

## Altar- Submit Driving Factors

In order to have any hope of getting rid of the resistance that is keeping us from perfection, we must understand the horses and our own driving factors. I teach that horses have three primary driving factors and two underlying driving factors.

**Three Primary Driving Factors:** Self-Preservation, Comfort, Companionship

**Two Underlying Driving Factors:** Confidence, Energy

Horses are constantly seeking comfort and companionship. As long as a horse is comfortable they are happy, and like any herd animal, horses seek companionship. Whenever they lose confidence in someone or something, self-preservation (fight or flight) kicks in. If they did not have this instinct, predators would have eaten them a long time ago. There are two ways to get rid of this self-preservation, increase the confidence or decrease the energy. Self-preservation is engaged when a horse loses confidence, so by increasing the confidence in a person or situation, self-preservation will not be engaged.

Energy is the equivalent to motivation and determination and enhances the driving factor that the horse is displaying at any given time. When a wild mustang stallion loses confidence in someone or something, they are going to be driven by their self-preservation to fight (strike, kick, bite, etc.). The higher the energy level, the more motivated and determined they will be to fight. A horse with a body condition score of 5 or 6 is going to be highly motivated to fight, while a horse with a body condition score of 1 or 2 will have little motivation or determination to fight. When a yearling colt loses confidence in someone or something, they are going to rely on their self-preservation for “flight.” They will try to run from danger to seek the comfort and companionship they have with the herd. The higher the energy level (body condition, high energy feeds) the more motivated and determined they will be to run from you and seek comfort and companionship somewhere else. As we decrease the energy we decrease self-preservation, which opens the door to increase comfort and companionship when presented in the correct manner.

The same thing is true with us. As long as we have confidence in our self-preservation (thoughts involving I, me, we, or us), we limit God’s ability to use us to do a job. The more energy we have pushing our self-preservation, the tougher it is. God does the same thing with us that I do with a horse. I make it tough for them when they are in their self-preservation and easy when they turn to me for comfort and companionship. As the energy level decreases (confidence in their self) they find confidence in me and their self-preservation leaves. God does the same thing with us to build confidence in Him. Jesus said, “In me you will have peace, in the world tribulation” (Greek – pressure; John 16:33). To teach my horse to stay out of their self-preservation I use pressure and relief. God does the same thing with us. “In Him is peace.” How

do we know we are in our self-preservation unless God puts a little pressure on us when we are “in” ourselves?

Let's identify your driving factors.

What is your primary defense mechanism; fight or flight?

When you lose confidence in a situation, or if someone hurts you, do you: 1) Get mad and want to verbally or physically hurt the other person, or 2) Run away, want to hide from the danger, seek comfort and companionship with someone, or something safe.

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By identifying your self-preservation you will hopefully learn to identify it and stay out of it. Just like your horse, the longer you spend in your self-preservation the harder it is to build confidence in the Lord. Confidence (faith) eats self-preservation and self-preservation eats confidence. It is very difficult to offer direction to a horse that is in their self-preservation. It will only bring resentment. This is what happened in the Old Covenant. We are now under the New Covenant. If we want direction in our life, or to eliminate the resistance in our life, we must learn how to get out of our self-preservation.

Which driving factor is your energy (motivation and determination) currently fueling? Where do you find comfort; thinking about yourself, someone else, or God?

- 1) Self-Preservation – Primary thoughts throughout the day are consumed with I and me.
- 2) Companionship – Primary thoughts throughout the day were consumed with someone or something else; Employer, co-workers, friends, spouse, kids, parents, etc.  
Or worldly TV, computer, magazine, radio, etc.
- 3) God – Primary thoughts throughout the day involve God.

