

Mental Illness That Psychology Cannot Identify

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There have been many heinous crimes throughout man's history that defy logic and all sense of decency. The perpetrators of these acts are often regarded as being mentally unstable. In response to these tragedies and atrocities, some people claim that mankind will reach a point in the future when mental illnesses can be predicted in advance and treated through genetic manipulation, thus eliminating the serious problems that have occurred in past generations. However, because some mental illnesses are not related to physical deficiencies, man's best scientific efforts will never be able to treat, let alone cure, all forms of mental illness successfully. As psychology is regarded as a science, it does not recognize the existence of a spirit realm in its diagnosis of mental illness. This means that the treatment of certain psychological conditions will not address the root cause. Instead, medication is often used in an attempt to manage or suppress the symptoms of some mental disorders.

Psychology operates upon scientific evidence, clinical observation, and testable theories. The behavioral approach to psychology deals with what can be observed. The founder of psychological behaviorism, John B. Watson, believed that psychologists should not study internal thinking processes because those can't be observed, and he criticized other psychological theories that focused on the unobservable, because he considered them less scientific.

As early as the 4th century B.C., Greek physician Hippocrates theorized that mental disorders were of a physical, rather than divine (i.e. spiritual), nature. (T.L. Brink. (2008) Psychology: A Student Friendly Approach. "Unit

One: The Definition and History of Psychology." p. 9).

However, as mankind was created with a spiritual component, physical observations alone will not accurately diagnose every mental disorder.

Because some areas of psychology rely on research methods such as surveys and questionnaires, critics have asserted that psychology is not an objective science. Other concepts that psychologists are interested in, such as personality, thinking, and emotions, cannot be directly measured (Panksepp, J. (1998), *Affective Neuroscience: The Foundations of Human and Animal Emotions*. New York Oxford University Press, p.9).

In this study, God's word will be examined as the standard and guide for determining the cause behind some mental disorders. Despite the humanistic approach to psychology, which believes people are inherently good, Holy Scripture describes human nature as being inherently hostile to God and in opposition to what He defines as good.

Because the carnal mind is enmity (hostile) against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be (without God's intervention) (Rom. 8:7; cf. Isa. 30:9; NKJV used throughout unless otherwise noted; Ed. notes in parentheses).

Because mankind was created in God's image and as God is spirit (Gen. 1:26-27), there is a spiritual component within each human being that separates humanity from animals and explains why mankind can design, create, reason, and deal with complex challenges such as traveling to outer space. Mankind also contemplates the future including life after death, which animals do not.

He (God) has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity (desire to know what happens after this life is over) in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end (Ecc. 3:11; cf. 1Cor. 13:12; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

The desire to understand why we are here and what the future holds for us is unique to mankind. These thoughts only occur because God created mankind in a manner that allows communication to occur between Him and His subjects.

But there is a spirit in man, and the breath of the Almighty gives him understanding (Job 32:8).

Because of this spiritual connection between Almighty God and mankind, wisdom can be imparted to those He is working with at any given time.

As for these four young men (Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah), God gave them knowledge and skill in all literature and wisdom; and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams (Dan. 1:17; Ed. note in parenthesis).

It is through this spiritual conduit that God can reveal Himself to those He calls to repentance.

Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God; Your Spirit is good. Lead me in the land of uprightness. ¹¹Revive me, O Lord, for Your name's sake bring my soul out of trouble (Psa. 143:10-11).

... the goodness of God leads you to repentance (Rom. 2:4b).

No one can come to me (Christ) unless the Father who sent me draws him... (Jn. 6:44a; Ed. note in parenthesis).

And he (Christ) said, 'Therefore I have said to you (previously) that no one can come to me

unless it has been granted to him by my Father' (Jn. 6:65; Ed. notes in parentheses).

Because mankind rejected God's governance following the creation of Adam and Eve, and continues to ignore God's commands to this day, they are cut off from regular communication with Him unless He acts to lead them to repentance.



