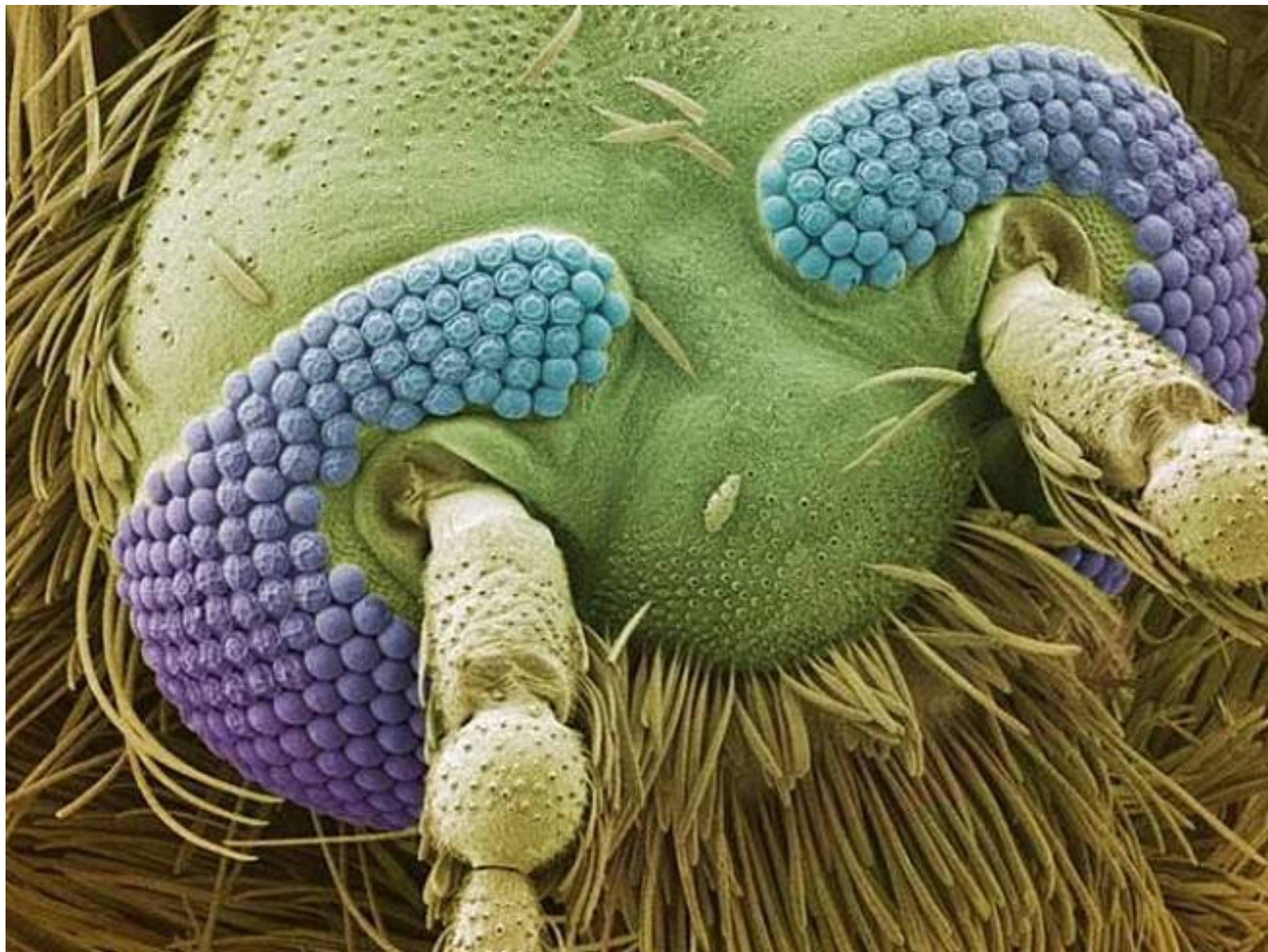
