

- faith doesn't erase our stories; they can still be "desperately sick."*)
2. God's salvation project "in [us], both to will and to work for his good pleasure," is ongoing. [Bob Munger's "My Heart, Christ's Home" is a *must read* about how, by *inviting Christ in*, it doesn't mean the whole house, every room of our soul, is cleaned up automatically. It's a conscious process.]
- B. God created our subconscious as a gatekeeper for stored memory (If all life's memories were always conscious, we couldn't think.)
1. But the fallen subconscious began a "deceitful" *repression*, to hide *fearful, painful, shameful events* we didn't want to face or deal with [Adam & Eve did this too—*hiding behind fig leaves and excuses*.])
 2. God does want to deal with the hidden memories of our own sins or our hurts from others' sins, because their effects are real and ongoing— Jer 17:10 "I the LORD **search the heart** and test the mind, to give every man according to **his ways**, according to **the fruit of his deeds**." (A painful past won't just disappear; nor will our need to forgive and be forgiven—time doesn't heal all wounds: God does!)
- C. Presenting self for deep-mind healing— Psa 139:23-24 (NASB), Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me and know my **anxious thoughts**; And see if there be any **hurtful way** in me, And **lead me** in the everlasting way.
1. "anxious thoughts" may be rooted in forgotten events; a "hurtful way" may be an unconfessed sin or an echoing response to an old hurt.
 2. If we ask Jesus to come search us, He "will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts," (1 Cor 4:5). (The key to healing is usually *forgiving or being forgiven*.)

CONCLUSION:

—Not all bad memories are *repressed*, but often God turns His *loving* "light" on a past grudge that's alive in the present, or on a *childish way* of coping in early life that's *disrupting an adult home or marriage*. [Dr. Missildine's *The Inner Child of Your Past* shows how latent childishness can hold an adult life hostage. After reading it, I did a sermon series on 1 Cor 13 in light of v.11: "*put away childish things*," so we can *adopt a childlike receptivity to agape love*.]

—I've just scratched the surface on the soul's ongoing need for healing sanctification in the *will, intellect and emotions*. But Rom 12:1-2 gives us 2 major keys in the process: #1) to "*present*" *our embodied selves* to the Lord as "*a living sacrifice*," telling Him, "not my will but Yours be done." And #2) to learn to "*discern*" and obey that "*good, pleasing, and perfect will of God*" by consciously submitting our *inner souls* to "*be transformed by the renewing of [our volitional, intellectual and emotional] mind*." Let's pray...

45-12-01-Presenting Self for Deep-Mind Renewal
subconscious, wholeness, memory, self-disclosure, restoration
Rom 12:1-2 (NKJV & CSB)
God's healing of the *inner self* requires a conscious self-presentation.

INTRODUCTION: (HOM.idea; then Romans 12:1-2 (NKJV [normally used in quotes unless otherwise stated]), ¹I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. ²And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. **Romans 12:1-2 (CSB),** ¹Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship. ²Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.)

—Before exploring how these 2 verses relate to *inner healing*, I want to describe both human nature and redeemed or saved human nature. **1st**, we're an alloy of "spirit, soul, and body." Bodies aren't "shells." God made us *incarnationally* as an integrated union of *spiritual, physical and psychological dimensions, each interactively affecting the other*. When v.1 urges, "*present your bodies*," a major focus is on the bodily organ of that interactivity, the brain. It's our *interconnectivity point* on earth.

—God saves our "spirit, soul, and body" as, 1) a past event: "new birth," 2) a present process: "sanctification", and 3) a future event: "resurrection." Our idea of salvation may be *to get to Heaven*. God's idea is to *get Heaven into us*, or *to fit us for Heaven with holiness*. He "saved" us to "sanctify" us, to make us *holy in all of our 3 dimensions*— 1 Thes 5:23, Now may the God of peace Himself **sanctify you completely**; and may your **whole spirit, soul, and body** be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

—In "new birth," we *receive Christ*; in "resurrection," we *wait patiently*; **but in sanctification**, there's *work to do*— Phil 2:12b-13 (ESV), ... **work out your own salvation** with fear and trembling, for **it is God who works in you**, both to **will** and to **work** for his good pleasure. God's "**will**" and "**work**" is *involved*, but our will's *conscious choice* is crucial. So, in presenting self to God,

- I. We Must First Present Our Will**— Eph 3:16 (CSB), I pray that he may grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with power in your **inner being** through his Spirit... [NKJV, "inner *man*" or "inner *anthropos*"]
- A. Our "inner being" is "us" beyond our material body. It *includes...*
1. our human spirit—*seemingly the part fully* "born again," because

of what **1 John 3:9** says, Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.

