

## Aristotle's Four Causes

- Material Cause - the stuff out of which something is made
- Formal Cause - the defining characteristics of (e.g., shape) the thing
- Final Cause - the purpose of the thing
- Efficient Cause - the antecedent condition that brought the thing about

I Corinthians 14:6 “Dear brothers and sisters, if I should come to you speaking in an unknown language, how would that help you? But if I bring you a **revelation** or some special **knowledge** or **prophecy** or **teaching**, that will be helpful.”

- Efficient Cause - Why was it made? Teaching, edification, learning.....
- Material Cause – What is it made of? Knowledge
- Formal Cause – What form is it in? Prophecy
- Final Cause – Who made it? a Revelation from God

John 3:8 “*The **wind** blows wherever it wants. Just as you can hear the wind but can’t tell where it comes from or where it is going, so you can’t explain how people are born of the Spirit.*”

- Efficient Cause - Why was it made? Sailors used the wind to cross the sea in **ships, kites, turbines, etc. It carries air pollution away and keep us warm.**
- Material Cause - What is it made of? caused by the uneven **heating** of the Earth by the sun
- Formal Cause - What form is it in? Wind is the **movement of air**
- Final Cause - Who made it? The Creator.

Ezekiel 36:26-28 “26 I will give you a **new heart** and put a new spirit within you; I will remove your heart of **stone** [**σκληροκάρδιοι**] and give you a heart of **flesh**. 27 I will place my Spirit within you and cause you to follow my statutes and carefully observe my ordinances. 28 You will live in the land that I gave your ancestors; you will be my people, and I will be your God.”

Could have said I will take out the kidney of stone and give you one of flesh

- Material Cause - What is it made of? “flesh” One that beats and is alive. Metaphorical term of relationship: that twain shall be one flesh. Genesis 2:24.
- Formal Cause - What form is it in? The inner man, mind and will
- Final Cause - Who made it? The Creator
- Efficient Cause - Why was it made? To follow my statutes & carefully observe my ordinances.

Romans 12:2 “And do not be conformed to this world, but be **transformed** by the **renewing of your mind**, that you may **prove** what is that **good** and **acceptable** and **perfect will** of God.”

## Transformation

- Final Cause - Who made it? The Creator
- Formal Cause - What form is it in? A renewed Mind
- Material Cause - What is it made of? The **good** and **acceptable** and **perfect** Will of God
- Efficient Cause - Why was it made? that you may **prove**