



THE IMPORTANCE OF TOUCH RECEPTION

A 25mm human embryo will move its head back when its lips are stimulated proving the presence of the sense of touch as early as 8 weeks. This is long before the embryo can either see or hear, testifying to the importance of this sense.

Humans can survive without vision, hearing or smell, but not without touch. Pain reception is necessary to warn the brain of hazards such as fire or sharp objects. People affected with *cutaneous alagia* have dysfunctional pain receptors and often sustain life threatening burns or injuries because they cannot feel pain. "The Compass in your nose" Pg 112

THE POSITIVE EFFECT OF PHYSICAL CONTACT

One of the most tangible influences of touch is in its positive effect on growth in infants. In a famous experiment Spitz (Paris, 1945) noted the rapid physical deterioration of institutionalised babies who were only rarely or briefly touched by nurses. In severe conditions this situation of brief or no physical contact was called *Marasmus (wasting away)*, and the mortality rate for these babies was extremely high. For the first time in history it had been proved that food and sanitary conditions alone was not adequate to support life; touch had been identified as a critical biological necessity not just a sentimental or romantic human desire...

THE POSITIVE EFFECT OF PHYSICAL CONTACT

The Renée Spitz Research revealed that infants taken from mothers and raised in "sterile nurseries" where they were fed but not handled or cuddled:

- Failed to thrive and were diminished in height and weight for their age
- Developed brains that were 20-30% smaller than normal
- 25% died within the 1st year. 37% died within the 2nd year
- 40% of the infants who contracted measles died when the mortality rate outside the institution was only .5%
- Scored 72 on the WISC (average intelligence is 90-105)

THE POSITIVE EFFECT OF PHYSICAL CONTACT



Larsen (1975) found that when learning motor skills, children greatly benefited from increased supportive behaviour (statements of affection, smiles and **physical contact such as hand holding, embracing or patting**) by the teacher.

A later study by Field (1986) found greater weight gain and superior performance in developmental assessments as a **result of a touch program** with a group of newborn infants.

A further example of **the benefits of touch** found by Field (1994) **showed decreases in depression, anxiety and stress levels in children following increased touch.**

THE POSITIVE EFFECT OF PHYSICAL CONTACT



Physical touch is actually more than just "skin-deep". **There are over 5 million touch receptors in our skin - 3,000 in a single fingertip** that send messages along the spinal cord to the brain.

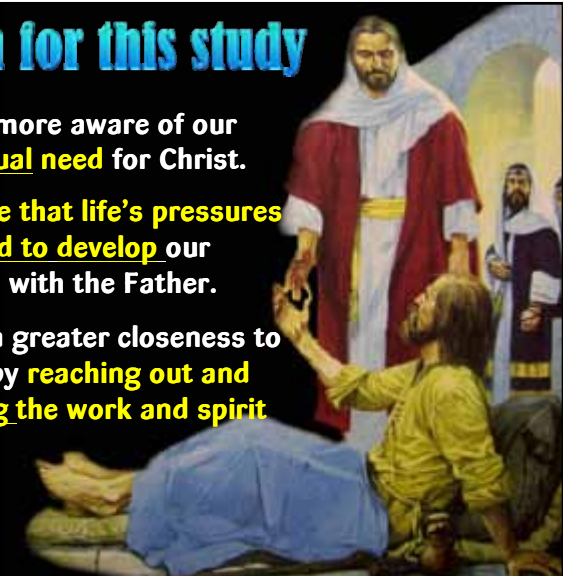
A simple touch - a hand on the shoulder, a squeeze of the hand, can reduce the heart rate and lower blood pressure. People in deep comas may show improved heart rates when their hands are held. Touch stimulates the brain to produce endorphins, the body's natural opium, which is why a mother's hug of a child who has hurt his knee can literally "make it better".

