

Conscious and Subconscious Functions

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- Thought as a function of the spirit
 - Gen 41:8 “In the morning his **mind** was troubled, so he sent for all the magicians and wise men of Egypt.”
 - “mind” (Heb, *ruah*): breath, wind, spirit
 - What was the condition of his spirit?
 - Ps 77:6 “My heart mused and my **spirit** inquired”
 - “heart” (Heb, *lebab*): heart, inner man
 - “spirit” (Heb, *ruah*)
 - What did his spirit do and what abilities did that require?
 - Isa 40:13 “Who has understood the **mind** of the LORD, or instructed him as his counselor?”
 - “mind” (Heb, *ruah*): spirit; (Septuagint Gk, *nous*): mind, the way one thinks or what one thinks about
 - What is the Septuagint and why was it written?
 - Considering the Hebrew and Greek words used, what does this indicate about the spirit?
- Thought as a function of the heart
 - Mt 9:4, “Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, ‘Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts?’”
 - “thought” (Gk, *enthymesis*): thought, reflection, meditation
 - “heart” (Gk, *kardia*): (1) physical heart; (2) figuratively: inner self
 - Mk 2:8, “Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts.”
 - “think” (Gk, *dialogizomai*): (1) to ponder, reason thoroughly, take full account; (2) to discuss, debate
 - “heart” (Gk, *kardia*)
 - Lk 2:35, “so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed.”
 - “heart” (Gk, *kardia*)
 - Conclusion: Scripture attributes thought to the spirit and heart, but not specifically to the psyche. This doesn’t mean the psyche doesn’t think, because the psyche has knowledge and memory, which require thought. Scriptural emphasis is on the spirit.
- Knowledge and memory
 - Pr 2:10, “For ... knowledge will be pleasant to your **soul**.”
 - “soul” (Heb, *nepes*): soul, inner man; (Septuagint Gk, *psyche*): soul
 - “knowledge” (Heb, *da’at*): knowledge, understanding, skillfulness
 - What does this verse indicate about the psyche’s abilities?
 - Pr 19:2 (NASB95), “Also it is not good for a **person** to be without knowledge.”
 - “person” (Heb, *nepes*; Septuagint Gk, *psyche*)

- Lam 3:20, “My **soul** continually remembers it and is bowed down within me.”
 - “soul” (Heb, *nepes*; Septuagint Gk, *psyche*)
 - “remember” (Heb, *zakar*): to remember, meditate upon, think about, pay attention to
 - What does this reveal about the psyche’s ability?
- 1 Co 2:11, “For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man’s **spirit** within him?”
 - “spirit” (Gk, *pneuma*)
 - “know” (Gk, *oida*): to know, understand, remember
- 1 Co 14:2 “For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God. Indeed, no one understands him; he utters mysteries with his **spirit**.”
 - “spirit” (Gk, *pneuma*)
 - “utter” (Gk, *laleo*): speak, talk, tell
 - “mystery” (Gk, *mysterion*): mystery, secret
 - What does this reveal about the human spirit’s ability?
- Conclusion: The Old Testament attributes knowledge and memory to the psyche, but the New Testament attributes them to the spirit.
- The spirit functions would qualify as subconscious, since the psyche usually is not aware of them. We’re consciously aware of the psyche functions.
- Knowledge and memory as functions of the heart
 - Deut 8:5, “Know then in your **heart** that as a man disciplines his son, so the LORD your God disciplines you.”
 - “heart” (Heb, *lebab*)
 - What ability does this attribute to the human heart?
 - Josh 23:14, “You know with all your **heart** and **soul** that not one of all the good promises the LORD your God gave you has failed.”
 - “heart” (Heb, *lebab*)
 - “soul” (Heb, *nepes*)
 - What can the heart and psyche both do?
 - 1 Ki 2:44, “You know in your **heart** all the wrong you did to my father David.”
 - “heart” (Heb, *lebab*)
 - Ps 44:21, “would not God have discovered it, since he knows the secrets of the **heart**?”
 - “heart” (Heb, *lebab*)
 - What does the heart have according to this verse?
 - Pr 14:10, “Each **heart** knows its own bitterness.”
 - Isa 32:4 (ESV), “The **heart** of the hasty will understand and know.”
 - Jer 24:7, “I will give them a **heart** to know me.”

