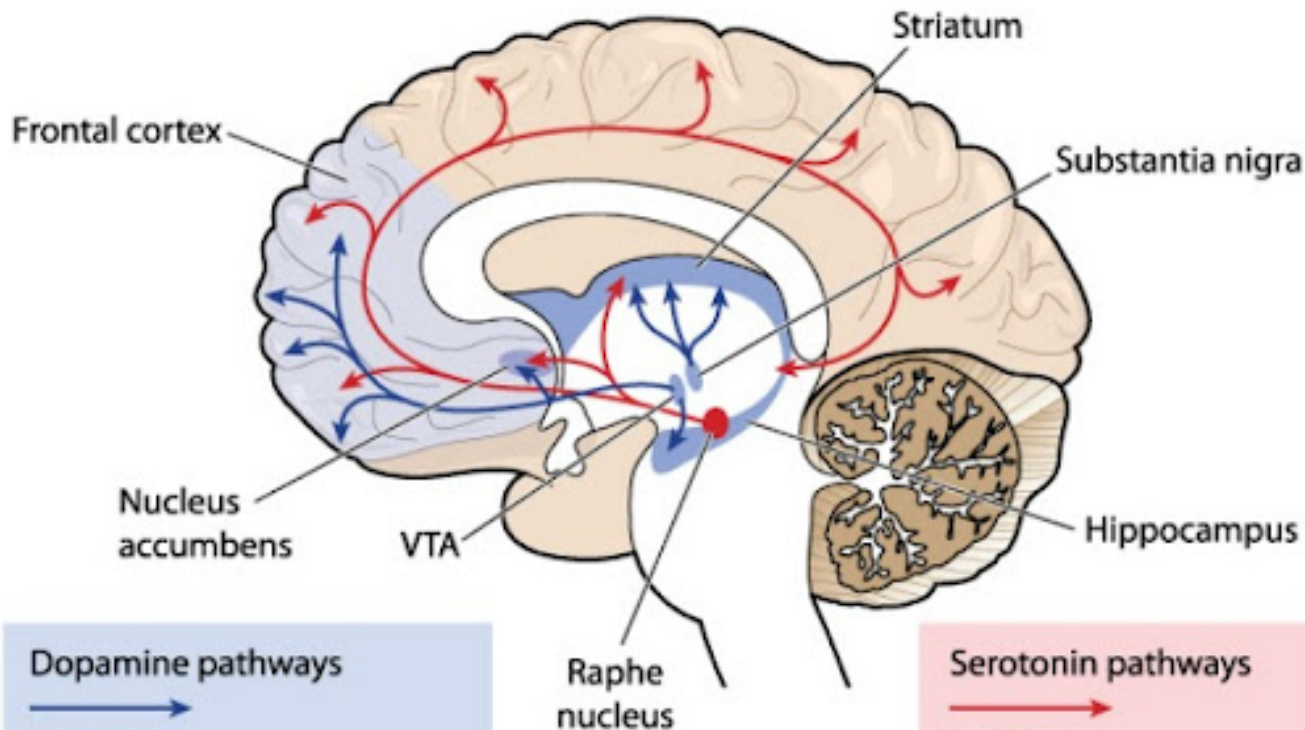


“...The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from **the law of sin**
and death” (Romans 8:2)



Dopamine & “The Law of The Sin”

- Dopamine pathways
→
Functions
- Reward (motivation)
 - Pleasure, euphoria
 - Motor function (fine tuning)
 - Compulsion
 - Perseveration

