

CAPACITIES AND POWERS OF MAN SPIRITUALLY UNDERSTOOD

Let it be quite understood that to heal well it is not necessary to have this knowledge ; but, the greater the knowledge of the world of reality and the more accurate the knowledge of its details, the easier it is to heal. In any case, this tends to greater activity of thought and a better elimination of thoughts of materiality. "As material knowledge diminishes and spiritual understanding increases, real objects will be apprehended mentally instead of materially" (*Science and Health*, p. 96, Mary Baker Eddy).

As the material world is the exact opposite of the spiritual, the highest things in heaven are the realities of the lowest in the material world. The highest thing that a man can do in heaven is to group the ideas of God together into new combinations, and pass them on to his fellow-man. This appears materially, or in counterfeit, as food passing through the system. As there are two kinds of blood, the bright, clean, arterial blood as it passes from the heart to the extremities, and the venal blood which comes back, bringing the impurities with it, so these are the counterfeits of two kinds of joy, the spiritual reality of the former being the joy that we receive when we are passed a beautiful idea, and the latter the more unselfish joy that we receive as we pass it on to our fellow-man.

First, with regard to the human being. All the parts of the human head are the counterfeit of the spiritual capacity that man has, the capacity to know things, the Christ capacity. The actual doing, or knowing, as distinguished from the capacity to know, is done with the spiritual reality of the parts of the body. This is evidenced in the material man ; for instance, a man does not see with his material eyes, or hear with his material ears: Sight and hearing are the result of vibration along the lines of the ether direct to the human mind. A man can see and hear just as well when his so-called mind has temporarily left the body.

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I was once asked to explain the eleventh chapter of I Corinthians. Treating for knowledge I explained that it had to be taken spiritually, and among other things stated that when Paul said in the third verse, "the head of every man is Christ," he meant that Christ was man's capacity to know God.

The following will now be more easily understood :—

HEAD OR CAPACITY

HEAD—capacity to know God.

BRAINS—capacity to think.

FACE—capacity to recognise.

EYES—capacity to discern God's ideas.

EARS—capacity to understand.

EAR-DRUMS—capacity to respond in thought.

NOSE—capacity to pursue a train of thought.

TEETH—capacity to analyse and dissect ideas.

GUMS—God's loving support of the capacity to analyse and dissect ideas.

MOUTH—capacity to rejoice, praise and respond.

LIPS—capacity to speak.

TONGUE—capacity to enjoy.

PALATE—capacity to appreciate God's ideas.

TONSILS—capacity to differentiate God's ideas.

VOICE—capacity to transmit God's ideas.

LARYNX—God's capacity of declaring the truth by means of which God's ideas are expressed.

NECK—capacity to turn in thought to any idea.

BREATHING—capacity to receive and pass on God's ideas ; inspiration.

HAIR ON HEAD—capacity to discern the ideas of God from whatever source or direction they come.

BODY OR POWERS

BODY—body of ideas, the infinite combinations of God's ideas which have come to man in an infinite past.

CHEST—God's loving support which enables man to hold the combinations of ideas which form the body.

THROAT—channel through which God's ideas come and go.

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BREASTS—reflection or knowledge of God as the source of supply.

JOINTS—power of movement from idea to idea in any direction.

HAND—power of grasping or discerning the ideas of God.

FINGERS—power of grasping details.

FINGER-NAILS—power of grasping and holding small details.

THUMB—power of holding ideas for comparison.

WRIST—power of grasping ideas from whatever direction they come.

ARM—power of re-presenting or passing on God's ideas to one's fellow-man.

FOREARM—power that enables man to hold God's ideas when re-presenting or passing them on.

ELBOW—power of re-presenting or passing on God's ideas in any direction.

SHOULDER—God's loving support which enables man to re-present (pass on) God's ideas.

SHOULDER-BLADE—power of God's loving support, reflecting God as substance.

LEG—power of moving from idea to idea.

HIP—power of rising in thought, God's loving support that enables man to move from idea to idea.

THIGH—the loving support of God which enables man to move from idea to idea.

KNEE—power of moving instantly from idea to idea.

ANKLE—power of moving from one idea to another, clearly and easily.

FOOT—power of continuing to grasp God's ideas.

HEEL—the first grip of an idea.

TOES—power of continuing to grasp details.

TOE-NAILS—power of continuing to grasp small details.

INTERNAL ORGANS—power of assimilating and digesting the ideas of God.

Every quality of God is reflected in the spiritual man, and therefore counterfeited in the material man. They appear as the internal organs. The following are the principal points :

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LUNGS—reflection or knowledge of God as Life, which enables man to receive the ideas.

LIVER—reflection or knowledge of God as Truth, which enables man to understand the ideas.

HEART—reflection or knowledge of God as Love which causes man to pass on the ideas and causes circulation of the joy (blood).

MIND, SO-CALLED—reflection or knowledge of God as Mind, which gives all mental activity.

ABDOMEN—reflection of God as Soul, which gives wisdom and knowledge.

