos) causing us to experience desire, longings – hunger/thirst
* Attach desires to God, we grow into fulfillment – Attach to man, we diminish into increasing degeneracy
* Separation from God = attach our need to man; Salvation we can attach our need to God & grow

**Methodology – Volition/Attachment – Faith & Focus**.

**Jer 17:5 thus says the LORD, Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the LORD. 7 Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD and whose confidence is the LORD.**

1. **Divine Design**: **Volition** - the **ability** to choose, **opportunity** to choose & **obligation** to choose

**Ability** – people are by divine design able to make choices and determine their own path & destiny

**Josh 24:15** choose this day whom you will serve, other gods or the Lord, as for me and my house…

* Every command to choose for self indicates that we each choose every thought, feeling, word & deed

**Opportunity** – God arranges creation so that all who will believe the gospel will hear it & believe it.

**Rom 10:13-18** the gospel has gone into all the earth & the words to the ends of the world

* Every idea to which we are exposed presents an opportunity for us to believe it or reject it - destiny

**Obligation** – choices we make about believing specific ideas determines our eternal & temporal destiny

**John 3:36** whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him – forced to make a choice about what we will accept as reality.

1. The focus of the Angelic Conflict is man’s choices to believe/accept God or withhold faith/reject Him
2. God’s design of our lives requires that we make choices one moment at a time – what we will believe, think, feel, say and do at any given moment.
3. What we choose to believe determines our path, our journey and our destiny – destination
4. We are on a chosen life path, within an involuntary journey, headed for an eternal destination

* sin - Greek ***hamartia*** = to miss the target because we are aiming at the wrong target – human agenda
* If we fail to become part of Christ, we will pass through this life and miss God as the target in eternity

1. **Attachment:** bond forming from subject to object by choosing to trust the object as a source of supply.

Ex: child attaches to mother & caregivers, believing them to be a source of supplying the child’s needs/desires

* Attach need/desire – hunger/thirst to a person(s) trusting them to provide what is needed
* Attachment disorders - no stable person during the critical period for bonding – never able to bond
* Falling in Love is attaching your personal love needs to another person, trusting they will love you back

**Heb 4:2 for indeed we have had good news preached to us, just as they (Exodus gen.) also; but the word they heard did not profit them, because it was not united by faith in those who heard.**

United – ***sugkerrannumi –*** mix together, blend, attach – attach faith to the message of the gospel

1. The ability to attach our faith/trust to people or ideas allows us to fully accept nurture or influence.
2. All mind-sets and/or emotions operate using attachment: love, fear, worship, hatred
3. Once we make an attachment, it is difficult to change what we have decided about the object

* In love – the other person leaves, neglects or rejects you, causing emotional pain of betrayal
* A broken attachment bond produces feelings of betrayal, rejection & abandonment

1. Attachments are primarily about having our needs met by trusting some outside source to provide
2. **Faith - emptiness within, hunger/thirst drives us to attach our faith to objects we believe will satisfy us**

**Jn 7:37-39** – come to me and drink (faith) – fill up the emptiness until we are overflowing

**Mt 5:6** hunger & thirst for righteousness – attach to God & they shall be satisfied

**Psm 52:7** "Behold, the man who would not make God his refuge, but trusted in the abundance of his riches

**Jer 17:5** cursed is the man who trusts in man & makes human ability his strength – human agenda

1. We don’t ask to be empty & needy, dependent on an outside source to meet our needs – we just are
2. We don’t think about attaching ourselves to an outside source by faith, we just naturally do so.
3. Attaching our needs by faith to people or God is initially an instinctive & involuntary choice

**Belief Systems**: A belief system is an interconnected network of matching beliefs or principles by which we interpret, understand & organize our experiences to make sense of the world – learned perspective

1. Each individual idea & conclusion to which we attach faith becomes part of our belief & operating system
2. Everything we believe interconnects, forming perspectives & viewpoints by which we evaluate choices.
3. Beliefs & thoughts become habituated patterns, operating automatically – react to relational situations
4. Choose to believe/apply ideas 🡪 patterns habituated 🡪 auto react & reinforce the same choices
5. **Focus – whatever we believe in & depend upon to supply needs is where we focus our minds – walking**

**Romans 8:4-5** in order that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who **do not walk according to the flesh, but walk according to the Spirit**. 5 For those who are (walking) according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are (walking) according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.

**Flesh** – OSN (lascivious – ascetic desires) + human agenda - plan to meet our needs **in this life apart from God**

**Set Mind** – ***phroneo*** – inner dialogue/images, focus/occupied, while moving toward it & embracing it.

* Set mind on human agenda – dwell on your plan, imagine moving toward & embracing its benefits

**Mt 16:23** – **Peter**, focused on earthly agenda, not divine agenda of resolving sin – aiming at wrong target

* Set mind on Spirit – dwell on God’s agenda as ambassadors & as object lessons in the Angelic Conflict

**Act 10** – **Peter** listens to Spirit – Gentiles included, then leads Cornelius and his family into the kingdom

**Phroneo**

1. We are driven by **unmet needs** to **choose** objects we **believe** can/will meet our needs, creating habits & patterns of **focus** (preoccupied with repeated images/dialogue that produce short term gratification)
2. **Mind-set**: commitment to a set of attitudes, intentions & strategies that are focused on something

11X in Phil

**Phil 1:6-7** Paul is focused on God’s commitment to take them on to maturity with or w/out his presence

**Phil 2:2** Paul’s joy: focus on the same mission, having the same love, thinking in harmony with one another

**Phil 2:5 -** Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus – focus on the Lord’s humility

**Phil 3:15** – the mature, focus on pursuing the prize & if any think differently, God will reveal the truth to you

**Phil 3:16** – let us maintain the ground we have attained and focus on the same things

**Phil 3:19** – enemies of the cross, destiny is destruction, worship their appetites, mind is focused on earthly

**Phil 4:2** – I beseech ***Euodia*** & I beseech ***Syntyche*** to think the same thing – live in harmony

**Phil 4:10** – I rejoice that you have been able to renew your focus on my needs

**Summary:**

1. God designed the human soul to be relational & empty, driven by hunger/thirst, to seek a relationship that gives us love, affection, acceptance, approval, admiration – God shaped hole that only He can fill
2. At birth, spiritual death & separation/God forces man to attach to people to meet needs, insuring that our dependence on people (idolatry) will fail & we will end up hurt, betrayed & using defense mechanisms

* Defense Mechanisms: denial, emotional numb, rationalization, addictions – hinder fruits of Spirit

1. At new birth, GHS enables us to comprehend & assimilate the thoughts of Jesus to develop the new man belief & value system, leading to spiritual maturity & the full expression of fruits.
2. As believers we are able and required to choose who/what we will believe and who/what we will focus on to determine our path and our destiny.