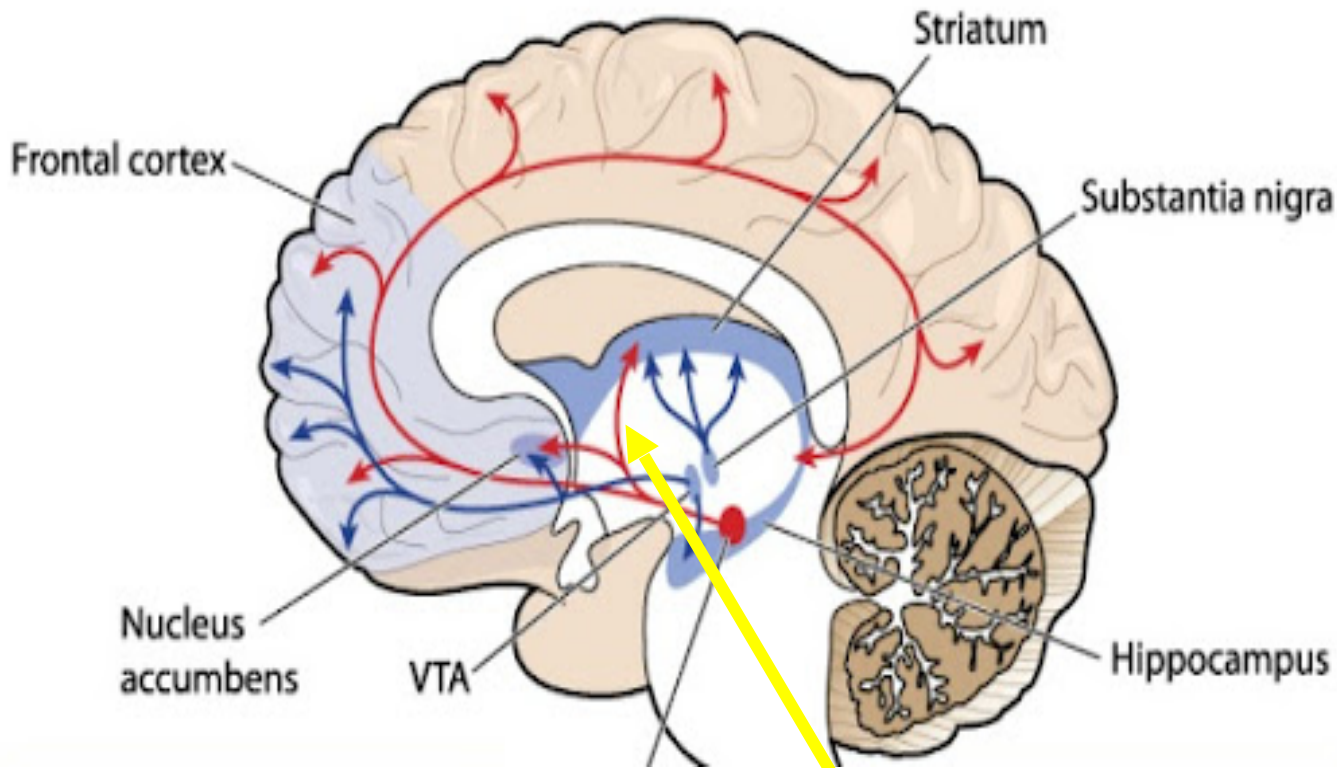
- Serotonin pathways
→
Functions
- Mood
 - Memory processing
 - Sleep
 - Cognition

The blue arrows point to the area of the brain where desire, reward, pleasure & motivation, are biologically generated.

“I delight in the law of God according to the inward man” (Romans 7:22).



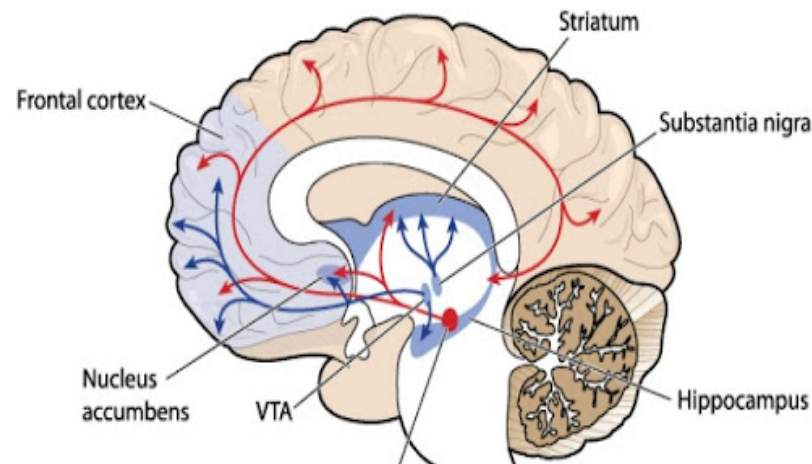
“...To be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man” (Ephesians 3:16).



