

Maintenance of Maturity: Orientation

Perception of doctrine occurs when the Holy Spirit brings divine thought to the point of academic understanding in the association cortex. Metabolization occurs when the Christian accepts the content of this revelation as truth and thus believes the Word. The Holy Spirit circulates the information into the seven compartments of the stream of consciousness or the *kardia*.

Simultaneously, the Holy Spirit routes the data through the memory center onto the hard disk of the soul, the believer's cerebral cortex. There the Holy Spirit supernaturally blazes wheel-tracks of righteousness into the neural pathways of the believer's brain. Application occurs when vectors cause the Holy Spirit to recall certain doctrines stored on the hard disk.

Faith again becomes the issue since the doctrine recalled into the conscious mind must be accepted as the solution to a problem, the proper course of action in making a decision, or the necessary information to facilitate further spiritual growth.

The object of faith always has the merit. There is no merit in the subject because faith is a non-meritorious system of perception. We are born with faith. For example, we first learn vocabulary by faith. It is the object of faith that counts, not the worthiness of the one with faith.

There is no merit in believing; the merit lies in the object of faith. For salvation, the object of faith is Jesus Christ. For spiritual growth, the object of faith is Bible doctrine. Faith is not something we do. It is a system of perception by which we appropriate what God has already done for us. Faith is the process by which the believer taps the deposit of God's grace.

In 2 Timothy 1:14, *pistis* refers to doctrine already learned by Timothy and stored in the neural network of his brain. It refers to previously learned doctrine. The prepositional phrase has no definite article and thus calls attention to the quality of the doctrines Timothy has retained by faith.

Further, the noun *pistis* is in the instrumental case which emphasizes the content of what is learned through faith. The content of the doctrine, which Timothy previously learned from the immediate source of Paul, has great quality. The content is of such high quality because it is an exact replica of the very same doctrine possessed by Paul in his soul and in his neural network.

Since Timothy must maintain this position is why Paul begins the verse with the imperative mood:

2 Timothy 1:13 - Keep on having constellations which form a pattern, mold, or die containing correct doctrinal categories which you have heard from me as the immediate source by means of previously learned doctrines ...

Knowledge is built on knowledge, doctrine is built on doctrine, wheel-tracks associate with wheel-tracks. The ultimate result once the believer acquires a facilitated neural network is experiential sanctification, spiritual maturity, or residence in Santa Fé.

Timothy must not only maintain this status quo but even advance upon it by continuing his spiritual growth in maturity. The reason is that he must use his neural network as a pattern, mold, or die to replicate what Paul has deposited in his soul into the souls of his congregation in Ephesus.

Again, there are three assets which Timothy must use if he is to accomplish his objective. The first is consistent orientation to the previously learned doctrines replicated into his soul by Paul. The second asset is the proper mental attitude, expressed next by a second prepositional phrase: *en* + the instrumental of means from the noun: *agape* - “*by means of virtue love.*”