

Recoding The Brain – Part 2

(Having Not Seen - Yet Believing)

One of the purposes of today's lesson is to show the difference between our natural brain, the gray matter, and the spiritual mind of a born again person.

Review: What we receive at our second birth, Jesus received at His first birth. He was born spiritually alive, but His body came through Mary, and you can trace that all the way back to Adam. Jesus was spiritually alive, but He was wearing fallen flesh just like ours. That means His physical brain, the gray matter itself, was just like ours.

The natural brain, that we all have whether you are born again or not, is designed to function in this natural world.

1 Corinthians 2:12-15 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. (13) Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. (14) **But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.** (15) But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.

When you are born from your mother's womb, you received what Paul calls "the spirit of the world." It is that fallen, sinful nature, that was passed down from Adam. When Paul says "now," he means, "Now that you are born again." You have a spirit which is born of God. Christ becomes your Adam. When you were born from your mother you were born of the first Adam. But when you were born again, you were born of Jesus Christ, the last Adam. It is important to know, however, that you still have a natural, physical, gray matter brain after you were born again.

1 Corinthians 2:15-16 But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. (16) For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But **we have the mind of Christ.**

If you are born again, you are a spiritual person with the capacity to know the things that belong to you because you are a child of God. Your natural relatives that are not born again, they think you are nuts.

“We have the mind of Christ” means that inside your physical body is a spiritual man with a spiritual body. There is no time to relay the complete foundation on this subject that Pastor Dave Roberson taught us in fine detail. In summary, remember the rich man and Lazarus. They both died. Lazarus went to Abraham’s bosom. The Rich Man’s body was buried in the ground, yet he himself was still alive ... but he was in hell. The Rich Man’s physical brain was buried in the ground, but he still had memories. He knew who Lazarus was. He knew who Abraham was. He knew he had brothers still alive on earth. He said someone needs to go warn them.

Every human has a spiritual mind inside their physical brain. Before being born again, the mind is in darkness and cannot comprehend the things of the kingdom of God. But once you are born again, you have a spiritual mind inside that new man who was created at your second birth. Jesus is now your Adam, and that spiritual mind on the inside of you has the capacity to know the things of God.

Jesus was always God in the flesh, but He chose on purpose to live as a spiritually alive man, in a fallen body just like ours, anointed by the Holy Ghost. Why? So He could be the prototype for us.

Hebrews 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Today’s lesson emphasizes this: The natural man receives not the things of the Spirit of God. They are foolishness unto him. Neither can he know them. After reading that, for a long time I thought the natural brain was my enemy. But actually, it is my servant. The natural brain cannot understand the things of God, but it can be trained to “bow the knee” to the knowledge of the spiritual mind. The natural brain might not ever understand it.

Think about Peter when he walked on the water. His natural brain thought that was foolish. The natural brain does not think a human can walk on the water. But what Peter’s brain also knew was that anything Jesus said would come to pass. Peter’s

natural brain had seen it time and again. It knew that anything Jesus said would happen because Jesus had that level of authority. There was a neural pathway in Peter's natural brain that knew, "If Jesus says it, it can happen."

Peter didn't take it upon himself to try and walk on the water. That would have seemed like utter foolishness to him. Rather, Peter asked if it was really Jesus, then ... "bid me come unto thee on the water." Once Peter heard Jesus say the word "Come," then Peter knew he could walk on the water. As long as Peter kept his focus on Jesus and His word, Peter did the impossible ... he walked on the water.

Peter was not born again at that time. He only had a natural brain on the inside of Him. But his faith was in the absolute authority of Jesus. Peter believed Jesus was the Messiah and all things were possible to Him.

John 6:28-29 Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? (29) Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.

Peter was doing exactly that, and as long as he kept his eyes on Jesus, he was walking on the water. **It is important to notice that the Holy Spirit was working with the faith of Peter, not Jesus, to cause that supernatural event to happen.** We know that because Peter began to sink after "his" faith wavered when he got his eyes off Jesus and onto the boisterous wind and waves. Jesus' faith never wavered. **It was Peter's faith in the word spoken by Jesus that the Holy Spirit was working with to cause the supernatural to happen.**

Can you see how Peter's natural brain, at least for a while, learned to cooperate with the spiritual mind of Jesus? Every born again person still has a natural brain, the gray matter, that is of this world. The things of God will always seem foolish to it. But we will learn how to train our natural brain to cooperate with the mind of Christ within us. Your natural brain will learn how to cooperate with your spiritual mind.