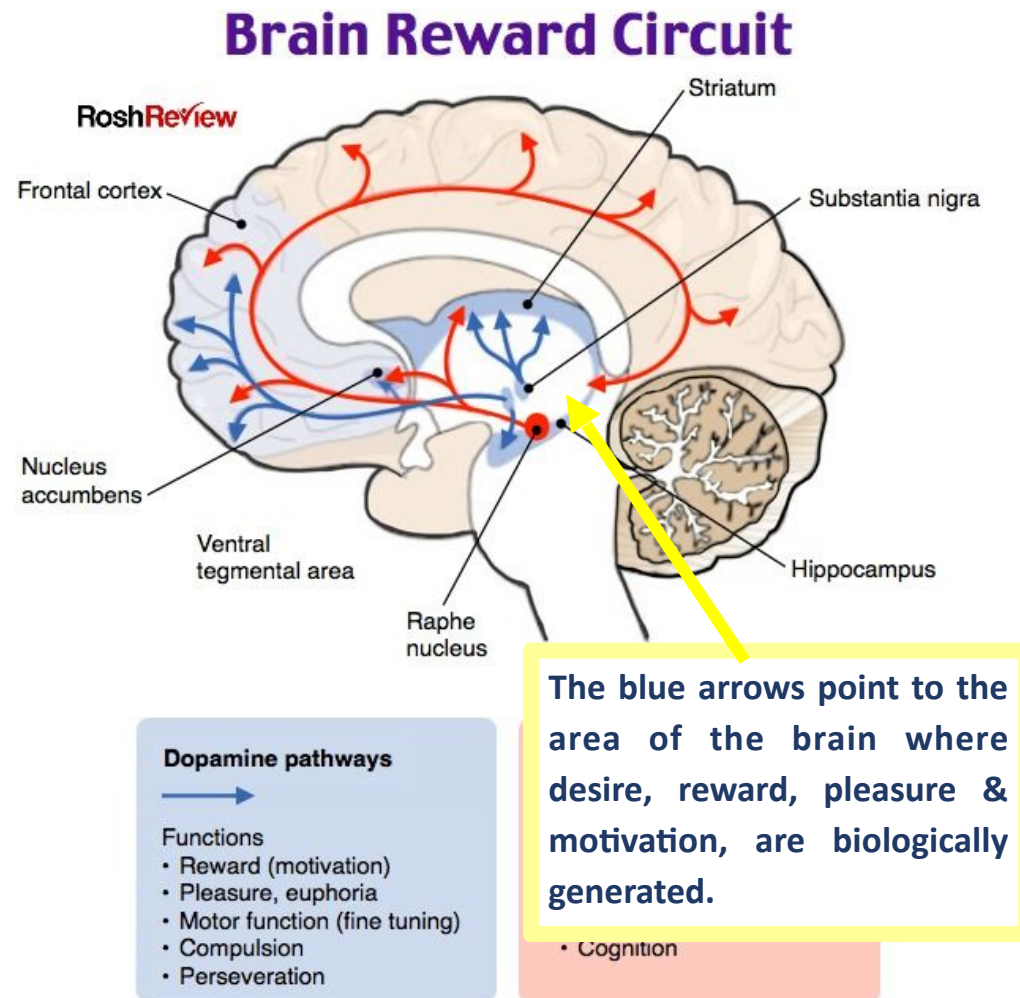
Your Brain's “Inward Man”
is your motivation and reward
system!

Our “inward man” is the brain region where we “Do not love the world or the things in the world...”

2 John 2:15



Like the Law of Gravity, God designed both the biological and spiritual functions (laws) of your brain, heart, soul, and mind.