- Intuition and revelation
 - Definition of intuition: the act or faculty of knowing or sensing without the use of rational processes; a sense of something not evident or deducible.
 - Mk 2:8, “Immediately Jesus knew in his **spirit**”
 - “knew” (Gk, *epiginosko*): (1) to know thoroughly; (2) to recognize (by being fully acquainted)
 - “spirit” (Gk, *pneuma*)
 - It’s possible that intuition is information from one’s spirit as subconscious knowledge, revelation from God’s Spirit or sensing something from another person’s spirit.
 - Acts 20:23, “I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me.”
 - Eph 1:17, “I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.”
 - “spirit” (Gk, *pneuma*)
 - Conclusion: The human spirit can have intuition, revelation and knowledge.
- Mind versus the spirit
 - “mind” (Gk, *nous*): mind, way of thinking, understanding
 - 1 Co 14:14 “For if I pray in a tongue, my **spirit** prays, but my mind is unfruitful.”
 - “spirit” (Gk, *pneuma*)
 - “mind” (Gk, *nous*)
 - What does it mean for the mind to be unfruitful?
 - What function does this attribute to the human spirit and how are the psyche and body involved?
 - 1 Co 14:15 “So what shall I do? I will pray with my **spirit**, but I will also pray with my mind; I will sing with my **spirit**, but I will also sing with my mind.”
 - “spirit” (Gk, *pneuma*)
 - “mind” (Gk, *nous*)
 - According to this verse, what activities can originate with either the human spirit or psyche?
 - 1 Co 14:16 “If you are praising God with your **spirit**, how can one who finds himself among those who do not understand say ‘Amen’ to your thanksgiving, since he does not know what you are saying?”
 - What activity can originate with your spirit?
 - What does this verse indicate about the mind’s ability to understand it?

- 1 Co 2:14, “The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.”
 - “without the Spirit” (Gk, *psychikos*): psyche-oriented; i.e., natural, worldly
 - “foolishness” (Gk, *moria*): foolish, silly, absurd, unreasonable
 - “spiritually” (Gk, *pneumatikos*): from the spirit, spiritually
 - “discerned” (Gk, *anakrino*): investigate, interrogate, determine, judge
 - What ability does this attribute to the spirit and what other abilities does that require?
- 1 Co 2:16, “But we have the mind of Christ.”
 - “mind” (Gk, *nous*): mind, understanding, way of thinking
 - “have” (Gk, *echo*): possess, hold onto, wear
 - “You and I right now have or possess the mind of Christ.”
 - Ro 12:2, “Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”
 - “mind” (Gk, *nous*)
- We have the mind of Christ but need to renew our minds.
- Jas 1:8, “he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.”
 - What do you think “double-minded” means in this verse?
- Conclusions
 - The Bible attributes some “mind” functions to both the human psyche and spirit; some of them exclusively to the spirit.
 - Among other things, this explains how we can have the mind of Christ yet need to repent (change our minds or the way we think).

Spiritual Disciplines (Spiritual Nourishment)

- Your spirit needs nourishment for spiritual life and growth.
- As you nourish your spirit, it in turn will refresh and enliven the rest of you.
- Bible study
 - Mt 4:4, “Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.” (quotes Deut 8:3)
 - The Word of God does what, according to this verse?
 - Jn 6:63, “The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.”
 - What did he mean, the words he spoke were spirit?
 - Does this also apply to the Bible? Explain.
 - How do the three parts of your being participate in reading God’s Word?
 - Does this also apply to something God speaks directly to you? Explain.

- Being filled with the Holy Spirit
 - Acts 9:17, “Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, ‘Brother Saul, the Lord — Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here — has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.’”
 - “be filled with” (Gk, *pimplemi*): (1) to fill or satisfy completely; (2) to make happen, fulfill, complete
 - Eph 5:18, “Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.”
 - “be filled with” (Gk, *pleroo*): (1) to fill up; (2) to complete, finish; (3) to provide fully
- Enjoying nature
 - Ps 8:3-4, “When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?”
 - Ps 19:1, “The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.”
 - Ro 1:20, “For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities — his eternal power and divine nature — have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.”
- Enjoying the fine arts
 - As Christians, we can nourish both our spirits and psyches with wholesome fine arts, especially as we glorify God who gave us such creative abilities.

Closing

- Your spirit and psyche both perform the functions of thought, knowledge and memory. The psyche functions are conscious thought, knowledge and memory, and the spirit functions are subconscious.
- Certain spiritual disciplines nourish or feed your spirit, which in turn refreshes the rest of you.

Blessing

May you encounter more references this week to the human spirit, making you more aware of it and willing to meet its needs.

Proposed Model for Human Structure

Human Spirit	
<p>Description</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● eternal ● exists in spiritual realm ● stable 	<p>Traits or functions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● source of human life ● matures, strengthens ● interacts with God ● basic character (true self) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ aptitudes (spiritual gifts, natural abilities) ○ traits (fruit of the spirit, other godly traits) ● thought ● knowledge & memory ● intuition & revelation
Human Psyche	
<p>Description</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● eternal ● exists in spiritual realm ● volatile/dynamic 	<p>Traits or functions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● personality (expression of oneself) ● thought ● knowledge & memory
Human Body	
<p>Description</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● exists in physical realm ● temporal 	<p>Traits or functions</p>