Your spiritual mind and your natural brain are from two different worlds. We, the real us, the born again children of God, are not of this world. Our home is heaven. We are aliens to this world. We are on loan to this planet in order to bring the ministry of Christ to this earth so that the Father can be glorified in the Son. "Seek

first the kingdom of God and His righteousness” ... that’s what our lives are all about. We are in the world, but we are not of the world. Our citizenship is in heaven. Your spiritual mind, the mind of Christ you received from the Last Adam when you were born again, has the ability to understand things that are not of this world.

John 20:24-29 But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. (25) The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe. (26) And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you. (27) Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing. (28) And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God. (29) Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.

The risen Jesus had appeared to the other disciples at a time when Thomas didn’t happen to be there. They told Thomas they had seen Jesus raised from the dead. Thomas didn’t believe it and said, “Unless I see his hands and the print of the nails and put my hand where they pierced his side, I won’t believe it.” Thomas was not born again at that point. He was a natural man with a natural brain. The natural brain is of this world, and it says, “I will believe it when I see it.” We always call him “Doubting Thomas,” but the truth of the matter is ... all of the disciples had the same attitude. Every single one of them doubted until they saw the risen Christ with their own eyes.

Jesus says to Thomas, you are blessed because you have seen and believed. Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.

Albert Barnes Commentary:

Blessed - Happy, or worthy of the divine approbation. The word has here the force of the comparative degree, signifying that they would be in some respects more blessed than Thomas. They would evince higher faith.

That have not seen ... - Those who should be convinced by the testimony of the apostles, and by the influences of the Spirit. They would evince stronger faith. All faith is of things not seen; and God blesses those most who most implicitly rely on his word.

Many people today have seen Jesus in a vision or a dream. So have I. But that is not the same way that the disciples “saw” Him. They saw Him physically, raised to new life standing there. “Touch Me. Handle Me. Touch the scars in My hands and My side. A spirit has not flesh and bones as you see I have.” Over five hundred people saw Jesus “in the flesh” after He was raised from the dead. But since His ascension into heaven when He sat down at the right hand of the Father, Jesus has not made any physical trips back to planet earth. He has appeared often in vision form, but not in the flesh the same way they saw Him.

According to the Albert Barnes commentary, the Greek language used means Jesus was saying, “Thomas, you are blessed because you have seen. But MORE blessed are those who have believed, having not seen.” It takes a higher degree of faith to believe in things “not seen.”

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

This lesson is important for where we are going because, we are not going to escape having to deal with our 3 and ½ pound physical brain, the physical gray matter. We are going to have to learn to work with this natural brain that we have. Eventually, your gray matter brain will be buried in the ground with the rest of your body, but as long as you are alive on planet earth, your reborn spirit man and your physical brain are going to have to learn how to work together.

The brain is a very valuable tool, something God gave us to navigate in this earth. But it is not supposed to be your Lord. It is designed to be a servant, a helper, almost like a good secretary, to the spirit man on the inside. Your spirit man has the capacity to be taught by God, and it is going to understand things that the natural brain never will. The stance the natural brain should take in regard to the spirit man is, “Just tell me what to do.” The spirit man says, “Okay, step on the water.” What? (It will learn to comply over time.)

Remember that Jesus had a natural, gray matter brain, just like ours. He trained His brain how to cooperate with His Spirit. The physical brain is designed to operate in the physical laws of this world. It cannot know the things of the spirit of God. But it can be trained, and it is part of believing. Your physical brain is where those neuropaths are created. We are talking about recoding the brain. It is important that we understand how the natural brain actually functions.

We call him doubting Thomas, but in truth, all of the disciples doubted the reports from others that Jesus had risen from the dead. They didn't believe Mary Magdeline when she told them. Even after Peter and John ran to see the tomb and found it empty, it doesn't say they believed. It says they wondered what it meant.

Luke 24:10-12 It was Mary Magdalene, and Joanna, and Mary the mother of James, and other women that were with them, which told these things unto the apostles. (11) And their words seemed to them as idle tales, and they believed them not. (12) Then arose Peter, and ran unto the sepulchre; and stooping down, he beheld the linen clothes laid by themselves, and departed, wondering in himself at that which was come to pass.

[By the way, the first time the message was preached, "He is risen," it was preached by women, commissioned by the Lord to go tell it, and they didn't just tell it to the common people, they preached it to the apostles. Those of you that think it is not okay for women to preach ... food for thought.]

