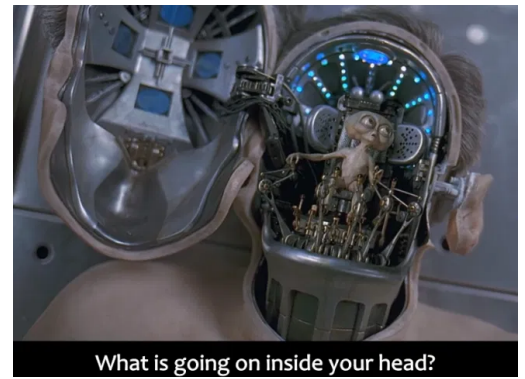


The Alien Inside



I had an encounter this week with someone who voiced to me that they really wanted to change the way they were living. When offered the opportunity to make a change they returned right back to their bad habits. A medical condition called alien hand syndrome causes one hand to act on its own free will. The affected hand feels foreign to its owner during an episode. The hand seems to move deliberately to carry out tasks that are unintentional. The book of Romans gives a similar description of continuing to do evil when your mind desires to do good.

Romans 7:19-25

19 For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing.

Alien hand syndrome may be difficult to diagnose. In some cases there are contributing factors to it, such as a tumor or a stroke. Without a thorough evaluation doctors may attribute alien hand syndrome to a psychiatric disorder. In the same way, we can not find the cure for our evil actions unless we look on the inside.

20 Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

Sadly, for those who suffer from alien hand syndrome there may be no cure. In contrast, people who want to do good and stop doing evil must remove the sin living inside of them. This cannot be done by the hand of man, and can only be achieved by first confessing your sin and then accepting the antidote to the S.I.N disease, which is Jesus.