



The Power of Dopamine

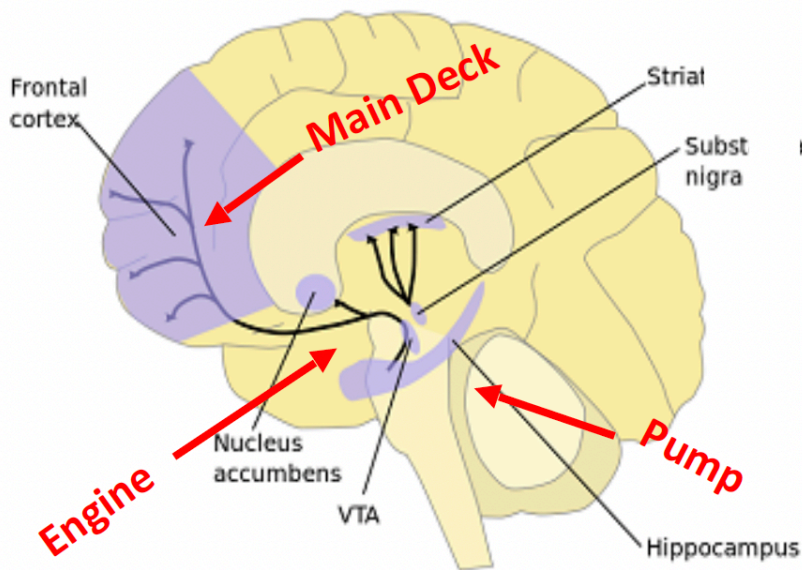
Neuroscientist Marwa Azab Ph.D.,
describes the brain chemical Dopamine:

“The brain’s dopamine circuit is not a like system. It is a motivational (want) system in pursuit of a pleasure or goal.”

The same dopamine power that motivated the minds of American scientists to land a man on the moon is also motivating millions to land in our jails, prisons, mental hospitals, and cemeteries!

In James 1:14,15 **WANT** (dopamine) is depicted as a force pulling a man away “by his own desires” until “the desire has conceived” and “gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.”

Think of the brain's dopamine (want) circuit as powerful ship:



Think of the nucleus accumbens as the **Engine** that gets us moving toward what we want.

Think of the VTA as the **Pump** that sends fuel (dopamine) to the engine, to keep us moving toward what

Think of the frontal cortex as the **Main Deck** that governs our wants (Engine & Pump).

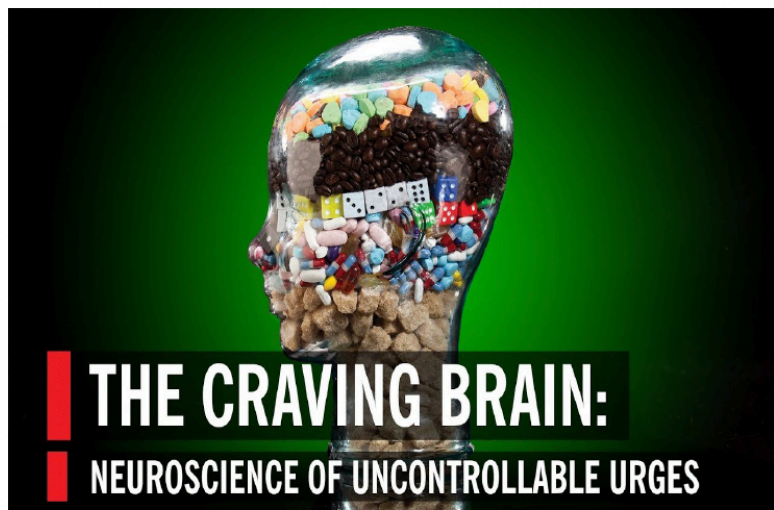


Holy Spirit power jump started and fueled the creation (Genesis 1:2,3), Holy Spirit power accomplished the conception of Jesus, the Son of God (Luke 1:34,35), and Holy

Spirit power “raised Jesus from the dead” (Romans 8:11). **This is the level of power our Main Deck needs to govern our Engine and Pump and regain control of a hijacked system!**

WANT is a powerful biological force we must respect!

Neuroscientist Tiffany Rogers warns about an overactive reward (**WANT**) system: **“To survive, we need to be motivated. However, too much motivation (dopamine) can hijack our reward circuit.”**



Neuroscientist, Marc Lewis warns us about how our **WANT** pump and **WANT** engine can hijack our **WANT** governor: **“First, the trigger or cue leads to craving. Craving leads to intensified imagining of the wanted activity. When it gets intense enough, you go get or do what you want...then you feel pleasure, then loss & guilt, and soon your craving (dopamine) returns.”**

WANT is a powerful spiritual

force we must respect!

