

Where Does Love Fit?

Scripture Base

Philippians 4:19 –

19 And my God shall supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

Psalms 23:1 -

1 Jehovah is my shepherd; I shall not want.

Galatians 5:17 -

17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are contrary the one to the other; that ye may not do the things that ye would.

Luke 19:31 –

31 And if any one ask you, Why do ye loose him? thus shall ye say, The Lord hath need of him.

1 Thessalonians 4:3 –

3 For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye abstain from fornication.

Matthew 12:50 –

50 For whosoever shall do the will of my Father who is in heaven, he is my brother, and sister, and mother.

1 Timothy 2:3–4 –

3 This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; 4 who would have all men to be saved, and come to the knowledge of the truth.

Isaiah 44:18 -

18 They know not, neither do they consider: for he hath shut their eyes, that they cannot see; and their hearts, that they cannot understand.

Romans 8:5 –

5 or they that are after the flesh mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

Romans 10:14 –

14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

Psalms 145:19 –

19 He will fulfil the desire of them that fear him; He also will hear their cry and will save them.

1 John 4:19

19 We love, because he first loved us.

Concept(s)

I enjoy the play on words, and several of these Spurs do that. This Spur compares and contrasts the words want and need. After those are defined, the word love is considered in relation to want and need.

Purpose

Our belief system is confusing at times. This Spur is written to sort out the confusion and simplify our needs, wants, and love for God.

(Background)

The theology here, in a nutshell, is entirely that of the author. My evidence is circumstantial and experiential. People rarely fall in love with God immediately. There is a progression to becoming a mature Christian. Initially, believers realize they have a need to be saved and that Christ is the way. Without the entire theology of knowing all there is to know about Christ, Old Testament prophecies, sacrifice, redemption, sanctification, blood, etc., people come to Jesus to be saved because their need to be saved becomes a want to be saved. Love evolves as faith and knowledge deepen, discovering what Christ did on the cross. Love, deep, passionate love, comes after the Spirit of God enters the believer and shows them that God is love.

Spur

Humans have needs. We need air, we need water, we need food, and we need shelter. Some psychiatrists and sociologists insist we need love, companionship, and relationships. I insist we need God.

Philippians 4:19 –

“9 And my God shall supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”

Humans also have wants. Those are varied and too numerous to list here. Most of the time, what we can't have is what we want most. Our needs are often confused with our wants. We get hungry, and we want to eat. We want to eat what we want. Most of the time, neither of those desires is needed. We don't need to eat that ice cream sundae. And maybe we just ate a late breakfast and didn't need to eat a big lunch. There is an enormous difference between eating to live and living to eat.

Psalms 23:1 –

“1 Jehovah is my shepherd; I shall not want.”

Wants can turn into needs. People want to get high or get drunk only to find that their frequency of wanting leads to an addiction, which then becomes a need to have that drug or drink. Other habits are similar in a progression following a need. They are usually a sin that Satan uses to keep you in his addictive grasp. Few addictions started as a need, except possibly one we already discussed. Food and the necessity of food can turn into want and then an addiction. Sometimes, I think I'm addicted to food in general. I tend to live to eat. People who have a food addiction fall deep into the sin of gluttony. Funny how our society rarely talks about that particular sin. I've heard preachers make fun of it. Why is that? But it is what it is, sin.

Galatians 5:17 –

“17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are contrary the one to the other; that ye may not do the things that ye would.”

Does God need anything? No, He never has, and He never will. Maybe that is why He came to walk as we walk to experience something He never needed. As He walked on this earth in human form, He experienced being needy for possibly the first time. We are confident that Jesus required the necessities of life as we do because He was fully human as He is fully God. However, I found only one place in the Bible that said Jesus needed something.

Luke 19:31 –

“31 And if any one ask you, Why do ye loose him? thus shall ye say, The Lord hath need of him.”

The context here is when Jesus told his disciples to get a young colt to carry Him into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. Does God want anything? The question distinguishes between

vocabulary as we read God's word. There is a difference between God's will and God's want. Some people would say it is the same, making it easy to confuse the two. God is God. If He wants it, He wills it, and so it is. I agree with that concept, except when it comes to man's free will. If God wants the sun to come up in the morning, He wills it. If God wants a person to accept the Lord Jesus as their savior, I think not, for He has said so. In other verses, it leaves human free will to respond to God's will, not the other way around.

1 Thessalonians 4:3 –

“3 For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye abstain from fornication.”

Matthew 12:50 –

“50 For whosoever shall do the will of my Father who is in heaven, he is my brother, and sister, and mother.”

So, it would seem the converse is true; you may not follow the will of God, but it sounds as though you have the choice.

