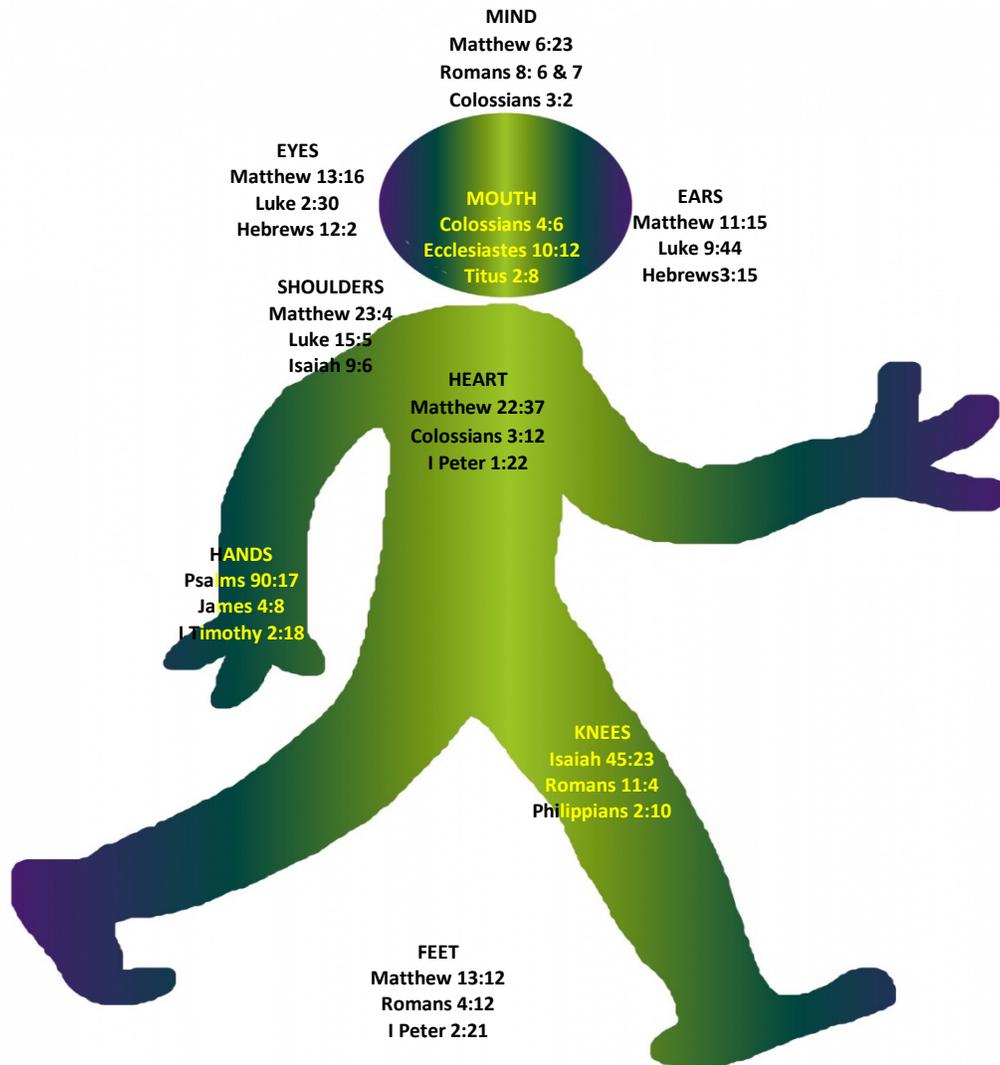


GOD'S CREATION

Louis Cook



“Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and overall th earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’ God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.” Genesis 1: 26& 27

God's Creation

Psalm 139:14, *"I will give thanks to You, for I am **fearfully and wonderfully made**; Wonderful are Your works, and my soul knows it very well,"* (NAS95).

The final and greatest achievement of all the things God created was the human body which is a wonder to scientist even today. Adam Clark's commentary on this verse, "The texture of the human body is the most complicated and curious that can be conceived. It is, indeed, wonderfully made; and it is withal so exquisitely nice and delicate, that the slightest accident may impair or destroy in a moment some of those parts essentially necessary to the continuance of life; therefore, we are fearfully made. And God has done so to show us our frailty, that we should walk with death, keeping life in view; and feel the necessity of depending on the all-wise and continual superintending care and providence of God."

He created the human body as container and transporter of the soul. It is our responsibility to maintain and nurture it all the days of our lives because it belongs to God. It is on loan to us.

1Cornithains 6:19, *"Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore, glorify God in your body."*

It is difficult to know where to start, which body part to begin with because every part contributes to the performance and support of the whole.

FEET to Follow

We will begin with the feet which support and transport the body from place to place. The feet are sometimes considered a less comely part although particularly important in daily life. A good host would provide a servant to wash the feet of their guest because of the dusty streets. Jesus used such an occasion to teach a great lesson on humility in John 13:1-13 where He washed the disciple's feet; including Judas who would betray Him shortly.