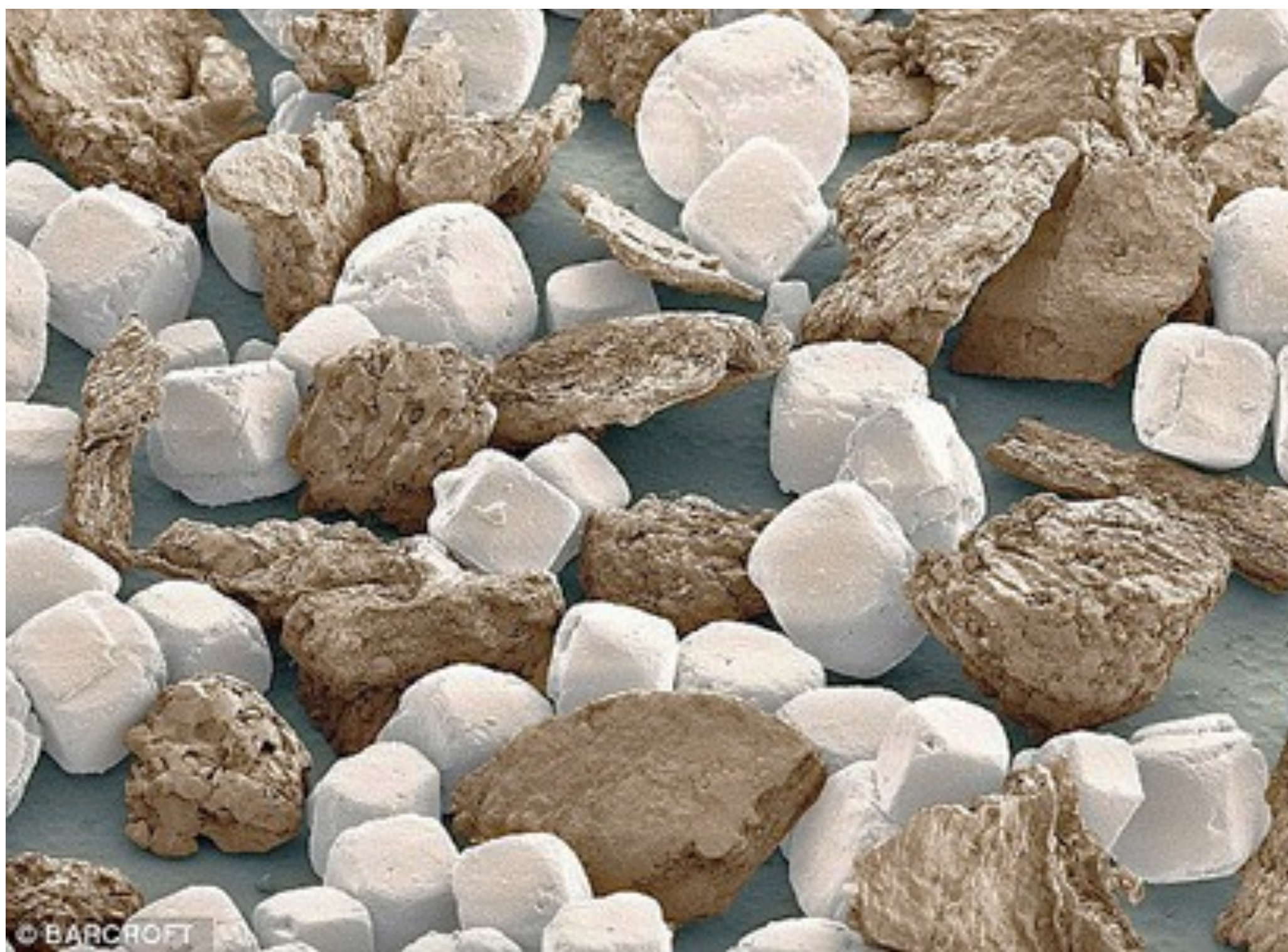
