

Victory Christian Center of Hollywood

A Church appointed to Advance the Kingdom of God!

Pastor MC Griffin Campbell, M.Div, MA 11/18/2017

THE SOUL has THREE PARTS: Mind, Will and Emotions

1. The Mind is a Part of the Soul: What is God saying

1 Corinthians 2:16 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁶ for, “Who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?”^[a] But we have the mind of Christ.

The center of the intellectual activity, an English term translating several different Hebrew and Greek terms. The biblical languages possess no one word parallel to the English, *mind* .

KJV translates at least six different Hebrew terms, *mind* . The primary word is *leb* , which means “heart.”

For example, Moses said, “The Lord hath sent me to do all these works; for I have not done them of mine own mind” ([Numbers 16:28](#) ; compare [1 Samuel 9:20](#) ; [Nehemiah 4:6](#)). In addition, the word *nephesh* (soul) is translated “mind” in [Deuteronomy 18:6](#) when it refers to the desire of a man's mind (soul) and in [Genesis 23:8](#) where it refers to mind in the sense of a decision or judgment.

The word *ruach* (spirit) is rendered “mind” in [Genesis 26:35](#) . It speaks of the “grief of mind” (spirit) which Isaac and Rebekah experienced because Esau married heathen wives.

Also used are the words *lebab* (heart) in [Ezekiel 38:10](#) ; *yetser* (imagination) in [Isaiah 26:3](#) ; and *peh* (mouth, speech) in [Leviticus 24:12](#)).

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The New Testament has a similar situation because of the large number of terms which are used to describe mankind's "faculty of cognition." As in the Old Testament the term *heart* (*kardia*) is sometimes used to represent the concept *mind* . [Matthew 13:15](#) speaks of understanding with the "heart." Other words include *ennoia* , which means "mind" in the sense of "intent" ("arm yourselves likewise with the same mind" ([1 Peter 4:1](#)). *Gnome* refers to mind in the sense of "purpose" ([Revelation 17:13](#)) or "opinion" ([Philemon 1:14](#)). *Noema* is also used to denote the mind, especially the "thought process." Paul said that Israel's "minds were blinded" so that they could not understand the Old Testament ([2 Corinthians 3:14](#) ; see also [2 Corinthians 4:4](#) ; [2 Corinthians 11:3](#)). The word *phronema* refers to what one has in the mind, the "thought": "To be carnally minded is death" ([Romans 8:6](#)).

The more common terms for mind, however, are *nous* and *dianoia* . *Dianoia* occurs twelve times in the New Testament. It refers to "thinking through" or "thinking over" of something or to the "understanding" or "sentiment" which results from that process of reflection. Paul said that in times past we all lived according to the flesh, "fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind" (those things we had already thought over, [Ephesians 2:3](#)).

Nous is the most prominent term for mind; it occurs twenty-four times. *Nous* represents the "seat of understanding," the place of "knowing and reasoning." It also includes feeling and deciding. Hence it sometimes includes the counsels and purposes of the mind. An example is Paul's statement: "Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind" ([Romans 14:5](#)). The meaning of purpose is found in [Romans 11:34](#) , which says, "Who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counselor?"

Mind is sometimes associated with the human soul. Three times in the King James Version the word *psuche* (soul or life) is rendered by the word *mind* . [Philippians 1:27](#) says believers are to be of "one mind (soul)." [Hebrews 12:3](#) urges believers not to "faint in your minds (souls)." (See [Acts 14:2](#) also.) These passages illustrate the fact that the mind is considered to be the center of the person.

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However, in Scripture the heart is more often considered to be the center of the human personality. In the Old Testament, especially, this is true because of the lack of an exact equivalent for *mind* .

The word *heart* fills this void, and the New Testament follows the practice of the Old Testament very closely. Why then can the mind as well as the heart be spoken of as the center of a person? Because in Hebrew thought a person is looked at as a single entity with no attempt to compartmentalize the person into separate parts which act more or less independently of one another.

Therefore, the heart, mind, and soul, while in some ways different, are seen as one.

The mind is portrayed oftentimes, especially in the New Testament, as the center of a person's ethncal nature. The mind can be evil. It is described as "reprobate" ([Romans 1:28](#)), "fleshly" ([Colossians 2:18](#)), vain ([Ephesians 4:17](#)), corrupt ([1 Timothy 6:5](#) ; [2 Timothy 3:8](#)), and defiled ([Titus 1:15](#)). On the other hand, three Gospels command us to love God with "all" our mind ([Matthew 22:37](#) ; [Mark 12:30](#) ; [Luke 10:27](#)). This is possible because the mind can be revived and empowered by the Holy Spirit ([Romans 12:2](#)) and because God's laws under the new covenant are put into our minds ([Hebrews 8:10](#) ; [Hebrews 10:16](#)). See [Heart](#) ; [Soul](#) ; [Anthropology](#) ; [Humanity](#)

[Romans 8:5-6](#) ESV / 223 helpful votes

For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

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[Colossians 3:2](#) ESV / 113 helpful votes Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

[Romans 12:1-2](#) ESV / 113 helpful votes

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

[Colossians 2:8](#) ESV / 63 helpful votes

See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.