The word feet is also used to show a state of subjection, Ephesians 1:20-22 and Romans 16:10. In Acts 4:37 they are a sign of authority of the apostles.

The term feet and the steps they make are used in 1Peter 2:21, *"For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps."*

Following Jesus is a strong theme throughout the gospels and used in many of the epistles. Sixteen specific times in the first four books of the New Testament Jesus stated, "follow Me." Mark 8:34, *"And He summoned the crowd with His disciples, and said to them, 'If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.'"* Romans 4:12, 2 Thessalonians 3:7 and 9 continue with the same thought, that we should follow the examples of faith of those who follow the footsteps of Christ. Imitate the faithful, Hebrews 6:12 and 13:7.

KNEES to Bow

The knee is a most interesting part of the body. It will bend and rotate in many different directions allowing us to walk, run and perhaps more importantly the capability to bow. Bowing is an outward posture that shows reverence and subjection and should be given only to the Lord.

When we kneel before the Lord, we are showing honor, respect, paying homage, offering our adoration, and submitting to the redeemer of the world, who paid the price we could not pay. Our worship to Him is the only thing that we have to offer that did not come from God.

Isaiah 45:23, *"I have sworn by Myself, the word has gone forth from My mouth in righteousness And will not turn back, That to Me every **knee** will bow, every tongue will swear allegiance."*

Romans 11:4, *"But what is the divine response to him? "I HAVE KEPT for Myself SEVEN THOUSAND MEN WHO HAVE **NOT BOWED THE KNEE TO BAAL.**"*

Philippians 2:9, *"For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."*

Many of us have bad knees but probably very few were worn out from kneeling before the Lord. Help those with feeble knees (Hebrews 12:12).

HANDS to Work

Psalms 90:17, *"Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us; And confirm for us the work of our hands; Yes, confirm the work of our hands."* The Psalmist is requesting the favor of the Lord be upon the works of his **hands**, the efforts put forth to grow the kingdom of God. Each passing generation works to promote the growth of the Lord's church, realizing that the works of our hands will only succeed when our work is confirmed by the Lord. (1Corinthians 3:6) Faithful Christians are willing to die, trusting the work of **hands** toward the growth of the church will continue because the Lord lives and works to promote the gospel of Christ.

Our **hands** have many useful tasks to perform while providing for the necessities of life. (1 Corinthians 4:12) Paul calls on us to use our **hands** to praise God (1Timothy 2:8 & Psalm 63:4) but our **hands** must be clean to give proper worship to God. *Job 17:9, "Nevertheless the righteous will hold to his way, and he who has **clean hands** will grow stronger and stronger."* (Psalm 24:4) Jesus stated in Matthew 5:30, "if your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away to prevent losing the whole body in hell. (James 4:7) Working hands should be used to strengthen those who are weak. Hebrews 12:12, *"Therefore, strengthen the **hands** that are weak and the knees that are feeble."*

Galatians 2:9, *"and recognizing the grace that had been given to me, James and Cephas and John, who were reputed to be pillars, gave to me and Barnabas the **right hand of fellowship**, so that we might go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised."* Showing support and partnership in promoting the gospel of Christ, leaving Jerusalem to preach to the Gentile world.

Remember—the thumb is far more important for sucking, hitchhiking or a like on Facebook.

Shoulders to Carry

Shoulders, the part of the body designed to carry heavy loads, bear burdens and support those in times of distress. Jesus, in Matthew 23:4, uses the shoulders as an illustration of how the Jewish rulers treated the people unfairly. Matthew 23:4, *"They tie up heavy burdens and lay them on men's **shoulders**, but they themselves are unwilling to move them with so much as a finger."*

He speaks of the joy of carrying a weight that was not a burden in Luke 15:5, *"When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing."* A lamb was lost, the shepherd searched until he found it and used the strength of his shoulders to carry it home.

The greatest illustration of the use of the shoulders to bear a heavy burden is found in Isaiah 9:6. *"For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His **shoulders**; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace."* The prophecy of the coming Messiah, His role in bearing the burden of redeeming the world through His death on the cross, establishing His kingdom that provides salvation for all of mankind. We can offer a shoulder to support those in distress, illness, the loss of a loved one or other events that bring hardship.

Heart to Love

Colossians 3:12, *"So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience."* Having put off the old man of sin (verse 8) Paul encourages them to add, or put on, a new method of consideration, a new attitude toward mankind and especially those of like precious faith. (Galatians 5 22-26)

1 Peter 1:22, *"Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart."* No one becomes pure without great personal exertion, intentional effort to reach that goal through the application of the scriptures. It is only from this position of purity we can reach sincere love for all who are true Christians. The term fervently (root for fever) describes the intent of the genuine love, the intense affection that will be demonstrated in actions far beyond speaking the words.

