Needful Things

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday February 25th, 2018

Text: II Pet. 1:5-11

### Intro

1. With the successful first atomic bomb explosion at the Trinity Test Site near Los Alamos, NM, at precisely 5:30 AM on Monday, July 16, 1945, the Nuclear Age began.
   1. Though first reactions of the many scientists who were there and witnesses to it was that of elation and relief that it worked, many of them later expressed remorse and sorrow at the capability of destruction they put into the hands of the military.
   2. Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer (who was the director of the Manhattan Project and chose the Trinity Test site) after watching the first atomic explosion said, “We knew the world would not be the same. A few people laughed, a few people cried, most people were silent. I remembered the line from the Hindu scripture, the Bhagavad-Gita; Vishnu is trying to persuade the Prince that he should do his duty and, to impress him, takes on his multi-armed form and says, ‘Now I am become Death, the destroyer of worlds.’ I suppose we all thought that, one way or another.”
   3. <https://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Oppenheimer-J.-Robert-Now-I-am-Become-Death->
   4. <https://www.osti.gov/opennet/manhattan-project-history/Events/1945/trinity.htm>
   5. Many have expressed a sense of a loss of security since that day!
2. Is it possible to have a sense of security in a world of atomic bombs?
3. Security is recognized as one of man’s fundamental needs!
4. Abraham Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs Pyramid (1943):
   1. Maslow identified a hierarchy of needs that must be met before a level of completion can be acquired, and they follow a predetermined order of importance.
   2. The bottom two tiers of pyramid must be met before climbing further:
      1. Physiological Needs – Food & water, clothing, shelter, etc…
      2. Security Needs – Physical security and freedom from war, crime, physical and emotional abuse, freedom from fear, anxiety, chaos, & stress. Also a need for law and order.
5. The pyramid will look different for each person, as we all want different things, & have different dreams and goals. Our priorities that make up the pyramid will differ.
   1. Maslow states that few people ever achieve their self-actualization goals. As we step up this pyramid of needs, we go up one step at a time. Occasionally, we step backward as old needs resurface (A cycle: Up then down, as things comes up)
6. Five things Maslow says man can’t do without:
   1. Food, water, clothing, shelter, & security.
7. Man’s hierarchy of needs versus what God says man’s hierarchy of needs are…

#### Man’s Physical Needs

* 1. Jesus said God knows our physical needs (Mt. 6:32) and shifted the focus from the physical to the spiritual *(Physical needs are important but not only priority!)*
  2. Jesus talks about food & water, clothing, shelter, & safety, and their importance:
     1. *Mt. 6:25-33:* Christ says to seek after God first and these will follow.
  3. Maslow ‘s level of importance versus Christ’s:
     1. Food & Water – *Mt. 6:25-32:* Christ said not to worry about them.
     2. Clothing – *Mt. 6:25-32:* Christ said God knows our needs.
     3. Shelter – *Mt. 8:18-20:* Christ made no promise of shelter in this world.
     4. Safety/Security – *Mt. 10:16-23:* Christ said safety may be in jeopardy.
  4. Jesus did not place the same importance on our physical needs as man has! *(Psalm 37:25: David said he never saw the righteous begging for bread!)*

#### Man’s Spiritual Needs

* 1. In the same way that our physical bodies need food, water, clothing, shelter, and safety, so does our soul have basic needs to survive.
     1. As Christians, the top of our pyramid (our goal) is heaven.
     2. There is a foundation of needs that need to be met first.
  2. There is a parallel between our physical needs and our spiritual needs:
     1. Food & Water = Study (The Word of God), or Knowledge
        1. Study (Word of God) – Mt. 5:6; II Tim. 2:15; II Pet. 1:2-3; Eph. 4:14-16
        2. The Word of God is food for the soul, and we need to study to continually grow in His knowledge *(II Pet. 3:18)*
     2. Clothing = Love
        1. Love & Compassion – Jn. 13:34-35; Col. 3:12-14 (To put on Love is to put on Jesus – Rom. 13:14; Gal. 3:27)
        2. As clothing is what is seen as our outward appearance, love is to be what defines us as Christians!
     3. Shelter = Faith
        1. Faith – Eph. 6:11, 16; I Cor. 16:13-14; Heb. 11:6; I Jn. 5:4
        2. Our faith provides us with shelter as it protects us from the attacks of Satan and ultimately is our victory in overcoming the world!
     4. Security/Safety = Self-control (Discipline)
        1. Self-Control – Lk. 9:23; I Cor. 9:24-27 (Discipline = Vital to the Christian)
        2. There is safety in self-discipline – It is part of guarding our souls (Gal. 5:22-24; II Pet. 1:6 –never stumble and can enter Heaven!)
  3. Like the physical pyramid where we can take steps backward along the way, this is no different.
     1. Heb. 5:12: Those who should be mature sometimes go backwards and need the foundations again.
  4. As we need to eat and drink daily, we need continuous nourishment in these things spiritually, or our soul will perish!
     1. II Pet. 1:5-11: These qualities all tie together the fabric of our faith.
     2. Knowledge produces self-control, & out of self-control comes kindness towards love – Practice them to never stumble and enter into Heaven!
  5. Practicing these things will produce spiritual maturity (Heb. 5:14) on way to Heaven!

## Conclusion

1. Sometimes for the believer as well as the non-believer, we need to be reminded that the needs we get caught up in stressing over in the day-to-day, Jesus fulfills in Himself:
   1. Food & Water: Jesus said He was Bread of life (*Jn. 6:35*) & Eternal Water (*Jn. 4:12-14*)
   2. Clothing: Those baptized into Christ are clothed with Christ *(Gal. 3:27).* You will also learn to be clothed in love, and will find the pieces of the armor of God (*Eph. 6:10-18*).
   3. Shelter: Jesus says He is going to prepare a home for us – Heaven (*Jn. 14:2-3*).
   4. Security: If God is for us, who can be against us? *(Rom. 8:31)* Jesus said He would never forsake us or desert us (*Heb. 13:5-6*) – Same promise God made to Joshua *(Josh. 1:5)*
      1. *Is it possible to have a sense of security in a world of atomic bombs? YES!*
2. Man’s importance of needs is different than God’s!
   1. Man says can’t achieve goals in life without physical needs.
   2. God says can’t enter Heaven without applying these spiritual needs!
3. Maslow said most people don’t reach their self-actualization goals – God says we have a reservation in Heaven! (I Pet. 1:3-5)
4. True sense of security comes from knowing our souls are secure in Christ! (I Pet. 4:19)
5. Where are your priorities? Physical or Spiritual? (Perishable or Imperishable?)
6. If you are not a Christian, you need to be. Repent and be baptized into His name!
7. If a Christian in error, don’t wait till it’s eternally too late. Repent and be renewed!
8. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!