...THE GOODNESS OF GOD LEADS TO
REPENTANCE.

Romans 2:4b

Then to Adam He (God) said, 'Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you saying, 'You shall not eat of it' (symbol representing Satan's way of living): Cursed is the ground for your sake; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. ¹⁸Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field. ¹⁹In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you are, and to dust you shall return (Gen. 3:17-19; Ed. notes in parentheses).

Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear. ² But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear (Isa. 59:1-2).

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23).

Although the majority of mankind is not led by God's Holy Spirit, they still have the means to respond to spiritual values, either good or bad. This presents a problem because there is a rebellious spirit-host that is able to broadcast their attitudes and create a multitude of problems for mankind. One such channel they use includes certain mental illnesses. Their chief

leader is Satan and he works constantly to deceive everyone under his influence (1Pet. 5:8). His ability to broadcast negative and rebellious attitudes is described in the following scripture.

And you (repentant sinners) He (God) made alive, who were dead (spiritually) in trespasses and sins, ² in which you once walked according to the course (SGD104 - aion, aeon) of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit (Satan) who now works in the sons of disobedience (Eph. 2:1-2; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

Satan's ability to broadcast to human beings is so pervasive that he has been able to mislead every human being to one degree or another, even those who believe they understand God's truth accurately and are fighting their hardest to oppose his influence in their life choices.

So the great dragon (symbol of Satan) was cast out (cf. Lk. 10:17-20), that serpent of old (cf. Gen. 3:1), called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels (now demons) were cast out with him (Rev. 12:9; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

Unfortunately, there are people who have experienced serious family problems that leave them more vulnerable to negative or rebellious influences. This is why family stability is so important and why the traditional family is under attack on a number of fronts today - including gay relationships, single parent households, poor societal role models, delinquent fathers, etc. Children from these backgrounds are more likely to be dysfunctional because they are not equipped with the tools or emotional fortitude required to deal with the stresses associated with an insecure family situation, let alone the instability of society as a whole. As Satan focuses his efforts on those who are in a weakened state, young people from troubled families are prime targets.

Be sober (self-controlled), be vigilant (watchful); because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour (1Pet. 5:8; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

To make matters worse, those with a troubled family background are more vulnerable to drug and alcohol abuse, promiscuity, acts of violence, and suicide. The Adversary can exploit anyone involved in these patterns of behavior in his attempt to prevent them from understanding God's truth.

...neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, ¹⁰nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God (1Cor. 6:9b-10).

Anyone consumed by greed is also open to the influence of Satan. In the case of Judas Iscariot, his obsession with money eventually led to Satan taking complete control of his mind.

This he (Judas Iscariot) said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it (Jn. 12:6; Ed. note in parenthesis).

Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread drew near, which is called Passover. ² And the chief priests and the scribes sought how they might kill him (Christ), for they feared the people. ³ Then Satan entered Judas, surnamed Iscariot, who was numbered among the twelve. ⁴ So he went his way and conferred with the chief priests and captains, how he might betray him (Christ) to them. ⁵ And they were glad, and agreed to give him money (Lk. 22:1-5; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

Deep seated hatred, resentment, or anger can also open someone to Satan's influence. In these situations, a human being can appear to

be out of their mind and acts of violence are not uncommon.

So the Lord said to Cain, 'Why has your countenance fallen? ⁷ If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well (i.e. repent), sin lies at the door. And its desire is for (toward) you, but you should rule over it.' ⁸ Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose against Abel his brother and killed him (Gen. 4:6-8; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

There are many circumstances that open individuals up to Satan's influence and when this occurs they can appear to be out of their mind. Conversely, when Satan's influence is removed, a person will appear to be in their right mind.



AND JESUS REBUKED THE DEMON,
AND HE CAME OUT OF HIM (THE
CHILD); AND THE CHILD WAS CURED
FROM THAT VERY HOUR.