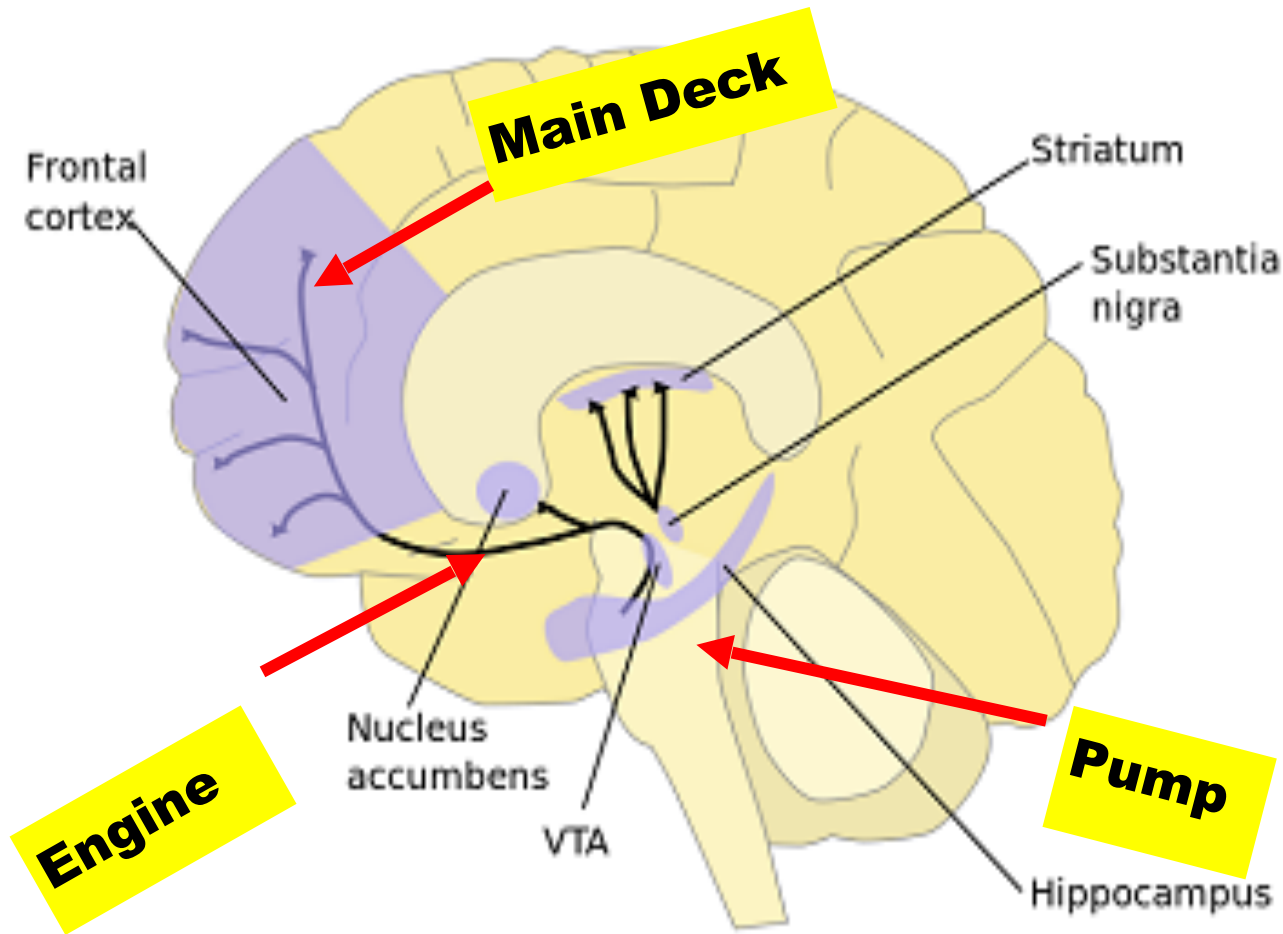


A definition for the word **“Law”** νόμος nomos is defined as a force or influence impelling to action.
Vine’s Dictionary

The Law Of Sin of Death

One definition for **“sin”** ἁμαρτία hamartia is a governing principle or power, acting through the will of men and women.

