

IV. Review. Theology of Neurology, 3-6

III. Orientation to Neurology as Theology Summary

It is within the neurons of the brain where we find the sin-nature genes activated. Indications are that volition responds to signals from the limbic system where emotions are centered. This occurs only when the believer is out of fellowship but is the lifestyle of the unbeliever and the believer reversionist.

Conclusion

Since the believer brings behavior patterns established in unbeliever status into his spiritual life, then he will experience a conflict between what his sinful nature desires and what doctrine requires.

Romans 9:21 - Does not the Potter possess authority over the clay, from the same lump to make, on the one hand, a vessel for the purpose of honor and, on the other hand, another vessel for the purpose of dishonor?

IV. Memory Gives Consistency to Behavior Summary

Memory is a permanent and accessible record of knowledge created by electrochemical changes in neural synapses when stimulated by the process of learning.

Stephen Rose makes the following observation in his book **The Making of Memory**, page 136:

If ... behavior is changed as a result of learning, and this change is expressed in recall, then it is necessary to assume that something has changed in the biology of the (person) to produce the changed behavior. There must be some record inside the organism by which the information acquired during learning is stored in such a form that it can be made available to modify subsequent behavior.

Conclusion

Since doctrine is divine thought and thus cannot be understood by the finite human mind, the teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit becomes indispensable for spiritual perception by the human brain. It is His divine power which converts academic understanding into permanent memory traces. The catalyst for this conversion is human volition.

What is learned is stored in memory, available for recall at a later time under the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Proverbs 23:7 - As a man thinks in his soul, so is he.

The ongoing battle for control of the content of one's thought is emphasized in:

1 Peter 1:6 - In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials,

1 Peter 1:7 - that the proof of your faith being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 1:13 - Therefore, gird your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 1:14 - As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance,

1 Peter 1:15 - but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior.

V. The Capacity to Orient & Adjust Summary

The brain is so structured that it is able to catalogue absolute norms and standards which are inflexible. This characteristic is called "*specificity*." However, at the same time, the brain maintains the ability to change those views when presented with new information. This is called "*plasticity*." We illustrated this by taking a trip down the Santa Fé Trail.

Conclusion

Spiritual growth is dependent upon the brain being able to orient to doctrine and adjust to its requirements. Certain principles developed in unbelief may be called into question by doctrinal teachings.

The brain is so structured that the positive believer has the capability to change the way he thinks. Further, it is evident that for a change of attitude to occur, the catalyst for that change has to be attributed to human volition.

VI. General Details about Memory & Recall Summary

The content of memory is what constitutes the belief system of the individual. What is recalled under certain stimuli reveals the inner self.

The brain of a reptile is rudimentary and only enables the beast to search for food, establish a territory, mate, and fight or flee. The animal brain adds to this a limbic system from which emotions emanate.

The human brain adds to these the cerebral cortex which provides capacity for rational thought, problem-solving, memorizing information, developing language skills, and forming a culture.

Conclusion

Failure to utilize the assets of the cerebral cortex causes the human to revert to dominance by the limbic system and begins to act like an animal functioning under the emotional complex of sins.