Research on "touch" is new and much is yet to be understood, but above all the communicative behaviours **touch is the most immediate, most intimate and most commanding because it is so closely tied to one's identity...**

(Thayer 1986 p10-11) Implications for Attachment and Intimacy, Utah State University

Our Aim for this study

- To become more aware of our **own individual need** for Christ.
- To **recognise that life's pressures are designed to develop our relationship with the Father.**
- To achieve a greater closeness to the Father by **reaching out and appreciating the work and spirit of Christ.**



Reaching for Christ

Simeon

He **took him** up in his arms and blessed God Lk 2:28

Man with leprosy

Jesus, moved with compassion put forth his hand, and **touched him**, and saith unto him, I will; be thou clean. Mark 1:41, Mat 8:3, Luke 5:13

Peter's mother in law

He **touched her** hand, and the fever left her: and she arose, and ministered unto them. Mat 8:15

Woman with an issue

When she had heard of Jesus, came in the press behind, and **touched** his garment. For she said, If I may **touch** but his clothes, I shall be whole. Jesus, immediately knowing in himself that virtue had gone out of him, turned him about in the press, and said, Who **touched** my clothes? His disciples said unto him, Thou seest the multitude thronging thee, and sayest thou, Who **touched me**? Mark 5:27-31, Lk 8:44-47, Mat 9:20,21

Two blind men

Then **touched he** their eyes, saying, According to your faith be it unto you. Mat 9:29

Reaching for Christ

Multitudes thronged him at the Lake Galilee

For he had healed many; insomuch that they pressed upon him for to **touch him**, as many as had plagues. Mark 3:10

Another group in Galilee

The whole multitude sought to **touch him**: for there went virtue out of him, and healed them all. Luke 6:19

Woman in the house of Simon

When the Pharisee which had bidden him saw it, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman this is that **toucheth him**: for she is a sinner. Luke 7:39

Peter on the sea

And immediately Jesus **stretched forth his hand** and caught him Mat 14:31

People of Gennesaret

They laid the sick in the streets, and besought him that they might **touch** if it were but the border of his garment: and as many as **touched him** were made whole. Mark 6:56, Mat 14:36

Deaf man of Decapolis

They beseech him to **put his hand** upon him... and **touched his** tongue; Mark 7:33

Blind man at Bethsaida

He cometh to Bethsaida; and they bring a blind man unto him, and besought him to **touch him**. Mark 8:22

Disciples at the Transfiguration

Jesus came and **touched them**, and said, Arise, and be not afraid. Mat 17:7

Blesses children

They brought young children to him, that he should **touch them**. Lk 10:13, Lk 18:15

Blind men of Jericho

And they bring unto him one that was deaf, and had an impediment in his speech; and they beseech him to put his hand upon him. And he **took him aside** from the multitude, and **put his fingers into his ears, and he spit, and touched his tongue**

And he took the blind man by the **hand**, and **led him out of the town**; and when he had spit on his eyes, and **put his hands upon him**, he asked him if he saw ought. And he looked up, and said, I see men as trees, walking. After that he **put his hands again upon his eyes**, and made him look up...

"That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying, **HIMSELF TOOK** our infirmities, and **BARE** our sicknesses." Mt 8:17.

REACHING FOR CHRIST

"For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched (Gk Sumpatheo "sympathy, compassion") with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need". Heb 4:15,16



Simeon's Enthusiasm

25 And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was in Decomai "To welcome, accept, consolation of Israel: and the Holy joyful reception"

26 And it was revealed unto him Vine; "To receive by deliberate and see death, before he had ready action"

"A righteous and pious" 2Tim 4:8 – Our response?

EXPECTING the consolation of Israel" (Diag.)

Proscomai "To look for, with a view of favourable reception"

Vine: "To **RECEIVE** to **ONESELF**"

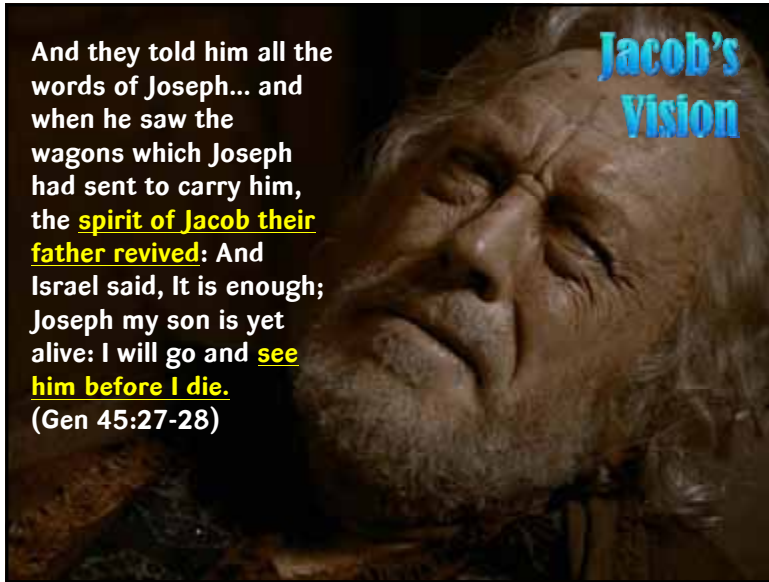
Used Titus 2:13 "LOOKING for that blessed hope and glorious appearing..."