Then Jesus appeared to the two men on the way to Emmaus. Eventually they realized it was Jesus. They told the disciples they had seen the risen Jesus, they didn't believe them either.

None of the eleven believed:

1. When Mary Magdeline told them. (Mark 16:9-11)
2. When the group of women told them. (Luke 24:11)
3. When the men of Emmaus told them. (Mark 16:12-13)

The natural man receives not the things of the Spirit of God. They are spiritually discerned, and the natural man cannot know them. Your natural brain was given to you in order for you to function in this natural world. It believes in the physical

laws of this world. “I will believe it when I see it.” That is how the natural brain functions.

The eleven only believed when they saw Jesus appear physically to them in His resurrected body, with their own eyes. None of these men were born again yet.

John 20:19-20 Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. (20) And when he had so said, he shewed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord.

They believed when they “saw” the Lord ... with their own eyes. The natural man says, “I will believe it when I see it.” They didn’t believe when Mary told them, when the group of women told them, when the disciples from Emmaus told them. They believed it when they saw it! That is how the natural brain functions. They were not willing to receive somebody else’s report about it. They had to see it for themselves. [Note: A new neural pathway was created in their gray matter when they saw the Lord with their own eyes.]

John 20:29 Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.

The Greek language tells us that Jesus actually said, “More blessed are they that have not seen, yet have believed. We are living two thousand years later. None of us have seen Jesus the same way the apostles did, in His resurrected physical body. Jesus appeared that way not only to the eleven, but to over 500 people during that forty day period before He ascended into heaven.

[Note: None of the eleven ever recanted their testimony that they had seen the resurrected Jesus in His physical body. No matter the torture they experienced when they were martyred, not one of them ever said it wasn’t true. Human nature being what it is, if they had not seen Him physically resurrected with their own eyes, surely one of them would have recanted their testimony to stop the torture. Not one of them did. He is risen!]

Jesus has appeared in vision form several times in the book of Acts. Many people (including myself) have seen Jesus in vision form down through the centuries. But as far as I know, Jesus has not travelled back to earth in His glorified body ... not one time ... since He ascended into heaven.

Two thousand years later, none of us have seen the resurrected Jesus physically with our natural eyes the same way they did then. They believed because they “saw.” Remember the commentary by Albert Barnes. We are even “more” blessed than those who physically saw the resurrected Jesus, because it takes a higher degree of faith to believe without having seen. That is the definition of what faith is.

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

The apostle Peter wrote about the faith of us who believe, who have not seen.

1 Peter 1:7-9 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: (8) Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: (9) Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.

This is Peter, who saw Him, writing a letter to people who have not. He is writing to believers who were suffering persecution for their faith in Christ. Peter is talking about the faith of people who have not seen the resurrected Jesus the same way he did. No matter the persecution, they remained steadfast in their love and praise for their Savior, Jesus Christ. The world thinks believers are crazy when they do that!

Nobody enjoys going through difficult testing and trials. But we continue to rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory right in the midst of it all. None of that really affects who we are. We are from another world, and we are going to another world. This world is not our home. We are in it, but we are not of it.

Receiving the salvation of your souls. Our souls speak of our emotions and more. The world wonders how we can rejoice and be full of joy unspeakable and full of

glory when we are going through hell on earth. They have no reference point for such joy.

I always remember the testimony of Richard Wurmbrand in his book, *Tortured For Christ*. In total, he was held in prison for fifteen years because of his faith. He said the most joyful men he had ever known were the Christians who were in prison with him. The circumstances were horrible. There was sickness and many died. They were frequently tortured. They had nothing. But they did have chains on the shackles around their wrists. They decided to use those chains as musical instruments and sing hymns to the Lord. The world thought they were crazy because the natural man receives not the things of the Spirit of God ... they are foolishness unto him.

Peter is commending the faith of these believers who have not seen the resurrected Jesus the same way he did. Though you see him not ... yet believing. You rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory.

My body may be going through trials and afflictions. My circumstances may not be what I would like, but my soul is rejoicing in the Lord. He has not left me or forsaken me. I am not of this world.

None of the four gospels were written soon after Jesus ascended into heaven. For example, we know the gospel of John was written decades after Jesus rose from the dead. Near the end of the gospel of John, he tells the purpose for why he wrote it. It is no coincidence that John disclosed the purpose of him writing the gospel immediately after the words of Jesus to Thomas.

