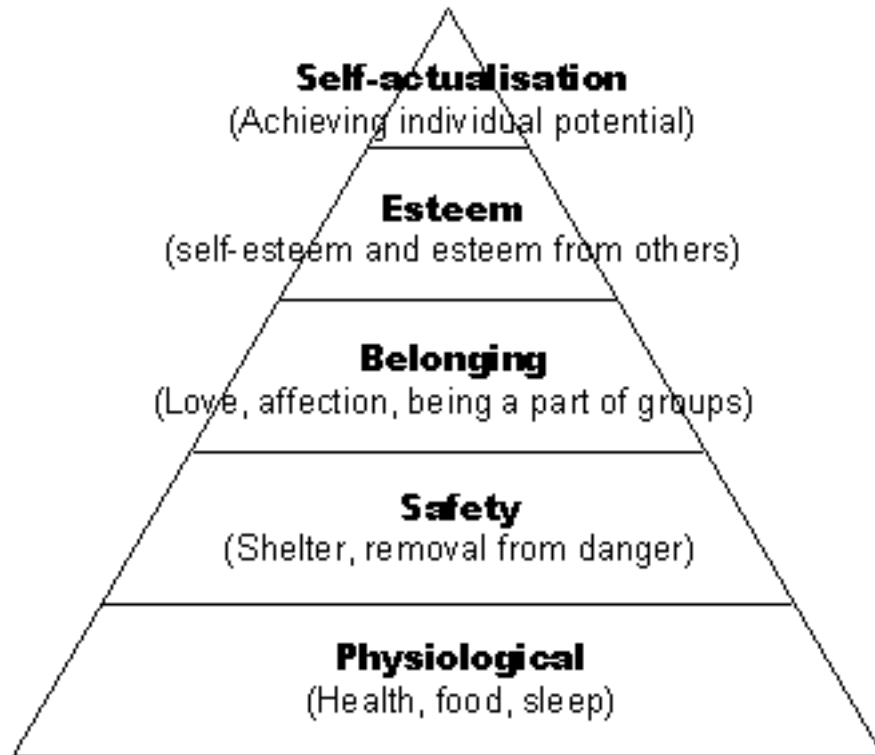


# Be All That You Can Be

In 1954 psychologist Dr. Abraham Maslow, in *MOTIVATION AND PERSONALITY*, published his Hierarchy of Needs. It purported to explain why we do what we do – something that’s always puzzled parents and spouses. His research was done on rhesus monkeys, some of whom it seems we voted into office.



Says Maslow, only after primal needs are met will we address higher motivators. Yogi and the Aflac duck couldn't have said it better than Prof. Bernard Poduska: "You can never get enough of what you don't need because what you don't need can never satisfy you."

Chicago's gadfly, Studs Terkel, frames it this way: "Work is about a search for daily meaning as well as daily bread, for recognition as well as cash, for astonishment rather than torpor; in short, for a sort of life rather than a Monday through Friday sort of dying."

The Self-Actualized person seeks to tap into all he or she can be, hoping to discover true meaning and purpose in life.

**And that sets up today's BIG QUESTION:**

**Assuming that your foundational needs are met, where are you in the process of "becoming all that you can be," what does that look like for you, what is your plan to get there, and what steps are you currently taking?**

Britain's agnostic philosopher, Bertrand Russell, said, "The fact that a belief has a good moral effect upon a man is no evidence whatsoever in favor of its truth."

In his *Why I Am Not A Christian* he takes off the gloves: "Religion is based, I think, primarily and mainly upon fear. It is partly the terror of the unknown and partly, as I have said, the wish to feel that you have a kind of elder brother who will stand by you in all your troubles and disputes. Fear is the basis of the whole thing – fear of the mysterious, fear of defeat, fear of death."

**QUESTION: How could Christ create or dispel fear in you?**

1 John 4

9 ... This is how God showed his love for us: God sent his only Son into the world so we might live through him. 10 ... he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to clear away our sins and the damage they've done to our relationship with God.

... 17 God is love. When we take up permanent residence in a life of love, we live in God and God lives in us. This way, love has the run of the house ... so that we're free of worry on Judgment Day—our standing in the world is identical with Christ's. 18 There is no room in love for fear. Well-formed love banishes fear. Since fear is crippling, a fearful life—fear of death, fear of judgment—is one not yet fully formed in love. 19 We, though, are going to love—love and be loved. First we were loved, now we love. He loved us first.

Thousands had gathered to hear Jesus teach and to see Him do miracles. In Luke 12 we hear the Lord say this about fear:

4 "... do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more. 5 But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after killing the body, has power to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him."

... 15 Then he said, "Beware! Don't be greedy for what you don't have. Real life is not measured by how much we own." 16 And he gave an illustration: "A rich man had a fertile farm that produced fine crops. 17 In fact, his barns were full to overflowing.

18 So he said, 'I know! I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I'll have room enough to store

everything. 19 I'll sit back and say to myself, my friend, you have enough for years to come. Now take it easy! Eat, drink, and be merry!' 20 "But God said to him, 'You fool! You will die this very night. Then who will get it all?' 21 "Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God."

22 ... Jesus said, "I tell you, don't worry about everyday life ... 23 for life consists of far more than food and clothing. ...29 don't worry about food...and drink. ... 30 These things dominate the thoughts of most people, but your Father already knows your needs. 31 He will give you all you need from day to day if you make the Kingdom of God your primary concern.

Being worry-free could lead to overconfidence. Jesus' half-brother James covers that in his ch. 4:

13 Look here, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we are going to a certain town and stay there a year. We will do business there and make a profit." 14 How do you know what will happen tomorrow? For your life is like the morning fog- here a little while, then gone. 15 What you ought to say is, "If the Lord wants us to, we will live and do this or that." 16 Otherwise you will be boasting about your own plans, and all such boasting is evil. 17 Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it.

Someone added a Transcendent category atop Maslow's Hierarchy, assuming that to know ultimate reality requires the supernatural. But the Bible says our sin separates us from that sinless Source.

The Good News, however, breaks in 1 Peter ch. 1:

18 ... God paid a ransom to save you ... 19 He paid for you with the precious lifeblood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God. 20 ... He did this for you.

21 Through Christ you have come to trust in God. And because God raised Christ from the dead and gave him great glory, your faith and hope can be placed confidently in God. ... 23 For you have been born again. Your...new life will last forever because it comes from the eternal, living word of God.

Whether we need three squares or spiritual rebirth, Paul I.D.'s the only true Satisfier of all those needs in Philippians ch. 4:

11... I have learned how to get along happily whether I have much or little. 12 ... I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little. 13 For I can do everything with the help of Christ who gives me the strength I need. ...19 And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches given to us in Christ Jesus.

**QUESTION:** If you really could “do all things” thanks to Christ’s giving you strength, at this time in your life what would be the #1 thing you need His strength for?

How can we truly fulfill our potential, i.e., to be all our Maker designed us to be? Paul’s answer is in Ephesians ch. 3:

20 ... By (God’s) mighty power at work within us, he is able to accomplish infinitely more than we would ever dare to ask or hope.

“All that we can be” *now* is all about being ready for the rest of eternity. That’s why Christ came to earth, as He said in John ch. 10:

“...I came so (you) can have real and eternal life, more and better life than (you) ever dreamed of. I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd puts the sheep before himself, sacrifices himself if necessary.”

Today the Good Shepherd is offering real and eternal life -- more and better life than we could ever self-actualize.

His Deal

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