



**Volition: Catalyst for *Epignōsis* in the Soul & Long-Term Memory; Cerebral Cortex & Neural Pathways; Repetition Leads to Facilitation & Harmony in Soul & Body**

- (9) The cerebral cortex is the outer covering of the brain and is unique to Homo sapiens.
- (10) Human consciousness, reasoning capacity, language abilities, and decision-function occur in this cortex.
- (11) In order for decision-making to occur, all pertinent data must be analyzed and brought to the individual's academic understanding.
- (12) Making up the greatest percentage of the cerebral cortex is the association cortex. This area comprises the central processing center for thought, decision, and action.
- (13) Human volition, located in the soul, considers the information gathered in the association cortex and is thereby challenged to act or not act, accept or reject, believe or disbelieve.
- (14) The volitional decision to accept and believe the information initiates two things: (1) the Holy Spirit transfers the doctrine over to the *kardia* and catalogues its content into the seven compartments of the stream of consciousness and (2) initiates the electrochemical process which results in the establishment of a long-term memory trace in the brain, or a wheel-track of righteousness.
- (15) The next time this doctrine is reviewed then this memory trace is amplified and enlarged. This is called facilitation.
- (16) Facilitation is a neurological term that refers to the principle that a behavior pattern becomes more and more habitual with every repetition. Ultimately this memory trace becomes the path of least resistance under a given set of stimuli.
- (17) For the believer who has wheel-tracks of wickedness facilitated into paths of least resistance, his likelihood of doing the wrong thing is very high.
- (18) If that path is a wheel-track of righteousness, the likelihood of the believer doing the right thing is very high.
- (19) Under the filling of the Holy Spirit while functioning in the sophisticated spiritual life, the believer is enabled to recall the right wheel-track and is delegated the power to execute it.
- (20) Excerpts from books on neurology illustrate and document these principles of facilitation:

**Rose, Stephen. *The Making of Memory: From Molecules to Mind*. (New York: Bantam Books, 1992. Reprint. New York: Anchor Books, 1993), 259-60:**

Learning causes changes in synaptic connectivity between one neuron and another. Dendrites increase in length, change branching patterns, and the number of spines alter. Connectivity is altered not only by increasing the actual number of synapses but also by altering the size or position of any particular synapse.

**Johnson, George. *In the Palaces of Memory: How We Build the Worlds inside Our Heads*. (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1991. Reprint. New York: Vintage Books, 1992), 24-25:**



In the 1960s, Eric Kandel of Columbia University found that the synapse seemed to function like a volume control. If a synapse is turned up, the neurons on either side become more strongly connected: If the first one fires, the next is likely to follow. On the other hand, two neurons whose synapse is turned down are, in effect, disconnected. The synapses, then, seem to allow for the malleability needed for learning.

**Restak, Richard M. *The Modular Brain*. 1<sup>st</sup> ed. (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1995), 120-21:**

... even a casual effort at introspection reveals that even the most balanced of us are often of two or more "minds." One part of us wants desperately to do something, while another part resists with a ferocity that leaves us feeling disjointed and conflicted. At such times we wonder if more than one person occupies our bodies.

28. The first quote indicates the development of memory traces that occur as a result of Bible study. The second indicates that these traces are facilitated and tweaked as a result of repetition. The third reminds us that this process can be interrupted and corrupted by the invasion of *agent provocateurs* from the sinful nature which tries to subvert the spiritual advance by influencing a return to old behavior patterns, character traits, and lifestyle choices.
29. Paul realized that his soul and body were in conflict and it resulted in disharmony in both. The cure for the condition was his continued spiritual growth which would bring the conscience into harmony with the desires of God found in Scripture.
30. Once *esōterikē harmonia* was developed in his soul then *exōterikē harmonia* could be accomplished in his body which would result in an outer harmony with others.
31. These concepts are not only addressed but the believer is commanded to accomplish them in:

**Ephesians 5:6 -** Let no one seduce you by means of empty words [ **doctrines of demons** ] for because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disbelief [ **ἀπειθεία, *apeitheia*: disbelief in the Gospel** ].

**v. 7 -** Therefore, stop becoming partners with them.

**v. 8 -** For you were formerly in darkness [ **cosmic viewpoint of an unbeliever** ], but now in light [ **a believer with divine viewpoint** ] in the Lord [ **baptism of the Holy Spirit** ]. Keep on walking [ **in wheel-tracks of righteousness** ] as children of the light ...

**v. 9 -** (For the fruit [ **production** ] of the light [ **φῶς, *phōs*: divine viewpoint** ] is intrinsic good [ **ἀγαθωσύνη, *agathōsunē*: divine good in opposition to the cosmic lie** ], righteousness [ **δικαιοσύνη, *dikaioṣunē*: a virtuous lifestyle based on the divine standard** ], and truth [ **ἀλήθεια, *alētheia*: doctrine resident in the soul** ]),

**v. 10 -** ... putting to the test [ **δοκιμάζω, *dokimazō*: with the expectation of proving by application** ] those things acceptable to God.