

Mental Power

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Did Jesus Take Upon Him *Both* Fallen Sinful Human Flesh *and* Fallen Sinful Human Mind?

Mental Power: A sliding scale of mental sufficiency for performing a task or activity, which also requires knowledge and skill. *Segen's Medical Dictionary*. © 2012 Farlex, Inc.

Definition of mentality

1 : **mental power** or capacity : [intelligence](#)

2 : *mode or way of thought* : [outlook](#) the imperialist mentality of the nineteenth century— John Davies

How do neurons "talk" to one another? The action happens at the synapse, the point of communication between two neurons or between a neuron and a target cell, like a muscle or a gland. At the synapse, the firing of an action potential in one neuron—the presynaptic, or sending, neuron—causes the transmission of a signal to another neuron—the postsynaptic, or receiving, neuron—making the postsynaptic neuron either more or less likely to fire its own action potential.¹

We measure **mental power** as intelligence quotient (IQ).

Biblical Seats

These are Biblical meanings applied to the parts of the body, used metaphorically. There are more than a dozen of these “seats” in the Bible. I only present a few here, to meet the purposes of this article.

The “**Body**”—(“members”, “*sarx*”) the seat of physical capability; “fallen sinful human flesh”, the source of our cravings through which Satan tempts us. Romans 6:6,13: 7:23.

The “**Mind**”—(head, mind, soul, “old man”) the seat of the intellect, “fallen sinful human mind” which always says “yes” to the cravings of the body. Romans 6:6. — The **faculties**² (**vigor**³, natural ability, relating to the laws of nature) of mentality or **mental power** are a function of the *body* (flesh, neurons and synapses), which very much affects the ability of the brain to think. The **faculties** should be categorized with the “**Body**”, above.

The “**Spirit**”—the seat of the character; that part of the mind that communicates with God, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Proverbs 20:27; Romans 8:1; 6BC 1093. Not to be confused with the “Holy Spirit”, the third person of the Godhead.

1 <https://www.khanacademy.org/science/biology/human-biology/neuron-nervous-system/a/the-synapse>.

2 **Faculties**: “an inherent mental or physical power”, https://search.yahoo.com/yhs/search?hspart=trp&hsimp=yhs-001&grd=1&type=Y143_F163_201897_102620&p=faculties+meaning.

3 **Vigor**: “active bodily or mental strength or force”, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/vigor>. In other words, neuron activity (synapses).

The “**Forehead**”—the seat of decision making; that part of the mind that makes decisions; no decision is ever made without engaging the “forehead”. Revelation 14:9.

The “**Heart**”—the seat of the emotions, that part of the mind that carries the emotions; no decision is ever made without engaging the “heart”. Jeremiah 17:9-10.

The “**Reins**”—(kidneys) the seat of the motives, that part of the mind that carries the motives (why we do what we do); no decision is ever made without engaging the “Reins”. Jeremiah 17:9-10.

Our makeup when created is Body, Soul, and Spirit. Genesis 2:7; 1st Thessalonians 5:23. Upon death the Body dies and goes back to dust, the Soul (mind) dies and is gone, but the Spirit returns to God and is unconscious (our spirit carries the seat of our character). Ecclesiastes 9:4-6; 12:5-7.

The mental capacities (or **mental power**, the “mind”) is very much dependent upon the physical capabilities of the brain (*e.g.*, synapses), and can be measured by IQ.

From Ellen G. White:⁴

Satan had pointed to Adam's sin as proof that God's law was unjust, and could not be obeyed. In our humanity, Christ was to redeem Adam's failure. But when Adam was assailed by the tempter, none of the effects of sin were upon him. He stood in the strength of perfect manhood, possessing the full **vigor of mind and body**. He was surrounded with the glories of Eden, and was in daily communion with heavenly beings. It was not thus with Jesus when He entered the wilderness to cope with Satan. For four thousand years the race had been decreasing in physical strength, in **mental power**, and in moral worth; and Christ took upon Him the infirmities of degenerate humanity. Only thus could He rescue man from the lowest depths of his degradation. DA 117.1

In searching out the various parts and studying their relationship, the highest **faculties** of the human mind are called into intense activity. No one can engage in such study without developing **mental power**. Ed 124.1

All who consecrate **soul** [mind], **body** [flesh, our “members”], and **spirit** [that part of the mind that communicates with God, the seat of our character.] to God will be constantly receiving a new endowment of **physical** and **mental power**. The inexhaustible supplies of heaven are at their command. Christ gives them the breath of His own spirit, the life of His own life. The Holy Spirit puts forth its [His] highest energies to work in heart and mind. The grace of God enlarges and multiplies their **faculties**, and every perfection of the divine nature comes to their assistance in the work of saving souls. Through co-operation with Christ they are complete in Him, and in their human weakness they are enabled to do the deeds of Omnipotence. DA 837.3

In teaching these things a golden opportunity is afforded for showing the folly and wickedness of tight lacing and every other practice that restricts vital action. An almost endless train of disease results from unhealthful modes of dress, and careful instruction on this point should be given. Impress upon the pupils the danger of allowing the clothing to weigh on the hips or to compress any organ of the body. The dress should be so arranged that a full respiration can be taken and the arms be raised above the head without difficulty. The cramping of the lungs not only prevents their development, but hinders the processes of digestion and circulation, and thus weakens the whole body. All such practices lessen both physical and [the faculties of] **mental power**, thus hindering the student's advancement and often preventing his success. Ed 199.2

4 Emphasis mine.

Those also who use tobacco are weakening their physical and [the faculties of] **mental power**. The use of tobacco has no foundation in nature. Nature rebels against the narcotic, and when the tobacco user first tries to force this unnatural habit upon the system, a hard battle is fought. The stomach, and, indeed, the **whole system**, revolt against the abominable practice, but the evildoer perseveres until nature gives up the struggle, and the man becomes a slave of tobacco. ST 6/29/1891, par 7

From A. T. Jones:

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.... for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure (Philippians 2:5, 13).