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I am not for one second trying to tell you how you should raise your kids, or be a spouse. A husband should think about his wife, a parent better think about their children, an employee about their employer, and so on. I do not even have kids yet; I am just sharing what the Lord told me to do when I do have kids. I am just going to show you a few drills that the Lord showed me, of how we can serve God and live our life at the same time. By drawing closer to God, we can become a better parent, spouse, friend, employee, etc. By getting out of our self-preservation and learning to seek Him for comfort and companionship, we can find the peace that is “in” Him. Jesus was in this world, but not of this world; this should be our goal. After spending most of my life trying to learn how to ride in perfection with a horse, I can experience it more regularly with

my horses. After working on it with just me and the horse, I can now feel this perfection while I am doing jobs. I have learned how to feel the perfection in a horse that I am riding, while feeling the perfection of a horse that I am flagging, while talking to someone standing on the fence and listening to the radio, all at the same time.

This is what Jesus had from a heavenly perspective and this is what the early disciples had as well. Jesus was “in” His father while healing the sick, confronting Pharisees, and teaching His disciples all at the same time. Jesus and the disciples had a close and intimate connection with their heavenly Father while doing a job, and this is what He wants for us as well (John 14:12). You may think I am crazy, but the Lord has shown me how we can experience this in our lives. However, just like the horse we don’t start out by doing jobs. We start out by finding the perfection, by finding how to stay “in” Him and not falling into our self-preservation. When I try to do a job with a horse with a weak foundation, I often get into wrecks and the same has been true in my life.

In order to have a strong foundation we must get control of our driving factors. Getting control of my driving factors has had an amazing impact on my life and has had an amazing impact with my horses as well. Controlling the driving factors is the most important thing in having a foundation for perfection and eliminating the resistance with your horse, or in your life.

### **Driving Factors: Life (First Five Rides)**

I would like to share with you what I look for in the first five rides concerning the horse’s life (driving factors). I can pretty well break it down into four steps:

- 1) Submit their life
- 2) Get filled and driven with my life
- 3) Life on a line
- 4) Led by my life

### **Submit Their Life**

When teaching people about their horses, I use the horse’s life, driving factors, and the hindquarters interchangeably. Horses have three parts; head and neck, front quarters, and hindquarters. The hindquarters control the entire horse. When a horse is driven by self-preservation to “flight,” the hindquarters will turn away from the danger and push the horse, bringing life into the horse to go forward. The hindquarters push the horse forward just like your gas pedal pushes your car forward. If a horse is being driven to seek companionship with another horse, they will point their hindquarters toward the horse and the hindquarters will drive them to

the horse. If a horse is seeking the comfort of the barn for food, or water, the hindquarters will point toward the barn and drive them there.

The hindquarters will drive the horse in whichever direction they are seeking, regardless of their head position. In the same way our driving factors drive our mind regardless of our head position. We can be looking directly at someone and our driving factors can be driving our mind miles away from the person talking to us. We can attend church, or go to class and have our mind nowhere near our teacher, or God. Our body may be in the building, but our driving factors often have a run away with our mind. Our mind is like the horse's hindquarters. Wherever your mind is pointed, that is where you will be driven. If your mind is always on your job, your life will be consumed with work and there will be little room for anything else in your life. It is pretty well black and white, no middle ground with the Lord. You are either being driven to the kingdom of darkness (world), or the Kingdom of Light (God). No one can serve two masters (Matthew 6:24).

When we first come in contact with a horse that does not have confidence in us, they will be filled with self-preservation and their hindquarters (driving factors/life) will want to drive them away from us, to seek comfort and companionship somewhere else. The most important thing I teach a horse, from the first time I come in contact with them, is to submit their driving factors (hindquarters/life). In order to have any hopes of building a foundation for perfection, the horse must learn to submit their driving factors and the same is true in our life.