2. our human soul with its 3 mental sub-dimensions: *intellectual, emotional and volitional*. (Because our *volition*, or *human will* is called to align to *God's will*, it should have top priority in being presented to God to be “strengthened with power... through his Spirit.”)
- B. The *will* must “be strengthened” to be a strong chooser of God's will.
1. Faulty reasoning or a misinformed intellect can lead a *will* into pride and stubbornness: “I’m right, see! Get used to it!” (That’s *not strength* but a false self-trust that needs to heed **Prov 16:3**. Commit your **works** [*behavioral activities*] to the LORD, And your **thoughts** [*intentions, chosen plans*] will be **established** [*made firm*: “strengthened”].)
 2. Wounded or uncontrolled emotions can overpower the will with self-pity, anger, bitterness, fear, envy, lust, and other unhealthy attitudes. (We must address each *dominating attitude* one by one for immature childishness to become receptive childlikeness, as seen in **Psa 131:2**, Surely I have **calmed** and **quieted my soul**, Like a weaned child with his mother; Like a weaned child is my soul within me.)

TRANS: To “*present* [our] *bodies*,” we “*present*” the *brain*, where *thinking* and *feeling habits* form *reflexive neural pathways*. Unwanted behaviors can seem automatic, bypassing even a redeemed will— **Rom 7:19-20, 24-25a** (ESV), For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.... Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! Jesus showed us how to overcome self-will: He surrendered His body as a “*a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God*” by praying “not my will but Yours be done.” Our “true [logikos] worship” is to follow Him in this kind of self-surrender.

II. Presenting Our Intellect Is a Conscious Discipline— **2 Tim 3:16-17**

(ESV), All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof [*conviction*], for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the **man of God** [inner *anthropos*] may be complete, equipped for every **good work**.

- A. The *intellect* is a tool for the “work” of “*service*,” *not* an end in itself.
1. *It's job* is to order its knowledge intake into a rational system to inform *the will* in *decision-making* based on that system's logic.
 2. With a fallen intellect, false knowledge, and poor reasoning, *our logic* usually leads us to make sinful choices. (Scripture is *God's*

logic to teach, convict, correct and train the “inner **man, anthropos**” in right behaviors, “*holy and pleasing to God;... [our] true worship.*”)

- B. With *the will* “strengthened... through the Spirit,” our top priority for choosing new mental habits is to feed our intellect God's Word:
1. For full life in the “inner man,” Jesus said— **Mat 4:4**, “**man** shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.”
 2. His Word also brings spiritual “renewing” to an *intellectual “mind”* that has “*conformed to [the spirit of] this age,*” or “*zeitgeist*” [**A German term** used to describe “*the defining spirit or mood of a particular period of history as shown by the ideas and beliefs of the time.*”] (**Satan traps minds with every new cultural zeitgeist— 2 Cor 4:4** (CSB), In their case, the god of **this age** has blinded the minds of the unbelievers to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.)

TRANS: Popular lies and false ideas pervade “*this age.*” For spiritual health, the modern church must feed on Scripture, as Jesus told her, saturating her *intellectual mind* with God's Word, “that He might, sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word” (**Eph 5:26**). This requires discipline— **Josh 1:8**, This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. To sanctify will and intellect, we “*present* [our] *bodies*” daily, through *mouth, eyes, ears and brain*. [In **The Spirit of the Disciplines**, Dallas Willard has 3 chapters on the body's place in spirituality. On **Josh 1:8**, he says, “*Here we have an activity of mind and body undertaken with all the strength we have to make our total being cooperate effectively with the divine order. As a pastor, teacher, and counselor I have repeatedly seen the transformation of inner and outer life that comes simply from memorization and meditation upon Scripture.*”] Our *intellect* thrives on God's Word, but the *soul's more elusive area* is problematic:

III. The Difficulty of Presenting Our Emotions— **Jer 17:9** (ESV), The heart is deceitful above all things, and **desperately sick**; who can understand it? [Some versions say “*desperately wicked*”; **lit. Heb.**: *incurable* or *deathly ill*.]

- A. Intellectually knowing the emotional causes of unhealthy behavior, or even how to resolve it, won't insure that inner healing happens. [**Psychologists** try uncovering *root causes* of emotional trouble to get the inner mind “transformed,” but insight alone can't bring a “renewing of [the] mind.”]
1. “New birth” gives us “a new heart,” making us “new creatures in Christ,” but God created us with a *subconscious*, a deep mental reservoir with *emotional memories* of our life's story. (Our *justification* by