

Doctrine of the Heart

1. **Kardia** is often used both literally and metaphorically however in Scripture we find only the metaphorical use describing the center of man's physical, spiritual and intellectual being.

1.1 The word for the physiological heart is not found in the Bible. The physical heart is an intricate muscle that circulates the blood in the body. It has two double pumps and thus moves blood through the body.

1.2 The blood pumped by the heart does many wonderful things for the body; for example the blood bathes the tissue and preserves by supplying food and oxygen.

2. The Biblical heart as we shall see is a good analogy because it circulates doctrine which provides benefits both for time and eternity.

3. Etymology and historical uses of the word heart

- The Hebrew word is **Lev** and the Greek word is **Kardia** and they both mean "heart."
- In the ancient world the heart was thought to be the center of man's intellect, soul and spirit.
- For example when Alexander the Great was wounded in India, because his injury was in the heart area there was great concern that his mind, soul and spirit would never be the same.
- The same concern was extant during medieval times. The heart was considered to be the "house" of the soul.
- Accordingly, the Bible used the word heart for man's intellect and more particularly the right lobe of the mind where doctrine is "applied."
- The word heart is never used for emotions but rather for "thinking."
- The soul is best thought to be part of the mind and the mind is part of the body.
- From the uses in Scripture the heart or right lobe is designed to dominate the soul.
- Recall the soul is the real but invisible you and for teaching purposes it is best said to consist of two lobes; a left lobe where **Gnosis** resides and a right lobe where **Epignosis** resides.

1Sa 16:7 But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the "**heart**."

4. The word **Kardiognostes** is a compound word made up of **Kardia** and **Gnosis**.

Acts 1:23 So they proposed two men: Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus and Matthias).

Acts 1:24 Then they prayed, "Lord, you know everyone's **heart**. Show us which of these two you have chosen

Acts 1:25 to take over this apostolic ministry, which Judas left to go where he belongs."

Acts 15:7 After much discussion, Peter got up and addressed them: "Brothers, you know that some time ago God made a choice among you that the Gentiles might hear from my lips the message of the gospel and believe.

Acts 15:8 God, who knows the **heart**, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us.

5. The heart is therefore part of the soul and for teaching purposes we can assume the soul has:

5.1 self-consciousness

Gen 2:7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

Gen 2:15 And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.

Gen 2:16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:

“Gen 2:17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

Gen 2:18 And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.

Gen 2:19 And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof.

Gen 2:20 And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.

Gen 2:21 And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;

Gen 2:22 And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

Gen 2:23 And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.

Gen 2:24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

5.2 mentality

Pro 19:2 Also, that the soul be without knowledge, it is not good; and he that hasteth with his feet sinneth.

Pro 19:3 The foolishness of man perverteth his way: and his heart fretteth against the LORD.

5.3 volition

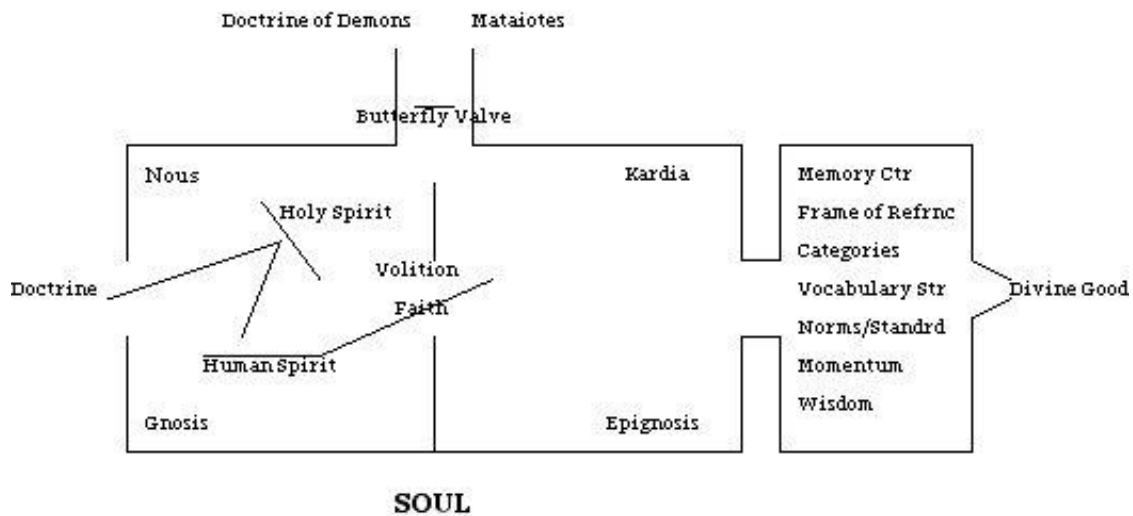
Gen 3:12 And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.

Gen 3:13 And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.