In my classes I teach the Mechanical to the Mental. I start with Stage 1 of the Mechanical Foundation of Maneuvers (pivot around the inside front foot) to get to the Mental Foundation (all resistance leaves and we experience perfection). The same thing is true in our life. When a horse stops driving forward with the inside front foot and walks the other three feet around the inside front foot with willing submission (loose rein and no leg pressure), they have totally submitted their driving factors/life to us. If they were driven by self-preservation, or seeking comfort and companionship away from us, their hindquarters would be driving them forward. We can disengage the hindquarters, but the driving factors are only submitted when the inside front foot stops moving forward. In Stage 1 the hindquarters will step sideways and then the outside front foot must step forward, then the hindquarters, then the outside foot and so on. If the inside front foot moves back or sideways, you have too much pressure on the rein.

If the inside front foot moves forward, you have too much life and need a little more rein pressure. It is about balancing the direction (rein) to life (forward motion) ratio. Stop the inside front foot and let all the other feet walk around it. Once you have Stage 1 with willing submission, it is at this point that it is extremely easy to get direction (suppleness through the poll and loin). Once you have a solid Stage 1 with willing submission, all you have to do is let the inside front foot walk forward, keep the hindquarters (driving factors) submitted and you will

have direction. If you feel them get stiff through the poll and loin at any time stop and resubmit the driving factors.

There are two ways to get direction; bringing the suppleness from the hindquarters (driving factors) through the loin and up to the poll, or, direction can come from the poll and go to the entire body. Direction coming only through the poll requires much more feel, timing, and balance in a horse filled with self-preservation. The same is true with the Lord; there are two ways to get direction. One way is that God reaches for us like Paul in Acts 9:4-6 and the power of the Holy Spirit hits us, softens us and we receive direction. Or, we can bring it the other way, through our driving factors. We can submit our driving factors, be softened by the Holy Spirit and then receive direction like Elijah in 1 Kings 19. Elijah fell before the Lord a helpless wreck, fully submitted his driving factors and then the Lord spoke to him. If you are tired of waiting on direction from the Lord, instead of waiting on the Lord to get through your driving factors, try totally submitting your driving factors, laying everything at His feet.

Once we have learned to totally submit our driving factors with willing submission that is when the Lord can give us direction. Often even though we may want direction and be seeking direction, until we have totally submitted our driving factors, it is difficult to hear the Lord speak. When we attained salvation we achieved Stage 1, we totally submitted our driving factors with willing submission. We were no longer driven by our self-preservation and seeking comfort and companionship anywhere but “in” Him. We had total confidence in Him and our energy (motivation and determination) was pointed entirely to Him. It was at that moment that you were in perfection. You were cleansed from all your sins and they were as far as from the east is to the west (Psalms 103:12).

However, just like a young horse it does not take long for those driving factors to come back in and start driving us away from the Lord. No, the driving factors must be resubmitted and resubmitted and resubmitted all day every day until they no longer come back in. That is what we have to do with our horse and that is what the Lord showed me I must do with my life, to be a true disciple. Once the Lord showed me this concept of how limited I am to do a job with my horse when they have not submitted their driving factors, I began to realize how much I was limiting God in using me as a true disciple.

Oh sure, we can contain our self-preservation with a strong mechanical foundation (going to church, reading our Bible), but we will never be a true disciple until we get rid of our self-preservation and seek Him for comfort and companionship daily. The most important thing in this 40-day trial is to learn how to submit your driving factors. If you are like I was when the Lord started showing me this, it is going to be very difficult. Although I tried to read my Bible daily and attended church whenever I could, I was amazed at how much I operated in my self-preservation (I, me, we, or us). Just like our horse we need to learn how to submit our driving

factors. The tough part is to try to stop the forward motion, to stop your driving factors from driving your mind away from God. God showed me to do this the same way I get a horse to do it.