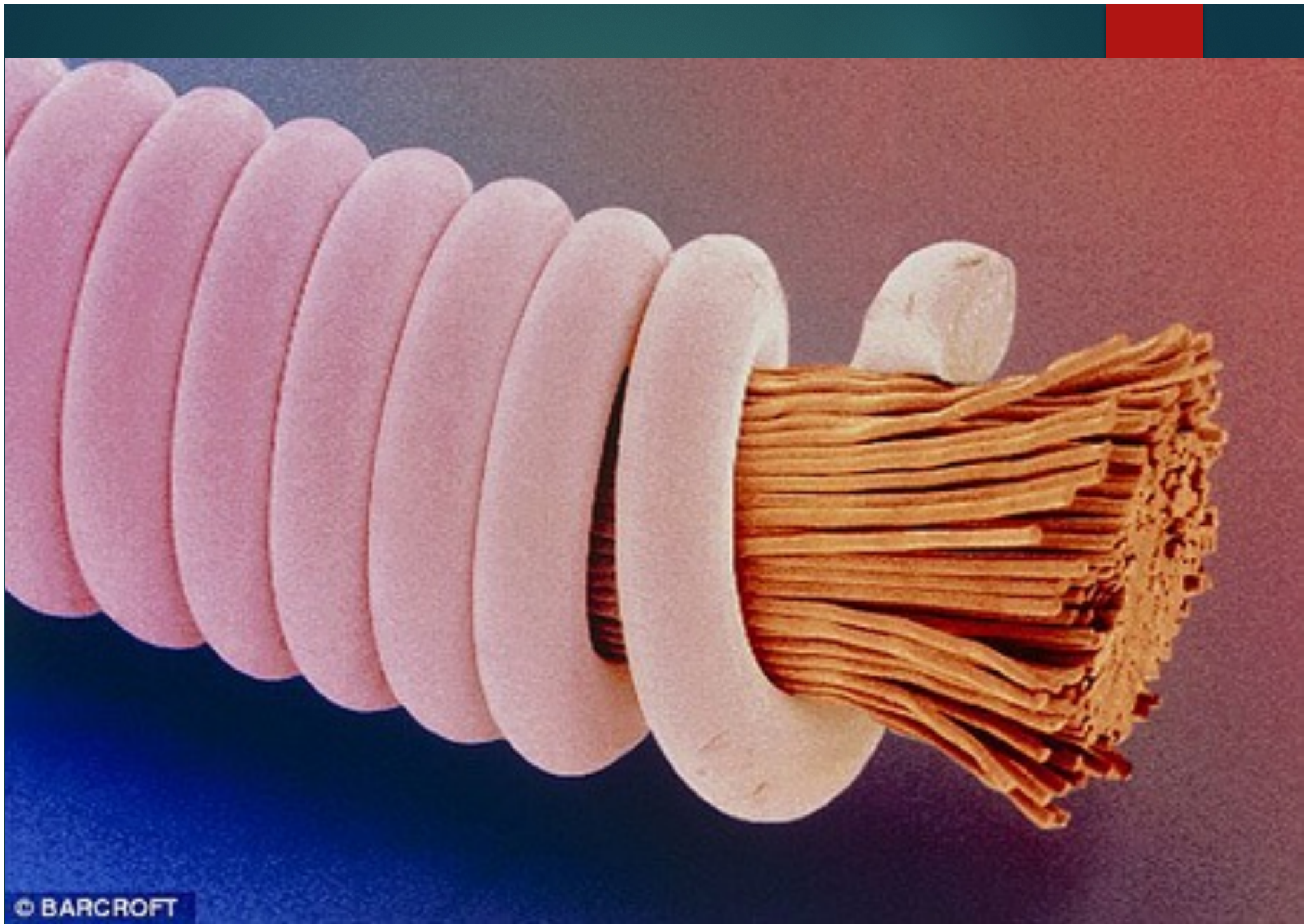