“The law of sin and death” (Romans 8:2) is the force that influences your “inward man.”



The prefrontal cortex or executive function is the most sophisticated region. It is responsible for judgment, decision-making, perspective-taking, and self-regulation. **You can think of that as the bridge of the ship. That's where we steer our behavior.**

The nucleus accumbens is part of the motor system and it actually gets us to act and pursue goals. Unlike frogs, we need a motive or an emotional drive. We have to feel some kind of attraction. **Think of the nucleus accumbens as the engine of the ship that gets us moving.**

And then there is the ventral tegmental area (VTA) that manufactures and pumps dopamine to energize the nucleus accumbens. It narrows the beam of attention and it drives behavior toward the goal. **You can think of the VTA as the pump of the ship that sends fuel (dopamine) to the engine.**

Marc Lewis, neuroscientist

natural balance of our brain!

“Law” νόμος nomos (b) of a force or influence
impelling to action (Vine’s Dictionary)

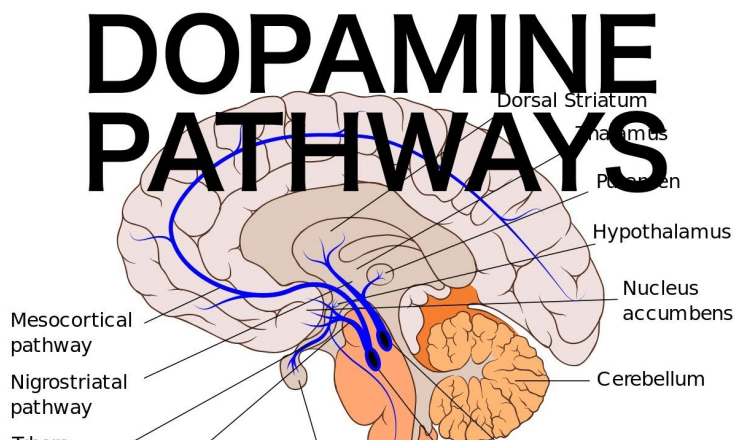


“There is naturally a balance between the dopamine activation system and the prefrontal cortex activation system, because you need to control these impulses. There's some kind of balance between impulse and control, self-regulation, and modifying behavior in favor of better consequences. (Dr. Marc Lewis, neuroscientist)

But I see another law. . . warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin...” (Romans 7:22,23).



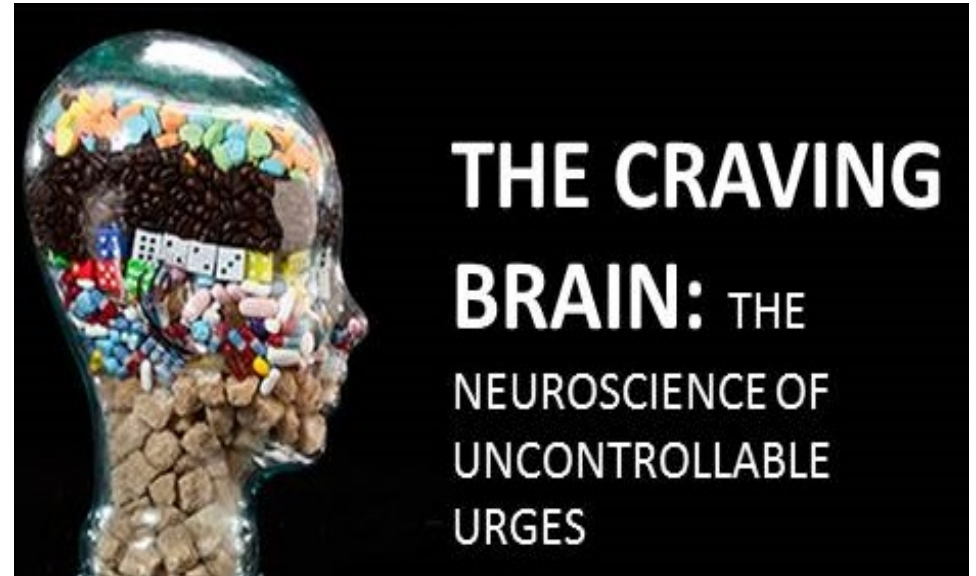
“It is no longer I who do it, but the sin that dwells in me” (Romans 7:17,20) refers to the power of the law of sin to completely take control of the heart, soul and mind.