the face of all people; the glory of Thy people Israel.

Abraham's Vision

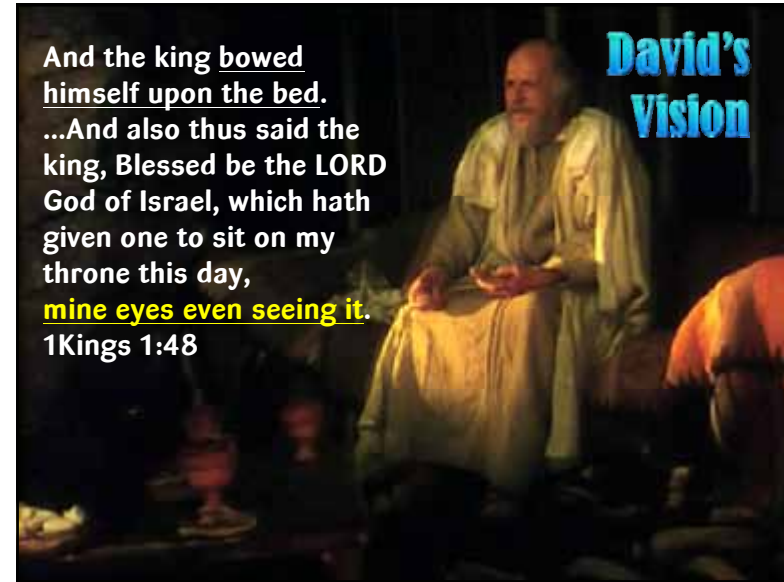
Your father Abraham
REJOICED TO SEE my day:
and **he saw** it,
and was glad.
John 8:56

These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having **SEEN THEM AFAR OFF**, and were persuaded of them, and **embraced them**, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. **Heb 11:13**



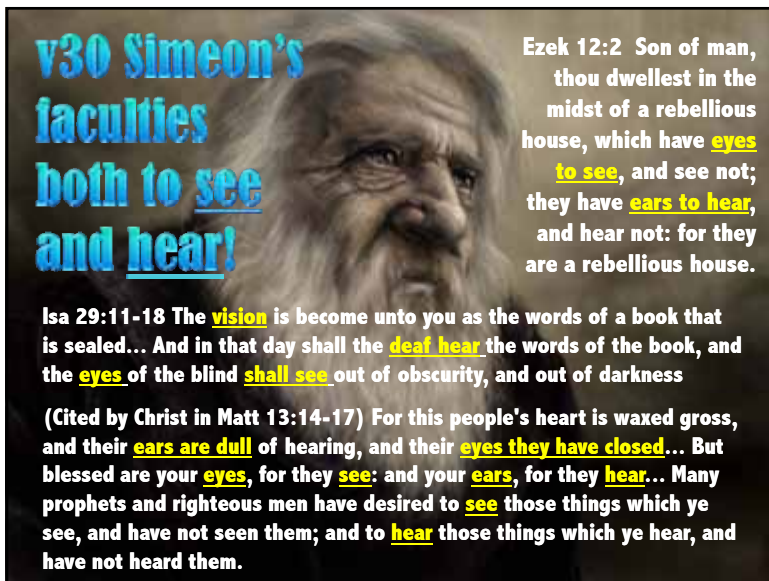
And they told him all the words of Joseph... and when he saw the wagons which Joseph had sent to carry him, the **spirit of Jacob their father revived**: And Israel said, It is enough; Joseph my son is yet alive: I will go and **see him before I die**.
(Gen 45:27-28)

Jacob's Vision



And the king **bowed himself upon the bed**.
...And also thus said the king, Blessed be the LORD God of Israel, which hath given one to sit on my throne this day, **mine eyes even seeing it**.
1Kings 1:48

David's Vision



v30 Simeon's faculties both to see and hear!

