

The Bulwark

MARCH 24, 2024

YOUR BRAIN; WHAT A TERRIBLE THING TO WASTE

There can be no denying the fact that the human brain is a marvel to behold. Data from internal as well as external elements come to the brain through various nerve pathways, where they are interpreted and acted upon. The basic structure of the brain and nervous system is the nerve cell or neuron. These specialized cells receive and transmit electrochemical impulses. The impulses are carried through the axons and dendrites. Every nerve cell has specialized areas at one end called synapses. These synapses allow cells to communicate with each other. Which then activates neurotransmitters, which sets in motion an electrical impulse which causes a muscle to contract or a sensory impression is noted. It is beyond amazing. Then again, why shouldn't it be, it is part of the make-up of man, and man was created by God. Something as involved as the brain couldn't have happened by chance, any more than the computer that is being used to write this article.



Consider what David wrote in the 143rd psalm, *"I will remember the days of old; I meditate on the work of Thy hands. I stretch out my hands to Thee; my soul longs for Thee, as a parched land."* (vs 5-6) It was said that David was a man after God's own heart (see Acts 13:22) It is obvious as to why, he employed his mind to fully meditate on God.

To be sure most of us do meditate on God from time to time; but many are guilty of two mistakes. The first of which is we don't think about God often enough. Granted we think about Him during worship, when we read the Scriptures and praying before a meal and other times of prayer. There are precious few who have taken the time to develop the habit of allowing the mind to effectively ponder on Him as we go about our daily activities. It is safe to assume that even fewer have retreated from the rigors of life for a day or two of extended prayer and concentrated focus on God.

While we stand amazed at the complexity of the human brain and marvel at the capabilities it has, we need to appreciate it as a gift from God. In as very real sense it is an instrument that God has provided for us, not only as a functioning unit for the central nervous system but also for learning, reflecting, understanding and meditating.

The second mistake is not thinking of God reverently enough. More often than not when God is thought about it is in the context of need. Rather, what should be done is from time to time, think on Him for His own sake. Our thoughts oft times are too selfish and self-centered. We would do well to learn how to deepen our thought

process about God to such a degree that is willing to embrace humility, gratitude, love, awe, wonder and reverence.

A.W. Tozer wrote, "Without doubt, the mightiest thought the mind can entertain is the thought of God, and the weightiest word in any language is its word for God." How could anyone deny that the highest use of the human mind is to spend time in thought about the grandeur and greatness of God? When one fails to think about God often and with an attitude of reverence, it diminishes actions and attitudes directed toward God. *"Set your mind on things above, not on things that are on earth."* (Colossians 3:2) A mind is a terrible thing to waste.

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