

CREATION MOMENTS

Proclaiming Evidence for Truth

THIS WEEK'S CREATION MOMENT

Why Did God Give Us Fingerprints?



And Isaac said unto Jacob, Come near, I pray thee, that I may feel thee, my son, whether thou be my very son Esau or not. – Genesis 27:21

Criminals who have been linked to a crime through their fingerprints may not be happy that they were born with a unique pattern of "wrinkles" on their fingertips. But we can all be glad that God gave us fingerprints because they greatly improve our sense of touch.

Scientists in France performed a series of experiments with artificial fingertips made of rubber-like sensors. They then compared the sensitivity between these grooved artificial fingertips and a smooth skin-like material to see if the grooved fingertips made a difference in the sense of touch. What they discovered surprised them. The grooved fingertips produced vibrations up to 100 times stronger than the smooth material when sliding against a slightly rough surface.

The researchers concluded that these increased vibrations provide us with a greater ability to detect textures. When rubbing your fingers across a textured surface, your fingerprints amplify vibrations that stimulate the nerve endings in your skin. This then allows us to identify objects by touch.

Knowing that we need our sense of touch to work from every direction, our Creator designed our fingerprints to appear in elliptical swirls. This loop design ensures that some ridges are always brushing perpendicular to a surface, no matter the orientation of our fingertips.

Such research may help scientists design prosthetic hands with enhanced tactile feedback. When science copies designs found in living things, it is copying the designs from their Creator, whether they recognize that fact or not!

Ref: L. Zyga, "Why Do We Have Fingerprints?" PhysOrg, 4/4/09. Illustration: Pixabay. (PD)

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