

IX. Repetition Enlarges a Trace into a Path of Least Resistance

A person is told that he can have eternal life by simply placing his faith in Jesus Christ. He is informed who Jesus is, what He accomplished on the cross, and that as a result He becomes the only means by which he might have a relationship with God through the forgiveness of his sins. Documentation may be given from:

John 3:16 - For God unconditionally loved the world so much [the entire human race] that it resulted in Him giving His Son--the uniquely-born One--[equal provision of salvation to all] for the purpose of assuring that everyone who believes in Him [faith alone in Christ alone] shall not perish [eternal salvation] but have eternal life [eternal security].

The memory trace is laid by means of interlocking x number of neurons through synaptic connections. This memory trace concludes at the terminal neuron with the conclusion and belief that he has eternal security and as a result he will go to heaven when he dies. But a false doctrine comes into his soul which suggests that salvation cannot be maintained unless works are added to faith.

The positive believer is thus challenged to consider this claim in relationship to what he already believes.

If his volition opts to stay with the clear and obvious verbiage of John 3:16, he will not be sidetracked although possibly inspired to search the Scripture for an answer to the apparent contradiction.

Then at Bible class the pastor teaches:

Ephesians 2:8 - For it is by grace you have been saved in the past with the result that you stand saved forever, through faith; and that salvation is not of yourselves, it is a gift of God;

A new reference confirming the original conclusion is now added to the believer's inventory of ideas. When the subjects of grace salvation or assurance of eternal life come up again, they stimulate recall not only John 3:16 but also Ephesians 2:8, Ephesians 2:9.

The memory trace is now two lanes wide as confidence in one's eternal future increases. A third verse may soon come into play.

Romans 8:1 - There is no judgment for those who are in Christ Jesus.

The memory trace is now three lanes wide. Confidence is gained which assures the believer that he will never face the judicial wrath of the justice of God. Next the advancing believer learns of his royal aristocracy.

Galatians 4:7 - Therefore, you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then on heir through God.

Galatians 4:8 - For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

The believer now realizes that he is somebody through faith in Christ. This builds his spiritual self-esteem as cognition of doctrine has given him spiritual self-confidence.

The memory trace is now four lanes wide. He now has momentum which increases as he learns of rewards and blessings associated with executing the Christian way of life.

1 Peter 1:3 - God has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

1 Peter 1:4 - to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

1 Peter 1:5 - who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Such cognition establishes independence for this believer. He now has the inner wisdom to defend his soul against the assaults of false gospels. His memory trace is now five lanes wide.

Next, he goes through momentum testing which challenges his belief system through thought, people, system, and disaster testings.

Through it all the Holy Spirit continues to bring to his mind the promises of Scripture stored on the memory traces in his brain. The power of doctrine allows him to endure so that he is able to conclude that with Job,

Job 13:15 - Though He slay me, I will trust in Him.

Cognition of truth for this believer has caused the engram documenting his salvation and eternal security to reach maximum efficiency. No false gospel has any impact, no outside adversity diminishes his confidence, no category of testing causes him to waver from his belief. He has become doctrinally invincible.

(See Transparency: Stream of Consciousness & Problem-Solving Devices) This process of spiritual growth has enlarged the memory trace which documents this believers' belief in eternal security and salvation by grace. Dendrites have grown, spines have been added, synapses have multiplied, connections have been altered, switched, and refined so that the most efficient flow of data regarding these doctrines has been achieved.

Thus, spiritual growth can be literally observed—visually, electrically, and chemically—in the expanding brain capacity of the advancing believer. This is indicted on the “*Creation of Problem-Solving Devices*” chart by the two categories of the stream of consciousness called momentum and wisdom.

Permanently etched within the memory traces of this believer's soul is an eternal record of his faith in Christ, his confidence in eternal life, a belief in eternal security, membership in royal aristocracy, eternal rewards, and invincibility in the face of the life's most grueling adversities.

Paul confirms our discovery in:

1 Corinthians 3:3 - You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Holy Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

For this believer, the wheel-tracks of righteousness have become paths of least resistance, enabling him to say with Psalmist:

Psalms 119:105 - Your Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

We should note in closing the word used by the Psalmist which is translated “*path*.” It is the Hebrew *netîbâ* which has the following definition in:

Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament, page 1440b, s.v. “netîbâ”:

netîbâ. A footpath or way which one travels physically or morally. Often used in the sense of a course of life, especially one which is of God's appointment. It speaks of moral character or action, either good or wicked.

The closest synonyms would be *magal* “*wheel-track, rut*” and *mesillâ* “*highway*.”