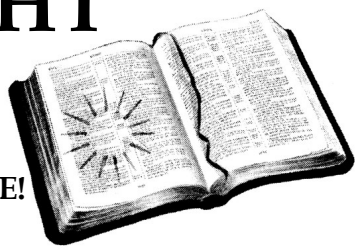
THINK RIGHT - DO RIGHT

Philippians 4:8, 9
6-11-2025



*** YOU CAN ENJOY <u>CLOSE FELLOWSHIP</u> WITH THE GOD OF PEACE!**

HOW? BY OBEYING 2 COMMANDS



I. YOU MUST <u>THINK RIGHT</u> (V. 8)

Before you think it -- ask yourself:

A. IS IT <u>TRUE</u>? *(could I really <u>trust</u> it?)*

B. IS IT <u>HONORABLE</u>? *(is it worthy of my <u>respect</u>?)*

C. IS IT <u>JUST</u>? *(would God want me to <u>practice it</u>?)*

D. IS IT <u>PURE</u>? *(will it keep me <u>clean</u>?)*

E. IS IT <u>LOVELY</u>? *(is it worthy of my <u>affection</u>?)*

F. IS IT <u>REPORTABLE</u>? *(can I <u>repeat</u> it to others?)*

G. IS IT <u>MORALLY EXCELLENT</u>?

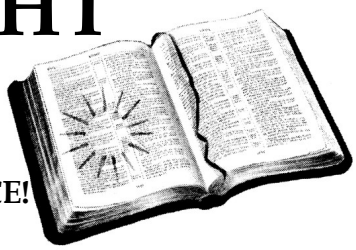
H. IS IT <u>PRAISEWORTHY</u>?

II. YOU MUST <u>DO RIGHT</u> (V. 9)

A. DO WHAT YOU ARE <u>TOLD</u> *(precept)*

B. DO WHAT YOU ARE <u>SHOWN</u> *(example)*

THINK RIGHT - DO RIGHT



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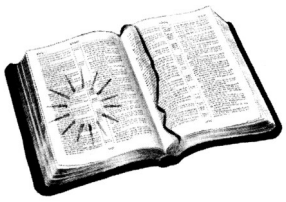
H. IS IT _____?

II. YOU MUST _____ (V. 9)

A. DO WHAT YOU ARE _____ *(precepts from God's Word)*

B. DO WHAT YOU ARE _____ *(example that is Godly)*

THINK RIGHT - DO RIGHT



Philippians 4:8, 9

6-11-2025

INTRO: Just as a little child naturally desires to be close to his/her mommy or daddy (and cries when they leave him), the Christian should desire to have a close, intimate fellowship with his heavenly Father. It should be a natural desire, an inner craving in your soul to sense God's close presence with you.

I'm not talking about getting saved (beginning a relationship by being born again); I'm talking about enjoying your Savior (enjoying the relationship that God intended for you to enjoy).

In this world of turmoil, confusion, unrest, hyperness, we need to enjoy peaceful fellowship with our heavenly Father. (cp. v. 7 - "peace of God which passeth understanding")

READ verse 9b.

Rev. 3:20 - "Behold I stand at the door and knock . . ."

Eph. 3:17 - "That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye being rooted and grounded in love,"

READ John 14:21, 23

God is with the believer (in a special way) who obeys His commands.

We must do right! But before we can do right we must think right.

*** YOU CAN ENJOY CLOSE FELLOWSHIP WITH THE GOD OF PEACE!**

HOW? BY OBEYING 2 COMMANDS.

I. YOU MUST THINK RIGHT (V. 8)

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee; because he trusteth in Thee" (Is. 26:3).

Your brain is the most complex mechanism in the world and the most influential organ of your body. It accounts for your ability to think, remember, love, hate, feel, reason, imagine, and analyze.

The average brain weighs about 3 pounds, contains 12 billion cells, and has 120 trillion brain connections. Dr. Gehard Dirks, who holds 50 patients on the IBM computer, said that he acquired most of his inventive ideas from studying the human brain. He also stated: "If we could invent a computer to duplicate the capabilities of the human brain, it would take a structure the size of the Empire State Building, just to house it." (cited from LaHaye, "The Battle for the Mind," 1980, p. 13).

You get out of a computer only what you program into it. Garbage in - Garbage out.
People are depressed because they don't think right.
People are sinful because they don't think right.
People are apathetic because they don't think right.
People are discouraged because they don't think right.

Your thinking affects you physically (psychosomatic; ulcers, headaches, etc.)

v. 8b - Think on these things" = continue to consider; reckon.

"Think" (logizomai = Reckon; An accounting term, where you deliberately take into account God's Revealed Truth and reflect upon what God has said about Himself, Life, and You.

We must decide to intentionally think the way God commands us to think or we won't!

We either tend to leave our minds in neutral (because it takes work to think), or we wrongly engage the brain in reverse (and stew over what someone else has done to us, think sinful thoughts, etc.). NOTE: This is easy for the old nature to perform.

It takes real work to change your thinking pattern! And you must submit to the Holy Spirit's control if it will be accomplished.

Before you think it - ask yourself:

A. **IS IT <u>TRUE</u>?** (could I really <u>trust</u> it?)

To think about those things that are true is to meditate on that which is <u>real</u> or <u>genuine</u>.

Don't worry about what might happen (potential problems) (v. 6), but dwell on that which you can be sure of -- ex., the <u>Word of God</u>. What we read in magazines, newspapers, books, etc., may or may not be true. However III John 12 - "Ye know that our record is true!"

Don't dwell on that which is <u>false</u>! (Don't listen to lies. Satan spreads them - Jn. 8:44)

--Beware of how much you dwell on the false doctrines of cults, etc.
--Don't be so sure that your "sifter" is infallible!
--The best way to detect the false is to know the true!