John 13:34, *"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another."*

Eyes to See

"The eyes are the window to the soul," Hiram Powers. The idea of this quote comes from many passages in God's word. Matthew 13:16, Psalm 119:18. As we age sometimes our vision becomes dim, but thanks to glasses we can see again. There is a greater problem with our vision when we **allow** our eyes to be dimmed because of sin, ignorance, or failure to apply God's word to our hearts. Our eyes become blinded (John 12:40, Rom 11:8). We become unable or unwilling to see the salvation of the Lord (Luke 2:30). We will need our eyes enlighten (Ephesians 1:18, Psalm 13:3). In Acts 26:18 Paul speaks about the heavenly vision that He was to go to the Gentiles for the purpose of "opening their eyes" to enlighten and instruct them to remove the ignorance that had closed their eyes. The same can happen to us today.

1 John 1:1-3, *"What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life-- and the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us--what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ."*

Hebrews 12:2, *"fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."* We must firmly set our focus on Jesus, who offers us strength, help, and

encouragement, to finish the course, the race of life. He is the perfect example, the author and completeness of our faith: but only if our eyes are open to see Him! *Titus 2:13, "Looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus."*

Ears to Hear

Ears are the organs that receive sounds that allow us to receive instruction, learning and warnings. In the gospels Jesus stated 8 times, "he that hath ears, let him hear," this was spoken to the Jews of His day but is also applicable to us today. IF you have ears, use them.

Psalm 78:1 states, "incline your ear" to better receive instruction, another way to say, "if you have ears, use them." In Luke 9:44, "Let these words sink into your ears," Jesus was reminding them of something very important, He wanted to diligently hear, seriously consider, fully remember the statement.

The ears can resist hearing (Acts 7:51) and can be covered so you can hear nothing. (Acts 7:57) Paul issues a warning in *2 Timothy 4:3-4, "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths."* This is a strong warning about those who preach/teach to please mankind rather than God, watering down, dumbing down the power of the gospel of Christ for whatever reason stand to be commended. Proverbs 23:12. *"Apply your heart to discipline And your ears to words of knowledge."*

Mind to Discern

We are given a mind to think, reason, and discern. Jesus could have also said, "He that hath a mind, use it."

Isaiah 26:10, *"Though the wicked is shown favor, He does not learn righteousness; He deals unjustly in the land of uprightness and does not perceive the majesty of the LORD."*

This verse applies to every generation, including today. One of the greatest failures of mankind, including some who are called Christians, is NOT perceiving, or discerning the fullness of the majesty of the Lord. (Romans 1:19-22)

Consider the majesty of God: His very presence, the glory of His works, the saving power of His word, the patience and mercy to the wicked.

God provided each person a mind with the ability to choose how he would live. According to the scriptures the mind can become fleshly, hostile even depraved, futilely resisting God's will

OR

having a humble mind like Daniel (Daniel 1:8) set the mind to follow God's will. To recognize and distinguish between the ways of the world and the ways of God. Matthew 16:23, *"But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's."* A few chapters later Jesus gave us this great commandment, Matthew 22:37, *"And He said to him, "YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND."* Every part of man must be devoted to God.

Romans 12:2, *“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”*

Romans 12:2, *“Do not conform to the fashion of this world; but be transformed by the **complete change** that has come over your minds, so that you may discern what God's will is--all that is good, acceptable, and perfect, (TCNT)”*

The point Paul desires to make is that this change (renewal) effects the whole spirit including the will, affection, and our understanding. They are NOT merely external changes, but changes that return us to the condition of Matthew 22:37. The result will be external changes and habits regulated by our renewed spirit. The changes will, *“prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”* Our lives should be living proof of the majesty of God.

Mouth to Speak

God has given each of us a mouth to speak and use, but all too often we want to make excuses about how we are unable to speak publicly as Moses did in Exodus 4:10. As a reply God asked the question, “Who made your mouth?” **IF** we are being renewed (Romans 12:2) we will be able to use our mouths to glorify God.

Romans 10:8, *“But what does it say? ‘THE WORD IS NEAR YOU, in your **mouth** and in your heart’ that is, the word of faith which we are preaching.”*

Romans 10:9, *“That if you confess with your **mouth** Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”*

Romans 10:10, *“for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the **mouth** he confesses, resulting in salvation.”*

Notice the progression in these verses, the word is in your mouth, (verse 8) confession with the mouth and actions leads to salvation.

The mouth is useful for spreading the gospel (Acts 15:7 & Ephesians 6:19).

2 Thessalians 2:15, *“So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught, whether by **word of mouth** or by letter from us.”* The greatest evangelistic tool known to mankind is the individual speaking to others the gospel of Christ. Acts 8:4, *“Therefore, those who had been scattered went about preaching the word. (NAS95)* These were Christians (not the apostles who had stayed in Jerusalem), Christians who carried the gospel wherever they went. Could there be a stronger example for us to use our mouths, and keyboards to share the greatest gift ever known.

We truly are fearfully and wonderfully made.