John 20:29-31 Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed. (30) And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: (31) But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

These are written ... that you might believe ... that Jesus is the Christ ... and that believing ... you might have life through his name. John knew he would not live forever on earth. He needed to write down his testimony of Christ so that future

generations would have his eyewitness testimony. They will have these words, so they can believe.

John wrote this, knowing we would not have the same benefit he had of seeing Jesus in His resurrected body. John is depending on the Holy Spirit to help us believe something that he and the rest of the eleven did not. They didn't believe the words of the eyewitnesses who told them. They refused to believe any eyewitness's words. They only believed when they saw with their natural eyes. "I'll believe it when I see it." John is depending on the Holy Spirit to help us believe something we have not seen with our eyes the same way they did.

They refused to believe the "words" of the eyewitnesses, yet John is writing his eyewitness account ... his "words" as an eyewitness ... and John is trusting the Holy Spirit to help us believe without having seen for ourselves.

John 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

The Holy Spirit, the Spirit of the Father, is working with the preached Word of God to draw "natural" men with "natural" brains to Jesus when they hear the gospel. Otherwise, it is foolishness to them. The Holy Spirit has to draw that natural brain toward believing the gospel.

But once you are born again, it is a whole new ball game. You are a different creature. You are a different species. People see you walking down the street and they think you are a normal human like them. They don't know that the flesh you are wearing is simply camouflage, keeping them from knowing you are an alien from another world who has come to seek and save the lost.

Anytime a natural person hears the gospel for the first time, the Holy Spirit has to draw them or else it is simply foolishness to them. But when the Holy Spirit draws you, and you believe the gospel ... at that instant you are born again. The new man in you is created in righteousness and true holiness. [Ephesians 4:24]

This new man has the capacity to be taught by God, but the natural brain doesn't. The natural brain says, "I'll believe it when I see it." And we say, "That's why you cannot be lord anymore." The brain can be trained to fully cooperate with this new

mind, the spiritual mind ... what the Bible calls the mind of Christ. The spiritual mind is created by the last Adam. Your spiritual mind can understand spiritual things. The brain may never understand it, but it can be trained to cooperate with it.

An example from our own life, one of the early instructions He gave us was to always give everything away free. Well, whoever heard of that working? We had counsel from godly people who really loved us asking if we were sure we heard God accurately? Nobody does it like that. And at the time, we didn't know of any other ministries that gave away everything for free. My natural brain did not think that would work. But I didn't hear God with my natural brain. I had heard God with my spiritual mind. It was either obey God ... or disobey what I knew I was hearing from God.

I am not against ministries selling their books, CD's, MP3's, MP4's, DVD's, etc. I only know what God said to me. He told me that back in the mid-nineties, and here it is the year 2024 ... and we have never sold a single thing produced through the ministry. My doubting brain bowed the knee to the spiritual mind.

Mary Mageline believed Jesus was risen because she saw Him physically.
The other women believed Jesus was risen because they saw Him physically.
The two men from Emmaus believed because they saw Him physically.
The eleven believed only after they saw Him physically.

Decades later, John realized that future generations would not have that same opportunity to physically see the resurrected Christ. John wrote the gospel not only as an eyewitness himself, but also to provide the record that God had provided of His Son. This same John, later in life, also wrote 1st John.

1 John 5:9-10 If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son. (10) He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.

When it comes to the Bible, the written Word of God, we are admonished not to add to it, and not to take away from it. The whole Bible, from Genesis through the book of Revelation, is about Jesus. This whole book is the record God gave of His

Son. Read it and believe it. We thank God for the Holy Spirit who helps us with that. You believe it not ... at your own peril. Don't call God a liar by denying the record He gave of His Son.

Jesus says we who have not seen, yet believe, are even more blessed than those who saw Him physically raised from the dead. That's because we believe the record God gave of His Son, by faith!

1 John 5:11-13 And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. (12) He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. (13) These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

God told me and Sue to give away everything for free. But here is the rest of what He said, *"If you will obey Me, I will speak to the hearts of those I choose and they will give to support you and the needs of the ministry."* My job was to obey what He said, even though it made no sense at all to my natural mind. My brain had to bow the knee to the instruction given to my spiritual mind. We obeyed Him, and He has done what He said all of these years.

In today's lesson, we saw the distinction between your natural, three and a half pound brain, and the spiritual mind you have as a child of God. The good news is, they can work together and what you believe with your spiritual mind makes imprints called neural pathways on your natural brain.

That is recoding the brain.