



Pearls from Day 4: The *Who* of Mental Prayer part 1 - Our Role and What It Means to be Human

To enter fully into relationship with God, we need to know what it means to be human.

Christian Anthropology explains who and what the human person is - based on both reason (knowledge we can obtain with our own mental abilities) and revelation (knowledge that we can only receive from God). Humans are at the top of Creation and it's important to understand how we relate to other living things.

BEING	SOUL	POWERS (FACULTIES)
Human	Rational (Eternal Spirit)	Intellect Will IMAGE AND LIKENESS OF GOD
Animal	Sensitive	Movement External Senses (sight, hearing...) Internal Senses (perception, imagination, memory, estimation/cognition) Emotions
Plant	Vegetative	Nutrition Growth Reproduction

Humans, plants and animals all have a soul and powers (or faculties) appropriate to their state of being.

Our spiritual faculties (intellect and will) are higher than our sensitive faculties (which we share with animals). This is because we are made in the image and likeness of God, and God is pure spirit.

In a well-formed person, the intellect should inform the will so that the will makes good choices. The emotions (as well as memory, imagination and cognition) merely support the intellect and will; they are subordinate.

The will is higher than the intellect because while we can never know God perfectly (He is infinite and we are finite, we can never fully know Him), we can always love perfectly (we can always choose God's will).

GOD'S DESIGN	
INTELLECT	Ability to know and understand. Action - know what is True. God is Truth.
WILL	Governing Faculty – freely choose and act. Action - to love goodness. God is Goodness (God is the greatest good).
EMOTIONS	Attract us to something perceived as good or desirable. Move away from something perceived as bad or undesirable. Automatic responses. Support Intellect and Will.

EFFECT OF THE FALL - #1	
INTELLECT is DARKENED	Difficult to know truth.
WILL is WEAKENED	We don't readily choose the good. We don't see our good choices through.
EMOTIONS are DISORDERED	Attract to things that are bad. Move away from things that are good.

There are two ways the fall has damaged the human person. First, our intellect is darkened, our will is weakened, and our emotions are disordered.

Second, our faculties themselves are disordered. Instead of our intellect and will being the highest faculties, our disordered emotions tend to dictate how we behave.

One of the great missions we have in this life is to properly integrate our spiritual and sensitive powers and order them to God.

