

Recoding The Brain – Part 4

(The Ghost In The Machine)

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

James 2:26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

We all have a physical body that is alive as long as our spirit is not separated from it. There is an old saying that our body is the machine, and our spirit is the “ghost in the machine.” One day, if the Lord tarries, each of us will die when our spirit leaves our body. The Bible tells us what happens after that. Jesus gives us insight into the world beyond when He told us about the Rich Man and Lazarus.

THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS

Luke 16:19-31 There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: (20) And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, (21) And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. (22) And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; (23) And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. (24) And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. (25) But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. (26) And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence. (27) Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: (28) For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. (29) Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. (30) And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. (31) And he said unto him, If they hear not

Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

1. Both men died and were buried.
 - a. Their physical brains were in the ground.
 - b. The spirit/soul lives on for eternity.
 - c. One was in hell. One was in Abraham's bosom.
 - d. At every funeral I say, "All those in the grave know the truth then. But it is simply too late. Repent and receive Jesus today."
2. Born again or not, the inward man has a spiritual body.
 - a. He lift up his EYES.
 - b. They had FINGERS.
 - c. The Rich man SAID. He had the ability to speak.
 - d. They each had a TONGUE.
 - e. They had KNOWLEDGE. He knew who Abraham and Lazarus were.
 - f. They had MEMORY. He remembered he had five brethren who were in danger of hell fire also.

The physical brain was in the ground. But the knowledge, and the memories remained because our spiritual body has a mind on the inside of it, whether you are born again or not. The carnal mind is death. The spiritual mind is life and peace.

Romans 8:6 For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

Why did the Rich Man ask Abraham to send Lazarus to go talk to his brethren? Because he couldn't. He no longer has a physical body that could speak to people on earth. He was asking for Lazarus to be raised from the dead so he would have a physical body to go speak to his brethren.

The physical brain is the link between your inward man and your outward actions on planet earth. Your inward "mind" decides to walk across the room. Your mind causes neurons to fire across the synapses of your physical brain. That sends signals through the nervous system to your legs, and you begin to walk. It was not your 3 ½ pound brain that made that decision. It was your inward mind. Your brain is designed to be the servant of your inward man. YOU ... the real you ... is the "ghost in the machine."

PETER WALKED ON THE WATER

Matthew 14:25-31 And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea. (26) And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear. (27) But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid. (28) And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. (29) And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. (30) But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. (31) And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?

Peter was not yet born again. None of them were. That means they still had a natural mind within them. Remember a recent lesson ... none of the apostles believed the testimony of people who told them that Jesus had been raised from the dead. They didn't believe Mary Magdeline. They didn't believe the other women who had seen the risen Christ. They didn't believe the two men from Emmaus who had walked and talked with the risen Jesus. Why didn't they believe them? Because they were "naturally minded." The carnal mind says, "I WILL BELIEVE IT WHEN I SEE IT."

Peter was not yet born again. He had a natural mind within his natural brain. The things of God were foolishness to him.

1 Corinthians 2:14 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.

The natural man does not think that a human can walk on water. The physics of this world tells him it is impossible. Yet Peter's "natural brain" is seeing the impossible right in front of his natural eyes. He still doesn't believe it is possible, but what does he believe? HE BELIEVES WHATEVER JESUS SAYS COMES TO PASS. Peter remembers the impossible catches of fish when Jesus spoke. Peter remembers the other "impossible" things happen when Jesus would speak such as ... the blind saw, the deaf heard, the lame walked, and even the dead were raised.

Even the natural brain of Peter believed that IF JESUS SAID IT ... IT WAS POSSIBLE! That's why Peter says, Lord if it is you, tell me to come to you, walking on the water. Jesus said COME, and Peter walked on the water. This is a perfect illustration of what Jesus had taught:

John 6:29 Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.

As long as Peter was focused on Jesus and His Word ... Peter's natural brain surrendered to a higher law than the physical laws of this natural world. Peter's natural brain stepped out to do the impossible ... by faith in the Word of Jesus.

That is the first level of faith. That is the foundation of faith. Faith in Christ and His WORD. That is where all Christianity starts. But once you are born again, you receive a spiritual mind that has the capacity to be taught spiritual truth. I am talking about the physics of a different realm, a different kingdom, the kingdom of God. The born again YOU, the ghost in the machine, the spiritual man within the physical body, has the capacity to be taught the things of the kingdom of God.

1 Corinthians 2:12-14 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.

It is vitally important to remember ... Jesus is Emmanuel. Jesus is "God with us." In Philipians we are told that when Jesus became a man, He was always God, but He set aside all of his privileges as God. He did nothing as God, but rather as a man born of God, anointed by the Holy Spirit, so He could be the pattern for us.

Hebrews 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith.

Jesus was wearing fallen flesh just like ours. He had a natural brain just like ours. Peter walked on the water because He had faith in Jesus' command to come. But how did the man, Jesus of Nazareth, walk on the water? His natural brain thought it

was impossible too. Peter relied upon the word of Jesus. Jesus relied upon the word of the Father.

John 5:19 Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.

This is why Jesus would spend all night in prayer at times. He frequently withdrew Himself to spend time with the Father. The fellowship between Himself and the Father was essential.

That is why the Holy Spirit has given us the Blueprint to ... “Come away with Me.” He is calling us to spend time with Him in the Word, in prayer, in worship, and yes ... in fastings.

We must see what Christ in us wants to do. Our natural gray matter brain will yield to do impossible things. That is a renewed mind; a mind that not only KNOWS the truth, but bows the knee to obey the truth ... even when it seems IMPOSSIBLE.

Mark 9:23 Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.

We are recoding our brain to believe whatever Jesus says to us. Just like Peter stepping out of the boat to do the impossible, our natural brain will yield to Christ in us to do the impossible too.