

CHAPTER NINE - THE FOUR FUNCTIONS OF CONSCIOUSNESS

INTRODUCTION TO CHAPTER

Our consciousness is made up of all the dimensions of our awareness. It consists of our innate capacity to intuit, to think, to feel, and to sense. As we engage the process of self-observation, we learn to see ourselves as spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical beings.

In this chapter we will explore the meaning and dynamics of each of these functions of consciousness so that we may become more aware of expressing ourselves in a complete and balanced way.

*The reaction of
any of our 5 senses
to any impressions
made on us
in life.*

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9A SENSATION:

*The desire for
sensation is symbolized
by the serpent in the garden
of Eden.*

*The five parables
bordering the healing spa
of Bethesda*

"The five senses are simply avenues of one great central desire - sensation. The I AM desired experience in sensation, and the five senses are the five formulated avenues through which it enjoys that experience" (TT/82).

"When life is expressed in divine order it is pronounced good. What is termed 'sense consciousness' in man is not to be condemned but lifted up to its rightful place" (MG/24).

"The senses are accurate within their own ranges, but their ranges are so circumscribed that you cannot from the senses alone gain any appreciable knowledge of reality. There are vast universes of being that the senses do not touch, and in order not to be deceived you must have a more capable guide, a more comprehensive reporter of events than the senses ever can be" (WAY/57). — Shankler

Sensation is the function of consciousness by which we experience the phenomenal world. In other words, it is the means by which we obtain direct outer knowing. We use our five senses to appreciate and participate in the beauty and energy of manifestation. However, when our five senses become our source of information about what is ultimately real and true, we will be using our function of sensation erroneously and it will not serve its highest purpose in our lives.

9B THINKING:

"Thinking -- The formulating process of mind . . . The thinking faculty is the inlet and the outlet of all your ideas . . . The thinking faculty in you makes you a free agent, because it is your creative center; in and through this one power you establish your consciousness -- you build your world" (RW/192).

True, constructive
Thoughts are of ~~various~~ ^{ASPECT} ~~of~~ ^{of} divine ideas

"Think; do not be content in playing at thinking, your brain will enjoy the exercise involved in real thinking; . . . Search. Delve into the matter that interests you; do not be satisfied with skimming the surface . . . Use your full mental equipment" (WAY/109).

Thinking is the function of consciousness by which we develop ideas into concepts, or rational patterns of thought. We use our intellect to observe, record, arrange, and evaluate the input we receive both from our intuition and from the sense world. However, thoughts which are based solely on sense impressions can be risky; they may or may not reflect Truth. It is important for each of us to invest our attention and energy in the process of thinking and unfold our powerful mental capacity so that we can make the fullest use of divine ideas.

True, constructive
Feeling is of ~~various~~ ^{ASPECT} ~~of~~ ^{of} divine ideas

9C FEELING:

Feeling is of ~~various~~ ^{ASPECT} ~~of~~ ^{of} divine ideas

"Feeling is external to thought; behind every feeling or emotion there lies thought, which is its direct cause. To erase a feeling, a change of thought is required" (RW/73).

Emotions ??
↓
feelings dominated by various ~~emotions~~ ^{or depression}

"Feeling is mental reaction to things recognized or unrecognized . . . Your ideals are the parents of your impulses and your feelings. Whatever your ideals may have been in the past, the impulses and the feelings generated by them will be supplanted by the offspring of more sublime ideals, as these are adopted and cherished by you" (WAY/24).

Feeling is the function of consciousness by which thoughts are empowered and made personal. Feelings reflect our thoughts, and they are the avenues by which we express the energy generated by these thoughts. We must perpetually observe our feelings so that we are able to discern the character of our thoughts. Feelings which reflect error thought will be destructive and uncomfortable, whereas feelings which reflect inspired thinking will be constructive and fulfilling.

9D INTUITION:

"Intuition--The natural knowing capacity. Inner knowing; the immediate apprehension of spiritual Truth without resort to intellectual means . . . Through the power of intuition, man has direct access to all knowledge and the wisdom of God" (RW/108).

STRICTLY HUMAN!