Some men like hearing lies (don't want to hear the truth). II Tim. 4:3-4 - "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables."

Do you really want to hear the truth?

B. **IS IT <u>HONORABLE</u>?** (is it worthy of my <u>respect</u>?)

"Honest" = honorable, worthy of respect, noble, dignified, respectable.

Paul uses this term in giving the qualifications for deacons. They must be "grave"; so must their wives.
(I Tim. 3:8, 11).

Do we dwell on things (people, etc.) that are worthy of respect? Today's heroes (on TV, etc.) are undignified and dishonorable. We live in a day when people are calling "good - evil" and "evil - good."

C. **IS IT <u>JUST</u>?** (would God want me to <u>practice</u> it?)

"Just" = right, righteous.

If it sounds "shady," don't have anything to do with it.

Whatever displeases God is not worthy to take up any space in our "hard disk" (head).

II Cor. 10:5 - "Casting down imaginations and every high things that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ"

--Throw down wild imaginations
--Lasso every evil thought and bring it to Christ.

D. IT IS <u>PURE</u>? (will it keep me <u>clean</u>?)

"Pure" = holy, undefiled (ceremonially)

"If it is doubtful, it is dirty."
"Whatsoever is not of faith is sin."

Will it leave a blot or blemish on me?

Opposite of purity is defilement.

We wonder why we don't seem close to God -- it may be because of lustful thoughts (reading pornography, Harlequin Romance books, HBO TV).

"Flee youthful lusts"

"Flee fornication!" (I Cor. 6:18)

Looking at pornography is like pouring gasoline on a fire!

Sexual crimes, and illicit behavior, divorce, are sky-rocketing in America because of what people are seeing via the media.

You are what you read and you are what you see. Everything we see forms an impression on the mind, and it will never leave.

The best (most accurate) way to judge a man's character is to ask him to tell what he thinks about (I am not suggesting this).

E. IS IT <u>LOVELY</u>? (is it worthy of my <u>affection</u>?)

"Lovely" = worthy of affection, love, fondness.

People say: "I love sports" and spend too much time dwelling on who traded who, who is playing who. Some Christians know sports history better than Bible history.

We need to devote our affection to what really matters in life!

Love the Lord, His Word, his people, his program.

"Set your affection (mind) on things above, not on things on the earth." (Col. 3:2)

F. IS IT <u>REPORTABLE</u>? (can I <u>repeat</u> it to others?)

"Good report" = that which is well spoken of (cp. II Cor. 6:8).

If your thoughts should not be told to anyone else, you should not entertain them.

You need to think about those things that you would not be ashamed to share with the most highly-respected Christian you know.

If it has a bad reputation, don't think about it.

G. IS IT <u>MORALLY EXCELLENT</u>?

The Psalmist said, "I hate vain thoughts" (Ps. 119:113).

H. IS IT <u>PRAISEWORTHY</u>?

NOTE: All of the things we are to think about are all positive. God does not tell us what not to think about, but what to think about.

We need to meditate on God and his Word.

1. Meditate on God (what He has done for you, etc.)

   All of the virtues mentioned are characteristics of God. Jesus is called the truth (Jn. 14:6). God is honorable, just, pure (Acts 3:14), lovely, well spoken of . . .

   David said: "I remember thee upon my bed, and meditate on thee in the night watches" (Ps. 63:6).

2. Meditate on God's Word (what he has said to you)

   "Thou shalt meditate therein day and night" (Josh. 1:8)
   The blessed man - "In His Law doth he meditate day and night" (Ps. 1:2).
   "I will meditate in thy precepts" (Ps. 119:15).
   "I will meditate in thy statutes" (Ps. 119:48)
   David said, I can't sleep at night, "that I might meditate in thy Word" (Ps. 119:148)

   Paul admonished Timothy in regards to the Word of God and Godly characteristics - "Meditate upon these things, give thyself wholly to them" (I Tim. 4:15).

   "The Christian who fills his heart and mind with God's Word will have a "built-in radar" for detecting wrong thoughts" (Wiersbe, p. 117)

II. YOU MUST DO RIGHT (V. 9)

"Those things" - refers back to the virtues mentioned in v. 8.

Your thinking affects your emotions and will. You are what you think and what you think will come out in actions.

Mark 7:21 - "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders,"

You cannot separate outward action from inward attitude.

Impure thinking produces impure living.
Double-minded thinking produces unstable living.
Worried thinking produces nervous behavior.
Righteous thinking produces righteous living.
Pure thinking produces pure living.

*You are what you think - not what you think you are!

A. DO WHAT YOU ARE TOLD (precept)

"Learned" - God is saying obey what you have been taught.

"Received" - obey what has been passed on to you (ex. relay race)

"Heard" - God holds us accountable for what we hear!

B. DO WHAT YOU ARE SHOWN (example)

Paul could say to the Philippians: You saw the above mentioned virtues in me! Now obey what you saw!

could you have the confidence that your walk with the Lord was so exemplary to say, "Do what you have seen in me?"

"Do" = practice; he calls for continual action.
Make those virtues a habit of life!

But be ye doers of the Word, and not hearers only" (Ja. 1:22)

"The God of peace will (future) be with you" - God never leaves the believer (Heb. 13:5; Jn. 10:27-30), and we don't need to pray for Him to be present in a church service or on other occasions, but the sense of His presence or His fullest blessing is conditioned on our obedience to His commands (Vos. p. 84).

"The peace of God" is one test of whether or not we are in the will of God.

CONCLU: We all want close fellowship with God - you should anyway!

But it will only happen if you think right and do right!

"Sow a thought, reap an action
Sow an action, reap a habit
Sow a habit, reap a character
Sow a character, reap a destiny.