Matthew 17:18; cf. Mark 9:17-29; Ed. note in parenthesis

Then they came to Jesus, and saw the one who had been demon-possessed and had the legion (of demons), sitting and clothed and in his right mind... (Mk. 5:15a; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

In the scripture above, the man was possessed by many demons. In psychology today, someone who is possessed by a multitude of demons is incorrectly diagnosed with a multiple personality disorder because the spirit realm is not taken into account. People who are possessed by a number of demons can be very dangerous to themselves as well as others. Administering drugs to sedate people like this does not deal with the root cause of the problem. And when he (Christ) stepped out on the land, there met him a certain man from the city who

had demons for a long time. And he wore no clothes, nor did he live in a house but in the tombs. ²⁸ When he saw Jesus, he cried out, fell down before him, and with a loud voice said, 'What have I to do with you, Jesus, son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me!' ²⁹ For he (Christ) had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For it had often seized him, and he was kept under guard, bound with chains and shackles; and he broke the bonds and was driven by the demon into the wilderness. ³⁰ Jesus asked him, saying, 'What is your name?' And he said, 'Legion,' because many demons had entered him (Lk. 8:27-30; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

And when they had come to the multitude, a man came to him (Christ), kneeling down to him and saying, ¹⁵ 'Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is a lunatic and suffers severely; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water' (Mt. 17:14-15; KJV; Ed. note in parenthesis).

And Jesus rebuked the demon, and he came out of him (the child); and the child was cured from that very hour (Mt. 17:18; cf. Mk. 9:17-29; Ed. note in parenthesis).

Only Jesus Christ has authority to cast out demons permanently. However, those who live by every word of God, as Christ instructed (Mt. 4:4), have also been given authority to cast out demons.

Then the seventy (seventy-two) returned with joy, saying, 'Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name (Lk. 10:17; Ed. note in parenthesis).

Apparently, some demons can be expelled but return if an individual continues to be involved in the same practices that invited the demon in the first place.

When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest; and

finding none, he says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.'²⁵ And when he comes, he finds it swept and put in order.²⁶ Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first (Lk. 11:24-26).

The demons know who has Christ's authority to expel them and will leave a human being if they are commanded to do so. Conversely, they will not depart if the person or persons do not have that authority.

Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists took it upon themselves to call the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, 'We adjure you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches.'¹⁴ Also there were seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, who did so.¹⁵ And the evil spirit answered and said, 'Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?'¹⁶ Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, overpowered them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded (Ac. 19:13-16).

Even though we live in a supposedly enlightened, scientific, and technologically advanced world today, many people are obsessed with the occult, mediums, astrology, witchcraft, sorcery, and the worship of idols. All these activities involve the fallen host of heaven and are condemned by Almighty God (Dt. 18:10-14). Depending on the degree of involvement, anyone participating is open to demon influence, which can lead to demon possession. Those who are demon possessed may not appear to be in their right mind and some may end up being involved in acts of violence. In ancient Israel's history, their involvement with false religious systems became so pervasive and perverse that parents came to the point of sacrificing their sons and daughters. This is happening today, psychologically speaking, when parents allow

their children to be absorbed with various forms of the occult.

They (ancient Israel) even sacrificed their sons and daughters to demons,³⁸ and shed innocent blood, even the blood of their sons and daughters, whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan; and the land was polluted with blood (Psa. 106:37; Ed. note in parenthesis).

Unfortunately, it is only when hideous acts of violence occur that society attempts to answer the questions regarding why these things happen and what the cause of these tragedies is. Underlying most, if not all, of these problems is a lack of knowledge regarding what is godly and ungodly conduct. Because mankind as a whole share in the values of the fallen host more than Almighty God's values, as summarized in His law and commandments, they can never come to an accurate understanding of the causes behind the atrocities that have occurred throughout history. The mental illnesses associated with some acts of violence are fruits of demon influence to one degree or another, but this truth will never be recognized, let alone acknowledged, by psychology. Consequently, human atrocities will continue.

Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! (Isa. 5:20).

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