KIDNEYS—reflection or knowledge of God as Spirit; the aspect, or quality, of God which gives purity and holiness.

BLADDER—power of holding ideas before passing them on.

GALL-BLADDER—power of holding ideas.

STOMACH—reflection or knowledge of God as intelligence, which enables man to hold the ideas and assimilate them.

BOWELS—channels in consciousness through which God's ideas, when grouped together, pass.

COLON or GREAT BOWEL—the reflection or knowledge of God as Soul which gives man wisdom and knowledge.

GENERATIVE ORGANS—reflection or knowledge of God as the Logos or Word, which is the aspect of God which creates the combinations of ideas.

WOMB—all encircling and sustaining power of divine Love.

OVARIES—power of cognising hitherto unknown spiritual beings.

BIRTH—becoming conscious of a hitherto unknown compound idea, or spiritual being.

MALE—the active quality of man.

FEMALE—the permanent quality of man.

BONES—reflection or knowledge of God as substance, which gives permanence to the ideas.

BACK—man's strength of moral courage.

BACKBONE—uprightness of character and moral rectitude of man.

NERVES—channels in consciousness through which man receives and re-presents (passes on) the ideas of God,

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- never giving man pain (or trouble as the case may be) but giving him joy and happiness.
- LYMPH—reflection or knowledge of God as Principle.
- BLOOD—joy, circulating throughout consciousness.
- VEINS—channels through which comes the (higher) joy when re-presenting God's ideas to man.
- ARTERIES—channels through which comes the joy when receiving God's ideas.
- MUSCLES—God's thought forces.
- LIGAMENTS—God's thought forces.
- TENDONS—the concentration of God's thought forces.
- SKIN—God's loving action preserving and maintaining man's individuality.
- MUCOUS MEMBRANE—the tender, loving action of God, which preserves and maintains man's individuality.
- TOUCH—power of recognising an idea.
- GLANDS—channels in consciousness.

The following may also be useful :

- LAMB—innocence, harmlessness.
- SERPENT—"wisdom and adroitness."*
- WORM—"tireless patience"*
- LION—"moral courage."*
- "CATTLE UPON A THOUSAND HILLS"—diligence, promptness and perseverance."*
- CAT—watchfulness.
- DOG—fidelity.
- FLEA—power of surmounting.
- BIRDS—uplifted ideas.
- TREES, PLANTS, ETC.—ramification of an idea to its fruition.
- FLOWERS—"hieroglyphs of Deity"*
- GRASS—power of being conscious of the beauty of every individual idea in a combination of ideas.
- PERFUME—gratitude.
- OIL—gladness.
- ROCKS AND MOUNTAINS—"solid and grand ideas."*
- WATER—purity.
- CLOTHING—robes of righteousness.

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FOOD—God's ideas.

CUP AND PLATE—power to hold the ideas ready for grouping together.

CHAIR—an idea of rest.

UMBRELLA—protection.

BED—an idea of peace.

TABLE—display.

FINE WHITE LINEN—righteousness.

COLOUR—distinguishing mental characteristic.

DEATH—departure into another "mansion."

FORM—identity, the state of being changeless.

GRAVITY—the law of Love.

SPACE—the realm of Mind.

TIME—the unfolding of God's ideas.

WALLS—salvation, safety.

CITY—love towards our fellow-beings.

GATE-POSTS—male and female qualities united by the gate of understanding.

GATES—understanding.

DUST—Sweet memorial of the past, power which every idea has of being remembered.

EARTH—the power of being remembered that all the ideas have which have come in an infinite past to the spiritual being, connected with the spiritual reality of the earth.

RAIN—vivifying action of God on man, enabling him to be conscious of multifarious ideas.

SNOW—vivifying action of God on man, enabling him to be conscious of multifarious ideas, and to hold the ideas.

SUN—reflection or knowledge of God as light, mental illumination.

WIND—the omnipotence of God.

MUSIC—"rhythm of head and heart."*

DANCING—two continuing together in the same train of thought.

TASTING, ETC., of food—the receiving, assimilating, digesting, understanding and re-presenting of God's ideas.

MOVEMENT FROM PLACE TO PLACE—movement from idea to idea.

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SPIRITUAL SENSE—"a conscious, constant capacity to understand God."*

THE LOGOS OR THE WORD—the action of God that causes the harmonious completion of every combination of ideas.

AEON—"A certain substantial power of divine nature, emanating from supreme Deity and performing various functions in the creation and governing of the universe" (Webster's Dictionary).

HEAVENLY CITY—man's sense of divine Science, the new Jerusalem.

SEED BEARING FRUIT WITHIN ITSELF—resuscitating law of Life.

LAMB OF GOD—"the spiritual idea of Love . . . innocence and purity."*

THE LAMB'S WIFE—"Love wedded to its own spiritual idea"* i.e., the Holy Ghost. Presents the unity of male and female as two individual natures in one, a "divinely united spiritual consciousness."*

**Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, by Mary Baker Eddy