5.4 emotion

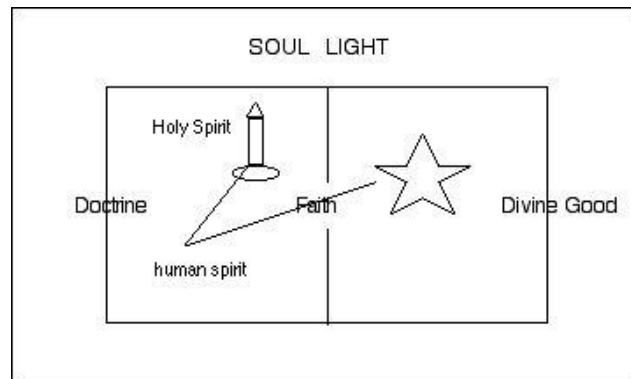
Luk 2:19 But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

6. Brain science long ago progressed to the point of establishing that the organ called the brain is divided into two hemispheres, i.e., the left and the right. The left is said to acquire data and the right is said to produce action from the data.



6.1 Similarly in the above soul chart we see the left lobe or **Nous** acquiring doctrine which when transferred by faith to the right lobe or **Kardia** the doctrine becomes functional. The heart is the target for both salvation and subsequent doctrine.

7. Doctrine must first go to the **Nous** or left lobe and then to the **Kardia** or right lobe for effective utilization. The Soul Light chart will facilitate this understanding.



8. The seven essences of the Biblical “heart” are as follows:

Memory Center

It brings into focus that which is pertinent.

It serves as a source of a whole realm of doctrines for reverse-process thinking.

It functions closely with both the vocabulary and categorical storage compartments.

Frame of Reference

It serves as a foundation for learning more complex doctrines and provides a system to move from the simple to the complex.

It provides a new perspective to life's experiences.

It makes possible our becoming Christocentric rather than anthropocentric.

It serves as a source for an alarm system to alert the soul when false doctrines are heard.

It provides a means for handling guilt.

It provides ideas and thoughts for communicating and witnessing.

Categories

It is a place where technical concepts and ideas are categorized into doctrines and are stored for use when the Memory Center and Frame of Reference demand it.

Vocabulary Storage

It is a place where words are stored to permit thought in regard to spiritual matters.

Norms and Standards

Here is where a new conscience is established.

Momentum

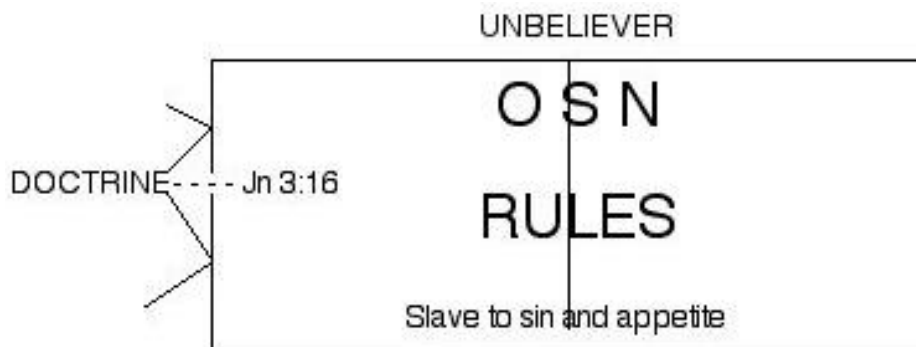
Moving doctrine from the left lobe to the right lobe provides momentum to propel the believer forward to even greater spiritual growth.

Wisdom

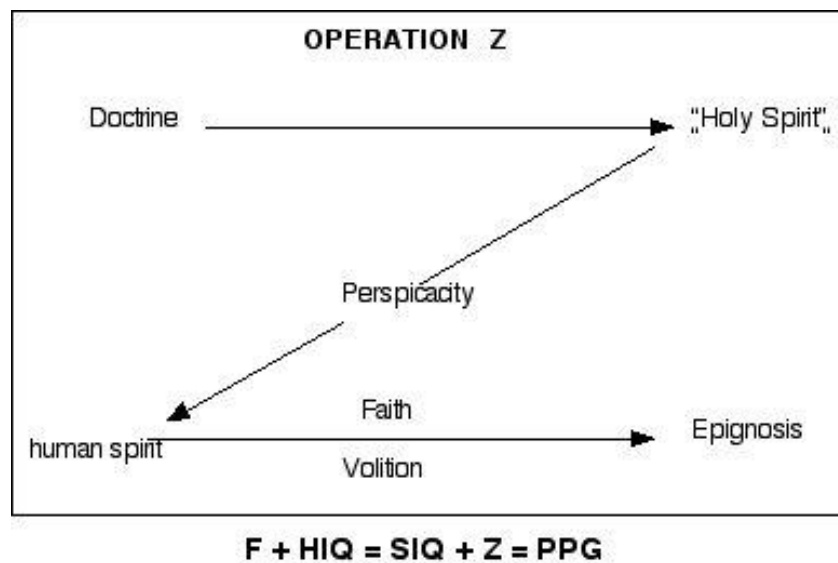
Divine viewpoint creates in the soul an ability to process data and solve complex problems with skill beyond the human IQ.

10. The function of the soul and its processing of true or false doctrine can be pictorially shown with a “negative” and “positive” schematic.

Negative Example



Positive Example



11. In closing let me remind you: You are what you think.

Pro 23:7, "As a man thinketh in his heart so is he ..."

Psa 19:14 Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.