“The prefrontal cortex, which is in charge of judgement, can only sustain so many challenges from the dopamine system which is in charge of motivation, desire and craving.

Dr. Marc Lewis, neuroscientist

“First, the trigger or cue leads to craving. Craving leads to intensified imagining of the intended activity. Finally, when it gets intense enough, you go get it or do it. Then you get relief, then loss, and then you do it again.” Marc Lewis, neuroscientist



The point is that you can't keep trying NOT to do something! You can't keep trying to suppress, control, and inhibit the impulses for hours at a time, days at a time, weeks at a time by saying “No, I'm not doing that.”



It's like holding your arms out to the side. You can do it for 5 minutes. Try doing it for an hour. (Dr. Marc Lewis)

For those who live
according to the flesh
set their minds on the
things of the flesh .

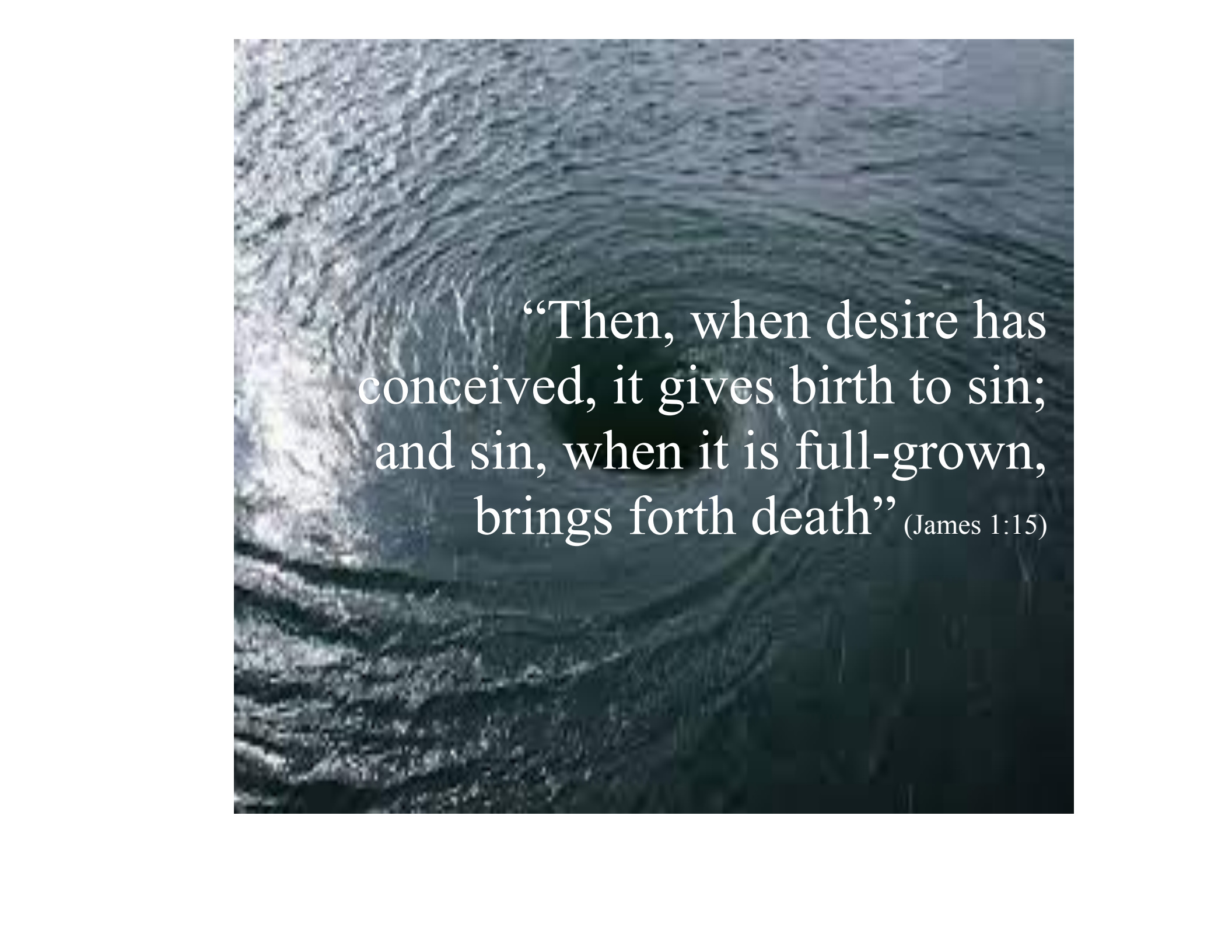
For to be carnal
minded is death.