Micro +
Macro









Learning to Love

What is Love?

- ▶ **Eros.** A Sexual passionate love.
- ▶ **Philadelphia.** A brotherly kind of love.
- ▶ **Agape.** Unconditional, unmerited, eternal.

Postulation:

- ▶ We do not understand the depth and breadth of TRUE LOVE. Alien (it is the very character of God)
- ▶ We live our AA lives thinking we are demonstrating the power of God, when what God desires in our lives is a stream of 220amps.
- ▶ Our love is often shallow, petty, unthankful, selfish, temporary, unfocused, and impure.



We desperately **need** to
learn how to love.



God is asking us
not to sit idle in our faith
but rather to practice
the essential Christian Virtues...

Response



Yes



No



If we do...

We will never fall
we will be effective & fruitful
we won't act like we're blinded

The opposites are also true...





2nd Epistle of Peter

(Pew Bibles, page 1018)

Context...

- ▶ The Epistle of Second Peter talks about the dangers of false teachers.
 - ▶ 1st Chapter / What is the truth of the Gospel
 - ▶ 2nd Chapter / The Danger of False Teachers
 - ▶ 3rd Chapter / The Return of the Lord

2 Peter 1:1-2

¹Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ. To those who have obtained a faith of **equal standing** with ours by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:

²May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the **knowledge** of God and of Jesus our Lord.

Notes:

V.1 Peter established his audience's *spiritual equality*, not his apostleship.

Notice his humility.

2 Peter 1:3

³ His divine power has **granted** to us **all things** that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and **excellence**.

Notes:

God has opened the door WIDE to life and godliness to us through his Son.

2 Peter 1:4

⁴ by which he has **granted** to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you **may become *partakers of the divine nature***, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

Notes:

Divine nature?

The divine nature that is transferrable to us is **Love**.

See verse 1:7

2 Peter 1:5

⁵ For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge.

Notes:

Make Every effort – *haste with all zeal*

Supplement – provide for yourself, add to, supply beside (along with) something else.



Faith



+ Virtue

(Excellence)

God wants us to join with him in seeking to be excellent in what we do and say. He wants us to join him and be like him!

Wanting to be someone better...



+ Knowledge

God wants us to join with him in seeking what he knows. He wants us to join him and be like him!

2 Peter 1:6

⁶ and knowledge with self-control,
and self-control with steadfastness,
and steadfastness with godliness,

Notes:

Next Week...

2 Peter 1:7

⁷ and godliness with brotherly affection and brotherly affection with love.

Notes:

In Two Weeks...

2 Peter 1:8

⁸ For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Notes:

- Qualities need to be **owned** by each one of us.
- Qualities need to be **increasing**!
- Effectiveness and Fruitfulness in Knowing Christ.

2 Peter 1:9

¹⁰ For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins.

Notes:

- Danger... Nearsighted to blindness
- Can't see reality the way it is...
- We must see what God has done. He saved us from our own wicked ways, why remain?

2 Peter 1:10

¹⁰ Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you **practice** these qualities you will never fall.

Notes:

- Confirm your calling and election through obedience. **Diligent**: These things don't just happen.
- **Practice** these things... Greek "make these things"

2 Peter 1:11

¹¹ For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Notes:

Salvation is a UNIT. It is Justification, Sanctification, and Glorification. God doesn't see this as three different events. One leads to the other.

2 Peter 1:12

¹² Therefore I intend always to remind you of these qualities, though you know them and are established in the truth that you have. ¹³ I think it is right, as long as I am in this body, to stir you up by way of reminder.

Notes:

Peter – will take the role of an encourager of these things.

Will you???

Some Thoughts

- ▶ ***There is a list here***, and its more than just a list, it is also a chronology, an order.
- ▶ ***The goal of this list*** is undoubtedly the last virtue listed. Do these other things in order to love.
- ▶ **Two ways!** I am convinced that there are at least two ways to view this list.
Micro and ***Macro***
 - ▶ **Micro** – the small day-to-day challenges we face.
 - ▶ **Macro** – our life as a whole.

▶ Micro LIST

- ▶ In the day to day living out of our Christian walk.
- ▶ We need to work our way through this list in order to move from selfish behavior (default) to Love (where God wants us to be).
- ▶ Example: learning not to gossip...



► Macro LIST

- This list can describe the stages of our overall growth as Christians.
- Where are you on this list as you review your life as a whole. Are you a learner? Are you passionate without much knowledge. Are you learning to be consistent?



Faith

+ **Virtue** (Excellence)

+ **Knowledge**

Summary...

- ▶ You have to have **faith** in Christ!
- ▶ You have to want to desire to be **Excellent** in your walk of faith to grow.
- ▶ You are going to have to pursue God's truth, his **knowledge** in order to grow.

-
- ▶ God's ultimate goal in your life = he wants you to love others.

Application



- ▶ Tell the Lord in prayer that you want to be excellent. Admit that you are not right now... (all of us need to do this)
- ▶ Make a Spiritual Goal. Put time and effort into it.
- ▶ Get to know scripture...
 - ▶ Go to church regularly
 - ▶ Join a Bible Study group, go to Youth Group
 - ▶ Kids, get involved in Awana
 - ▶ Study scripture as a family