To explain the confusion, God wants all to be saved, but obviously, not all will be saved. There are other things God wills/wants, but does not make happen. The Bible states it is the will of God that you would do such and such. In this context, God's will becomes what He wants for you. Hence, it would be acceptable and in line with God's will for all people to be saved. It is His will that Jesus died on the cross and rose again for your salvation. He made way for salvation for everyone, but it is your will that you accept His gift of grace and salvation. He wants everyone to receive His grace to become saved, but He does not make you accept it.

1 Timothy 2:3–4 –

“3 This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; 4 who would have all men to be saved, and come to the knowledge of the truth.”

Note to the reader: This distinction is essential for some people to grasp what they must do to become saved. Only they can complete the blessing. No one, not even God, will do that for them. They must accept Jesus as Lord and call upon His name earnestly, repenting of their sin.

Do we need God? Dumb question for a Christian. But the question is not so dumb for a non-Christian. After all, non-Christians do not know what they don't know and are blind to their need for salvation.

Isaiah 44:18

“18 They know not, neither do they consider: for he hath shut their eyes, that they cannot see; and their hearts, that they cannot understand.”

Romans 8:5

“5 For they that are after the flesh mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.”

Witnessing is telling people they need God when they don't know they need God.

Romans 10:14 –

“14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?”

Our culture is against us. Satan's plan of deception is pervasive. Men especially learn not to need anything. It's a pride thing. They especially do not need someone else. We fall into the Lone Wolf Theory. Few young men will say they need a woman. They will say they want one, but they don't need one. Does that ever change? For some of us, we know we need our spouse. They may have begun as want, turned into love, and ended as needed. If we only knew we needed them from the beginning. A further recent trend is the glorification of the weak, feminine man. God's intended family leader takes a fall backward socially. Women in the past learned from society that they needed a man. Men completed women. Men provide for and protect them, and women were made to become men's partners. In my opinion, that is God's plan. However, this society is on the flip side of that theory. Times are changing. With all their separate political and social identities, today's women deny all that. Extreme and total independence is the new goal of women. They don't need men, and they can still have children without a man around to lead the family. These conflicting social morals lead to a breakdown in the God-ordained family. This trend, in my view, is the slippery slope to the downfall of all humanity. The results are socially acceptable sins in countless places.

Most Christians submit to needing God. They understand the consequences of sin. They recognize they are sinners. Most Christians know that all things come from God. We do need Him. I say “most Christians” because a few people sitting in these pews say they know Christ and have no idea of their need to repent and surrender to Christ.

Psalm 145:19 –

“19 He will fulfil the desire of them that fear him; He also will hear their cry and will save them.”

Some people don't believe or know what they need. I can remember my mother saying, “You don't know what you want, do you?” I can't remember anyone saying, “You don't know what you need.” There was one time when I was in a hardware store looking for a way to fix my outside faucet, and this guy saw me fumbling around with all the pipe fittings and joints. He asked me, “Do you know what you need?” I said, “I haven't a clue.” That's exactly where the lost souls of this society are living. They don't know what they don't know. Everyone needs God; not everyone knows God, and not everyone wants God. Obviously, they are far from loving God.

That's where Love fits. Once we realize our need for God, it is only then that we begin to want God's grace, mercy, and forgiveness. Our heart softens after the Spirit enters us. Through God's glorious plan, the Spirit reveals why, how, and what Jesus did to save us. It is then that our hearts fall deeply and profoundly in love with God.

1 John 4:19

“19 We love, because he first loved us.”

Do you want God's Love? He loves you whether you love Him or not. He loved us first. God loves us. Fact. How do we grow to love Him, which is what He wants? The only way I began to love anyone was after I got to know them and who they were. Do you know my God, my Lord, my savior? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yzqTFNfeDnE> That's My King Dr. S.M. Lockridge [Official]

That's your question to struggle with today. God wants you to love Him with all your heart, mind, and soul. You already need Him, but He wants you to want Him, praise Him, know Him, and serve Him with your entire being, not out of our need, but out of our desire. Ask for His Spirit. Let God's love overwhelm you. His love for you will return to Him as love, but you must have it in you. That's His invitation. Ask Him for His love and Spirit to enter you, and He will take care of the rest. Accept Jesus' love for you. He doesn't need you. He wants you today. You need Him today and every day.

Pray

Lord God and Heavenly Father, many times in our lives, we don't know what we want, what we need, or how to love. You have all the answers, and it is Your indwelling Spirit that shows

us through Your word who You are and our need to serve You and love You. Lord, we ask You to use us to shine Your light that others might see what they need and want what we have in You. Thank You for Your love, for we know all good things come from You. Amen.”