Romans 8:5,6

**“Abstain
from fleshly
lusts which
war against
the soul”**

(1 Peter 2:11).





“Then, when desire has
conceived, it gives birth to sin;
and sin, when it is full-grown,
brings forth death” (James 1:15)

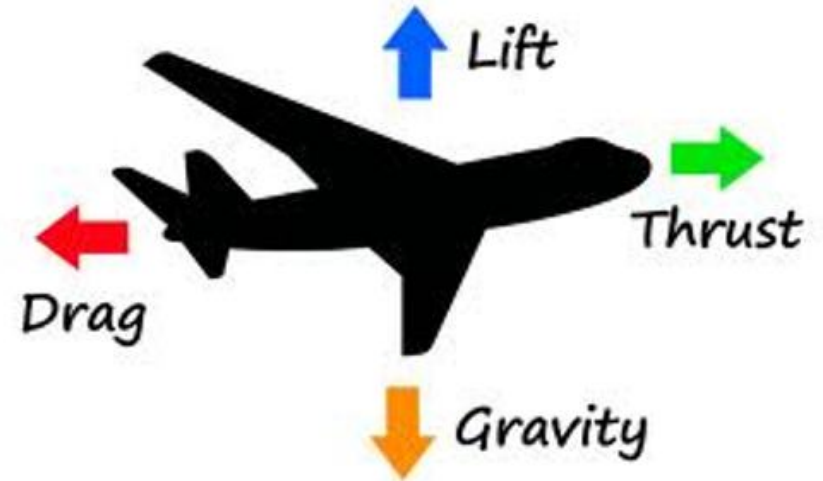
The Law of Gravity

Vs.

Law of Aerodynamics

A definition for the word **“Law”**

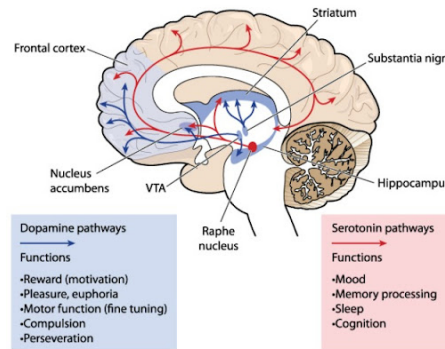
νόμος_nomos is defined as a force



God is the creator and designer of all natural laws (forces & influences). When someone in an aircraft follows the Law of Aerodynamics they overcome and break free from the Law of Gravity.

God is also the creator and designer of all spiritual laws. When someone follows “The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus” they overcome and break free from “the law of sin and death.” (Romans 8:2)

“To survive, we need to be motivated. However, too much motivation (dopamine) can hijack our reward & pleasure system!” (Dr Tiffany Rogers, neuroscientist)



This is why we need the Holy Spirit's help!

“...The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death” (Romans 8:2)

“I say then: walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh” (Galatians 5:16).