Jesus tells us to buy of Him "gold refined [tried] in the fire," which is the faith which works by love, the genuine article. What is it that is to be tried with severe trials? Your faith which is "more precious than gold." Then, you see, as everyone's faith is to be so tried, he needs the faith that has stood the trial.

We have the testimony: "Here are those who keep the commandments of God and" have faith in Jesus? (Rev. 14:12). No, the "have" is not there. They keep the commandments of God and [keep] the faith of Jesus. That is the genuine article; that is the faith which, in Him, endured the test. That is the faith which met every fiery trial that Satan knows with all the power that he could rally. That faith endured the test.

So, in the expression "buy from me that faith that has endured," is there not the same thought that we have learned in "this mind ... which was also in Christ Jesus"? (Phil. 2:5). When that "mind" is in me that was in Him, will not that mind do in me precisely what it did in Him? How is it that we serve the law of God? "With the mind I myself serve the law of God" (Rom. 7:25). Christ in this world every moment served the law of God. How did He do it? With the mind. By what process of the mind? By faith. Did not the faith of Jesus keep the commandments of God perfectly, all the time? And is not that the faith that works by love?

Isn't that the third angel's message when He says, "Buy from Me gold refined [tried] in the fire [love and faith], and white garments [the righteousness of Christ], that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed"? (Rev. 3:18). We see how the mind that was in Christ will stand all of the trials that this world can bring. Will the mind of Christ in Him do differently from the mind of Christ in me or in any other person?⁵

Conclusion

Because mental power is very much dependent upon the physical aspects of the brain (faculties, natural ability, relating to the laws of nature, vigor), I conclude that when Ellen White uses the term "mental power", she is referring to the *faculties* of the brain. Therefore when Christ took upon Him fallen sinful human flesh, He also took upon Him the *faculties* of the mind, that aspect of the mind pertaining to the physical aspects of the brain, but not the *spirit*⁶ of His mind that communicates with God. In all His life as a human being on earth, He stated plainly that He does not do anything of Himself, but relied entirely on the power of the Father and the Holy Spirit to do the things that He did. John 5:30. In this respect He had no advantage over us because you and I can also rely entirely on the power of the Father and the Holy Spirit (and also Jesus Christ Himself) to accomplish God's will in our lives.

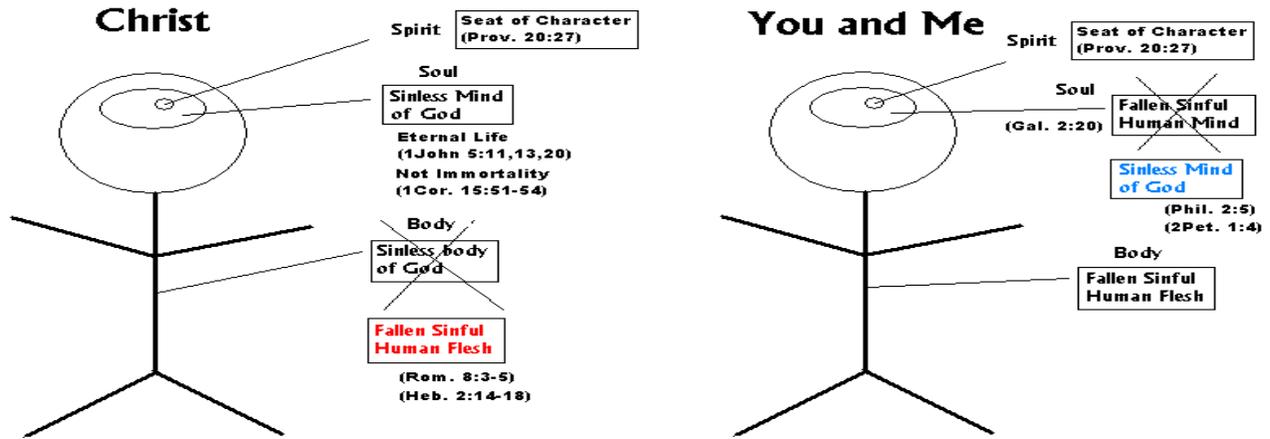
⁵ Jones. A. T., *The Third Angel's Message, General Conference Bulletin*, 1893, p. 205; [DGN 93].

⁶ Again, not to be confused with the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Godhead.

Partaking of the Divine Nature (2Pet. 1:4)

Body, Soul, and Spirit (1st Thes. 5:23)

Study by Craig Barnes



Black = Before the incarnation for Christ and before conversion for you and me. (This is the way we were born.)

Red = After the incarnation. (Christ was different from us only by the fact that He retained His sinless mind.)

Blue = After man's conversion. (We are the same as Christ in flesh and also in mind.)

(This sinless mind keeps us from sin in the same manner it kept Him from sin.)

When Christ was resurrected, He had the sinless mind of God and took sinless human flesh, as Adam had when he was created. It is the same for God's people when they receive immortality and are resurrected or translated when Jesus comes the 2nd time.

Jesus retained His sinless mind, notwithstanding the aforementioned⁷ degeneration of the faculties (“vigor”), even of the brain, to accomplish the thought process of His human brain. Indeed, He never ever even once committed any sin, even though bearing the same fallen sinful human flesh that you and I have. In this He proved that God does not sin under any circumstances.

Further, as the representative of the human race, He gave His own sinlessness to the whole human race as part of our heritage.

Will you believe?—Will you say “Thank You”?

⁷ Desire of Ages, page 117, quoted above.