Ezek 12:2 Son of man, thou dwellest in the midst of a rebellious house, which have **eyes to see**, and see not; they have **ears to hear**, and hear not: for they are a rebellious house.

Isa 29:11-18 The **vision** is become unto you as the words of a book that is sealed... And in that day shall the **deaf hear** the words of the book, and the **eyes** of the blind **shall see** out of obscurity, and out of darkness

(Cited by Christ in Matt 13:14-17) For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their **ears are dull** of hearing, and their **eyes they have closed**... But blessed are your **eyes**, for they **see**: and your **ears**, for they **hear**... Many prophets and righteous men have desired to **see** those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to **hear** those things which ye hear, and have not heard them.



Isalah 52

7 Thy God is king
8 **Thy watchmen lift up the voice**
They shall see eye to eye
9 **Break forth into joy, sing together**
The Lord hath comforted his people.
He hath redeemed Jerusalem
10 ...in the eyes of all nations
...shall see the salvation.

Luke 2

26 The Lord's Christ
28 **The watchman Simeon – blessed God**
30 Mine eyes have seen thy salvation.
Simeon and Anna rejoicing together
25 The consolation (comfort) of Israel.
38 **The redemption of Jerusalem.**
31 ...before the face of all people
30 **For mine eyes have seen thy salvation.**

The Spirit of Isalah in Simeon

The Spirit of Isaiah in Simeon

Luke 2

Mine eyes
have seen

Thy salvation,
which thou
hast
prepared

Face of all
people, A
light to
lighten the
Gentiles

And the glory
of thy people
Israel

Is 52:8-10

Thy watchmen...
they shall see
eye to eye v8

Yahweh hath
comforted, he hath
redeemed, Yahweh
hath made bare his
holy arm v9,10

All the ends of
the earth... the
eyes of all the
nations v10

Yahweh shall
bring again Zion,
comfort his
people, redeem
Jerusalem v9

Is 60:1-5

Lift up thine eyes
and see... Then
thou shalt see
v4,5

The glory of Yahweh
is risen upon thee,
Yahweh shall arise
upon thee, his glory
shall be seen v1,2

Gentiles shall come
to thy light, wealth
of the Gentiles
come unto thee
v3,6

Yahweh shall
arise upon thee,
thy sons, thy
daughters v2,4

Is 49:6,7

Kings shall see
and arise v7

I will also give thee,
Thus saith Yahweh
the redeemer of
Israel and his holy
one v6,7

Give thee for a
light to the
Gentiles... unto
the end of the
earth v6

Raise up the
tribes of Jacob,
restore the
preserved of
Israel v6

Is 42:1-7

Behold my
servant.. to
open the blind
eyes v1,7

Whom I uphold, I
have put my
spirit, I Yahweh
hath called thee
v1,6

Judgement for
the gentiles, the
isles shall wait
for his law, A
light of the
Gentiles v1,4,6

Give thee for a
covenant of the
people v6

"These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them." Rev 7:14,15

Anna the prophetess, a singer?
Now these, the singers, the heads
of fathers' houses of the Levites,
were in the chambers of the
temple free from other service, for
they were on duty day and night.
1Chron 9:33 ESV

Now she that is a widow indeed,
and desolate, trusts in God, and
continues in supplications and
prayers night and day. 1Tim 5:5

Anna's Psalm of Anticipation

One thing have I desired of
Yahweh, (Aspiration)
that will I seek after (Dedication);
that I may dwell in the house of
Yahweh (Association)
all the days of my life (Application),
to behold the beauty of Yahweh
(Contemplation) and to enquire in his
temple (Meditation).

(Psalm 27:4)

Anna's Love

"She standing by, at that very time praised God" (Diag.)

"And in that very hour, coming near, she began to give
thanks..." (Roth)

"Not slothful in business;
fervent in spirit; serving
the Lord; Rejoicing in hope;
patient in tribulation;
continuing instant in
prayer" Rom 12:11,12