[2 Corinthians 10:5](#) ESV / 63 helpful votes

We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ,

[Isaiah 26:3](#) ESV / 59 helpful votes

You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.

[2 Timothy 1:7](#) ESV / 50 helpful votes

For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

[Philippians 4:6-8](#) ESV / 44 helpful votes

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is

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pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

1 Peter 5:8 ESV / 30 helpful votes

Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

Philippians 2:5 ESV / 24 helpful votes

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,

2 Corinthians 5:17 ESV / 23 helpful votes

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

Power Point to remember:

The soul is of three parts—the mind, the will, and the emotion. This is clearly and definitely proved by the Word of God. Proverbs 2:10 gives us the spiritual ground to prove that the mind is a part of the soul.

This verse says, “Wisdom will enter your heart, / And knowledge will be pleasant to your soul.” Because knowledge is a matter of the mind, this proves that the mind is a part of the soul. Proverbs 19:21 and 24:14 also indicate that knowledge and wisdom are related to the soul. In addition, Psalm 139:14 says, “My soul knows it well.”

Since to know is a matter of the mind, this also proves that the mind must be a part of the soul. Psalm 13:2 speaks of bearing concern in the soul. This concern must be something considered in the mind.

Lamentations 3:20 says, “My soul remembers them well,” indicating that the soul can remember things. By these verses we can be clear that the mind as the organ to know, to consider, and to remember is a part of the soul.

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2. The Will is a Part of the Soul: What is God saying

Hear what God is saying:

Will

[Philippians 2:13](#) ESV / 12 helpful votes

For it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

[Psalm 51:12](#) ESV / 12 helpful votes

Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

[Matthew 26:41](#) ESV / 11 helpful votes

Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

[Matthew 24:44](#) ESV / 8 helpful votes

Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

[Hebrews 13:5](#) ESV / 7 helpful votes

Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

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Jeremiah 31:34 ESV / 7 helpful votes

And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

Revelation 19:11-21 ESV / 6 helpful votes

Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. ...

1 Peter 5:8 ESV / 6 helpful votes

Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

Hebrews 4:12 ESV / 5 helpful votes

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

The second part of the soul is the will. Job 7:15 says, "My soul would choose," and 6:7 says, "My soul refuses." To choose and to refuse are both decisions and functions of the will. These passages prove that the will must be a part of the soul. First Chronicles 22:19 says, "Now set your heart and your soul to seek after Jehovah your God." Just as we set our mind to think, this verse says that we set our soul to seek. This is, of course, to make a decision. That the soul makes a decision also proves that the will is a part of the soul. Numbers 30:2

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says, “When a man vows a vow to Jehovah or swears an oath to bind himself by pledge...” The term *to bind oneself*, which occurs eleven times in this chapter, literally means “to bind one’s soul.” To bind the soul is to make a decision. This chapter in Numbers deals with vows made to the Lord. Since we must make a decision to bind our soul to vow to the Lord, this also proves that the will must be a part of the soul. It would be good for the brothers and sisters, especially the young ones, to remember all these verses. They should pick up the burden to learn this.

3. The Emotions is a Part of the Soul: Hear what God is saying

[Philippians 4:6-7](#) ESV / 319 helpful votes

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

[Proverbs 29:11](#) ESV / 302 helpful votes

A fool gives full vent to his spirit, but a wise man quietly holds it back.

[Proverbs 15:18](#) ESV / 174 helpful votes

A hot-tempered man stirs up strife, but he who is slow to anger quiets contention.

[Romans 12:2](#) ESV / 157 helpful votes

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

[Galatians 5:16-24](#) ESV / 139 helpful votes

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But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, ...

[Ecclesiastes 3:4](#) ESV / 117 helpful votes

A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

[Romans 12:15](#) ESV / 92 helpful votes

Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.

[Joshua 1:9](#) ESV / 78 helpful votes

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

The emotion comprises many things, including love, hatred, joy, and grief. Song of Songs 1:7 and Psalm 42:1 show us that to love is a function of the soul. This proves that within the soul there is the organ, the function, of the emotion. Second Samuel 5:8, Psalm 107:18, and Ezekiel 36:5 show us that hating, loathing, and despising are also in the soul. Despising in the soul is the hatred of the soul. Since these are emotions, this also proves that the emotion must be a part of the soul.

Joy is a great part of the emotion. Isaiah 61:10 and Psalm 86:4 tell us that joy is in the soul. This again proves that the emotion is a part of the soul. Deuteronomy 14:26 and Jeremiah 22:27 tell us that the soul desires. According to the better translations and Strong’s or Young’s concordances, *desire* in Jeremiah 44:14 and *set their heart* in Ezekiel 24:25 are literally *lift up the soul*. These verses tell us that the desire

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of the emotion is something in our soul. In addition, 1 Samuel 30:6, Judges 10:16, and Job 30:25 speak of bitterness, misery, and grief in the soul.

The verses of the Scriptures above are the ground to say that within the soul there are three parts—the mind as the leading part with the will and the emotion. These are the best verses to prove this, but they are not the only ones. If we study the entire Scriptures, it is hard to find anything other than these three parts in the soul. These three parts comprise all the functions of the soul.