

# PTSD as An Interpretive Phenomenon

Dr. Greg E. Gifford

And the women sang to one another as they celebrated, “Saul has struck down his thousands, and David his ten thousands.”

—1 Samuel 18:7

## I. PTSD as an Interpretive Phenomenon

### A. Definitions:

*American Psychological Association:* “PTSD, or post-traumatic stress disorder, is an anxiety problem that develops in some people after extremely traumatic events, such as combat, crime, an accident or natural disaster.”

*Department of Veteran’s Affairs:* “PTSD (posttraumatic stress disorder) is a mental health problem that some people develop after experiencing or witnessing a life-threatening event, like combat, a natural disaster, a car accident, or sexual assault.”

B. Main Point: The way one \_\_\_\_\_ the trauma determines, or greatly influences, their response to the trauma.

## II. Influences of Interpretation

### A. Genetic Predisposition

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#### i. “Brain” versus “Mind” Injury

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## B. Social Influences

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## C. Other Influences

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## D. Religious Influences

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### i. Worldview (2 Cor. 4:16-18)

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## III. The Importance of (Re)Interpretation

### A. Psalm 36:9

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## IV. Conclusion

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