Intuition is the function of consciousness by which we receive divine ideas direct from divine mind. We intuitively perceive spiritual truth, which is our divine inheritance as children of God. Intuition is the highest function of human consciousness. This intuitive function is inherent in all humankind; however, we need to cultivate an awareness of its perpetual activity in our lives so that we are able to recognize and discern divine guidance.

9E CULTIVATING BALANCE:

THE SENSES: "Your mind will accept the reports of the senses until you have trained it to distinguish between permanence and impermanence" (WAY/27).

THINKING: "Do not let your thoughts run riot . . . Put all the force of order into your thinking" (WAY/33).

FEELING: "Harness your moods. Make them work for you. They embody great power" (WAY/34).

INTUITION: "You do not have to wait on time or on inspiration . . . Time always is yours; inspiration is continuous . . . (WAY/34).

"You have as much power as anyone that ever has been on this planet or that ever will be . . . Face life and its situations with courage. You can unform and reform; you can bring new shapes of good from the treasury of your mind. The world is yours. Heaven is yours. All power is yours" (WAY/29 and 38).

Each of the four functions must be developed to its fullest potential so that we are able to achieve a balanced state of consciousness.

In Bible numerology symbols
4 is the symbol of
Balance
Sufferency

(40 days & 40 nights)
144,000 redeemed in the
book of Revelation
WHITE RED BLACK
4 Horsemen of Revelation
4 Lesser creatures of
Revelation
(4-fold aspect of human nature)
FLYING EAGLE OF SPIRITUAL
FACE OF A MAN MENTAL
CALF - EMOTIONAL
LION PHYSICAL

SUMMARY STATEMENTS

CHAPTER NINE

THE FOUR FUNCTIONS OF CONSCIOUSNESS IS A FRAMEWORK BY WHICH WE BECOME AWARE OF THE SPIRITUAL, MENTAL, EMOTIONAL, AND PHYSICAL COMPONENTS OF OUR BEING.

SENSATION REFERS TO THE USE WE MAKE OF OUR FIVE SENSES IN ORDER TO EXPERIENCE THE PHENOMENAL WORLD. SENSATION IS DIRECT OUTER KNOWING.

THINKING IS THE FORMULATING PROCESS OF MIND KNOWN AS THE INTELLECT WHICH TRANSLATES DIVINE INSPIRATION INTO MENTAL CONCEPTS.

FEELING IS THE FUNCTION OF CONSCIOUSNESS BY WHICH THOUGHTS ARE EMPOWERED AND MADE PERSONAL.

INTUITION IS DIRECT INNER KNOWING. IT IS THE FUNCTION OF CONSCIOUSNESS BY WHICH WE RECEIVE DIVINE IDEAS DIRECT FROM DIVINE MIND.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO MAKE RIGHT USE OF OUR FUNCTIONS OF CONSCIOUSNESS AND DEVELOP OUR USE OF THEM TO THE FULLEST IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE A BALANCED STATE OF CONSCIOUSNESS.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What are some of the ways in which our intellect can deceive us? How can we develop our intellect so that it serves to enhance our process of spiritual evolution?

"Clothe your mind with the garments of Truth,
and let your thoughts yield to you
this wealth of spiritual power.
Think from the truth alone; for when you think about
the outer, material world,
it is by your spiritual thinking
that you build up your spiritual organization."
(MLA/116)

2. What are some ways in which we can cultivate a greater awareness of our intuitive function of consciousness? How can we recognize true guidance?

SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS

Albee, Charles, Atom Teaching Power of Mind, chapter 11, "The Only God."
Tilton, Jane, God is the Answer, chapter 1, "Buried Talents."

THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION AND MEDITATION

*"Clothe your mind with the garments of Truth,
and let your thoughts yield to you
their wealth of spiritual power.*

*Think from the truth standpoint when you think about
the outer, material world.*

*It is by your spiritual thinking
that you build up your spiritual consciousness."*

(HLG/116)

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SUPPLEMENTARY READING

Fillmore, Charles, Atom Smashing Power of Mind, chapter 11, "The Only Mind."

Gatlin, Dana, God is the Answer, chapter 2, "Buried Talents."