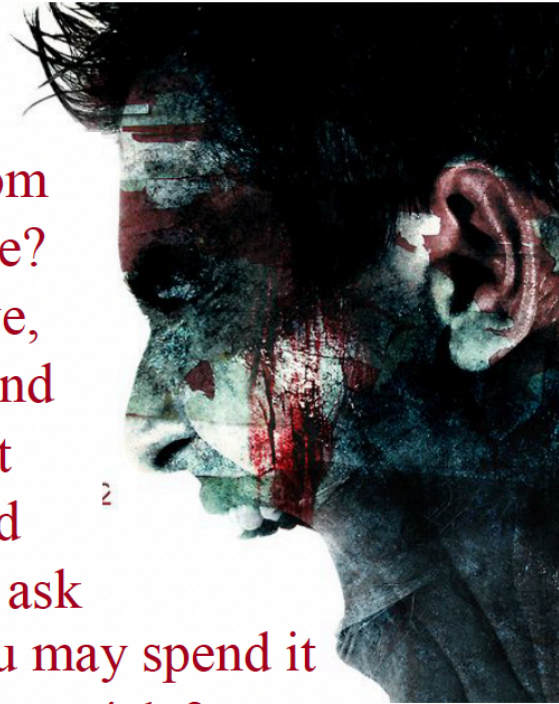
“Where do wars and fights come from?

...Do they not come from your desires for pleasure?

You lust and do not have, you murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight

and war . . . You ask and do not receive, because ask

you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.” James 4:1-3



The **“wars and fights”** take place in the dopamine pathways of the mind!

In James 4:1-3, the words

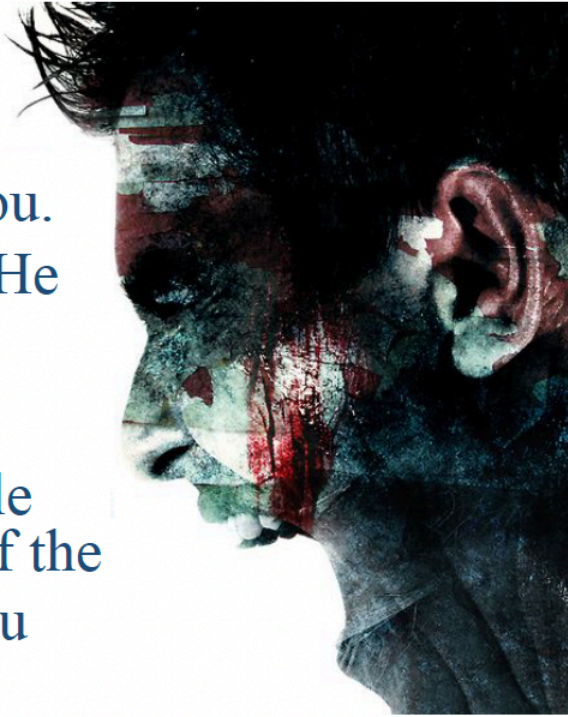
“lust, murder, and covet”

imply the mind’s (ship’s) **Main Deck**

has lost control of its fuel **Pump**

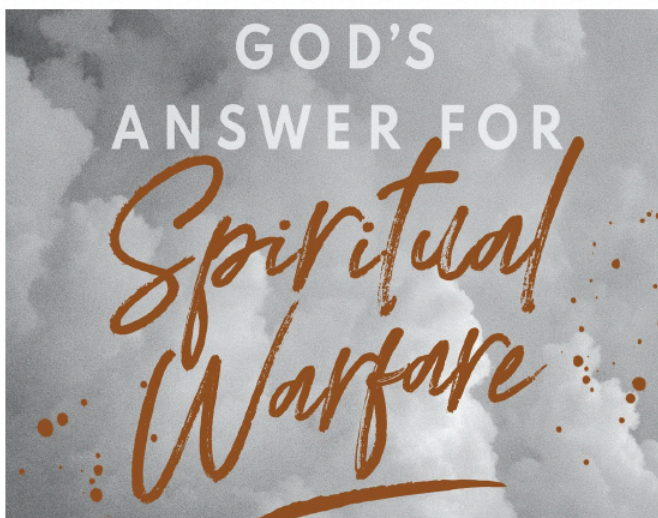
How to win your **WANT** war!

“Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Purify your hearts you double-minded. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.” James 4:7-10



“Double-minded” implies a divided dopamine system.

When your **Main Deck** Needs Help!



James 4:7-10 tells you how to regain control of your hijacked Engine and Pump!

“The Spirit who dwells in us” (James 4:5) will help you!