



## TELL YOUR STORY

### UNDERSTANDING THE CREATED DESIGN OF YOUR SOUL – FUNCTION VS. DYSFUNCTION

#### LIFE IS MEANT TO BE LIVED FROM THE INSIDE OUT!

"If I asked you to tell me your story, what would you say? God is the author of your life story. God is engaged in an ongoing creative work in your life. You are a story—a well-written, intentional story that is authored by the greatest Writer of all time, and even before time and after time. You are a living story that is meant to reveal and create glory. What makes your life a glorious bestseller is that the plot reveals not a mere moral or lesson but the very person and being of God." - Dan Allender, PhD, in *TO BE TOLD – Know Your Story – Share your Future*

**Bible Verses:** Psalm 42:5, Psalm 103:1, Job 7:11, Luke 10:27, Romans 1:18, 1 Peter 2:11, Romans 12:1, Psalm 23:2-3, Matthew 11:28-29

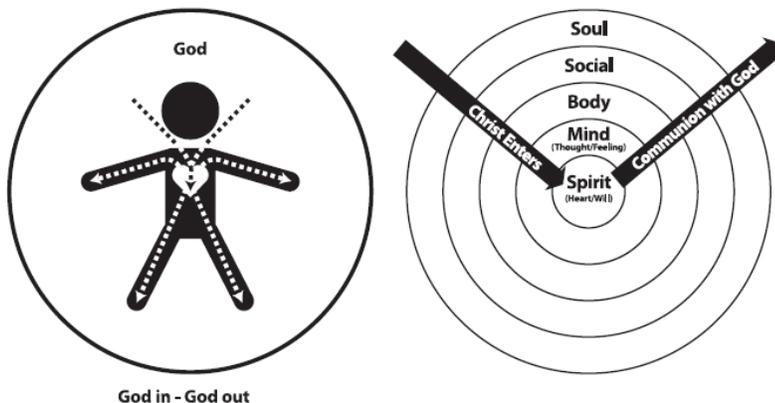
**Video Clip:** YouTube – “Gladiator – What we do in life, echoes in eternity!”

**Music:** “Brother” by NEEDTOBREATHE

**Book:** Renovated by James Wilder

March 31, 2022

James Wilder - Renovated



“What is running your life at any given moment is your \_\_\_\_\_. Not external circumstances or your thoughts, or your intentions, or even your feelings, but your soul.” Dallas Willard

“This is where our amazing cognitive flexibility comes into play. Thanks to this human skill, as long as we cheat by only a little bit, we can \_\_\_\_\_ from cheating and still view \_\_\_\_\_ as marvelous human beings.” Daniel Ariely

“Your \_\_\_\_\_ is being disintegrated when out of alignment with the Created design.”

Dallas Willard uses three different words to describe your heart. In his words, “I believe it will become clear that \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, & \_\_\_\_\_ (or their equivalents) are words that refer to one and the same thing, the same fundamental component of the person.”

- *Heart* refers to its position in the human being, as the center or core to which every other component of the self owes its proper functioning. *Heart* suggests location and vital function. (Luke 6:45, Matt. 15:18)
- *Will* refers to that component's power to initiate, to create, to bring about what did not exist before. *Will* represents **the ability to choose** to live inside or outside God's kingdom.
- *Spirit* refers to its fundamental nature as distinct and independent from physical reality. This term suggests UNBODILY personal power.

Put the three terms together and you get the full picture. At the center of your being is a spiritual reality that has the power to initiate and create - and communicate via its spiritual reality. It may be described as your *heart*, *will*, or *spirit*. It is the CEO of your human life and makes decisions each moment of the day that affect your whole person. The most fundamental choice of your CEO is the same one that originally confronted Adam and Eve: to live in an intimate, conversational, and communal relationship with God, or to initiate and maintain a separate existence - to choose **willingness** (life with and under submission to God) or **willfulness** (life apart from God). For there to be a CEO, there must be a company to run. Every coach needs a team; every chief needs braves; every *heart*, the components of a whole person. Dallas proposes that there are six basic aspects of a human life.

“These together and in interplay make up ‘human nature’:

- *Thought* (images, concepts, judgments, inferences)
- *Feeling* (sensations, emotion)
- *Choice* (will, heart, spirit, decision, character, the “CEO”)
- *Body* (action, interaction with the physical world)
- *Social context* (personal and structural relations with others)
- *Soul* (the factor that integrates all of the above to form one life)

There are only five things that a human being can do - we can think, feel, choose, behave, and interact with others. The soul, as distinguished from the CEO/heart, is the invisible computer that keeps everything running and integrated into one person – wholeness.

## Bible Verses

### Psalm 42:5

Why, are you so downcast, **O my soul**? Why so disturbed within me?

### Psalm 103:1

Bless the Lord, **O my soul**; And all that is within me, bless His holy name!

### Job 7:11

I speak, out of the bitterness of my **soul**.

### Luke 10:27

He answered, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your **soul** and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself."

### Romans 1:18

"...the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness."

### 1 Peter 2:11

"Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your **soul**."

### Romans 12:1

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God--this is your true and proper worship."

### Psalm 23:2-3

"He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters. He restores my **soul**; He guides me in the paths of righteousness..."

### Matthew 11:28-29

"Come to Me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and **YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS**..."

## BROTHER

Written and performed by NEEDTOBREATHE

Ramblers in the wilderness we can't find what we need  
We get a little restless from the searching  
Get a little worn down in between  
Like a bull chasing the matador is the man left to his own  
schemes  
Everybody needs someone beside em' shining like a lighthouse  
from the sea

(Chorus)

Brother, let me be your shelter  
Never leave you all alone  
I can be the one you call  
When you're low  
Brother, let me be your fortress  
When the night winds are driving on  
Be the one to light the way  
Bring you home

Face down in the desert now there's a cage locked around my  
heart  
I found a way to drop the keys where my failures were  
Now my hands can't reach that far  
I ain't made for a rivalry I could never take the world alone  
I know that in my weakness I am strong, but  
It's your love that brings me home

Chorus....

And when you call and need me near  
Sayin' where'd you go?  
Brother, I'm right here  
And on those days when the sky begins to fall  
You're the blood of my blood  
We can get through it all