When I first begin to teach a horse to submit their driving factors it is all mechanical. A horse that has never been touched before I will rope around the neck and whenever they turn and face, pointing their driving factors to me (Stage 1), I will give them relief. Eventually they learn that they cannot breathe unless they have their driving factors pointed to me (this is what the Lord did to me). Then I work closer and closer, decreasing the energy and increasing the confidence in me, teaching the horse to keep their driving factors pointed to me. Then I put a halter on them and teach them Stage 1 (submitting driving factors) with a halter. Then I wrap the lead rope around my saddle horn, put the flag over the horse's withers and ride to their tail. The horse is snubbed to my saddle horn and cannot get away. When I bring the flag into the horse, the horse's self-preservation tries to drive the horse away, but he hits the end of the lead rope and submits his driving factors. Eventually as the energy decreases, confidence is gained and the horse is no longer bothered by the flag.

The horse also learns that under high stress situations when self-preservation is at its highest, they can always submit their driving factors and get relief. If I do not have a saddle horse, I will tie them to a solid post and drive them forward until they hit the end of the rope and do Stage 1 submitting their driving factors. I then give them relief when they turn and face me, pet them between the eyes, walk around straight behind them and do it again. Eventually as the energy decreases and confidence is gained, they learn to submit their driving factors and trust me in their blind spot. They learn to stop the forward motion and pivot around the inside front foot before the slack even comes out of the lead rope. It is easy to see how Stage 1 brings direction (suppleness through the poll and loin) in this drill. Apply the same concept when you get on the horse's back.

A person can apply the same concept of getting the horse to point their driving factors to you, in the round pen. Brian Neubert explains this very well on his website and there are several people that have "round pen ministries" relating getting a horse to "turn and face" and how it relates to our life with the Lord. The parable is that the round pen is the world, we are the horse and God patiently waits in the middle. God applies slight pressure when we are focused on the distractions of the world (outside the pen) and relief when we turn our focus to Him. The end result is our driving factors pointed to God and no longer seeking comfort and companionship with the world. The round pen ministries are a great demonstration of how we can find peace and contentment in this life, through submitting our driving factors. They are a tremendous tool for bringing people to the Lord and work wonders; our ministry however is focused more on the next step.

Now that we have submitted to the Lord, how can we learn to ride in absolute perfection where horse and person, man and God truly become one? Now that we have submitted in the round pen, how do we stay submitted once the gate is open? What are your flags that bring the self-preservation (fight or flight) out in you?

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Over the next 40 days ask the Lord to give you a solid post to keep your self-preservation from having a runaway. Just like your horse, the more times you can keep your driving factors submitted, the more confidence (faith) can be gained in God and the flags will soon have no effect.

When working with a horse that is filled with self-preservation I like to work with them in a solid round pen. Do the same thing with your mind during the early stages. Over the next 40 days build a strong round pen for your mind. The more people that you put around you that are seeking the Kingdom of God, the easier it is going to be to keep your mind from running off. Treat your first group meeting like the first round pen session with a wild mustang. Have everyone just try to keep their mind focused on God and from running off. It will be very difficult, but the more people you have wanting to know God and seeking His presence, the stronger His presence will get. The more time you keep your mind on Him, wanting to know Him, the Holy Spirit will begin to decrease your energy and increase your confidence in Him.

Once you have a solid Stage 1 with willing submission, peace and direction will follow right after. Treat your mind just like the horse's hindquarters. Our mind is constantly in self-preservation, running off and seeking comfort and companionship away from the Lord, if we let it. Learn to double your mind. Ask the Lord to give you something to double your mind around. Pray to the Lord, "Lord my mind is running off; give me something to double it around." Think of your favorite Scripture, or something He has shown you in the past. Start praising Him and thanking Him for everything He has given you. Ask Him to remove your self-preservation and wash you of your sins. Do whatever you have to do to keep your mind on Him. As your focus begins to shift from self-preservation to feeling the comfort and companionship of the Holy Spirit, just continue to think about Him and the presence of the Holy Spirit will get stronger and stronger. Pretty soon your mind will become totally submitted, you will be at total peace and your mind will become consumed with the Lord. This is what it means to have a solid Stage 1; totally submitted driving factors. Once a person learns to find this place on a daily basis, your life will never be the same again.