

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me--put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you. Philippians 4:8-9

Into Practice

Did you know that you have control over what you allow yourself to think? Did you know that you can make a choice about what you allow yourself to think? Do you know that what you allow yourself to think will have power over your life? Your thoughts are not only in your mind. Your thoughts will also be on your heart. Your thoughts will guide the course of your life. All your words and deeds begin in your mind. This is not real encouraging. **Why is that?** I don't like all the thoughts that I think. I don't want all my thoughts to become my words and actions. I don't want all my words to guide the course of my life. There is more. **What's that?** I feel powerless over my thoughts. I don't feel like I have power to control my thought life. My mind feels like a battleground and I'm not winning the fight. **You are right about one thing.** What's that? **Your mind is a battleground and you will not win the fight without my help. Would you like my help?** Yes, I would like your help. I desperately need your help. **Yes, you do.**

You have been allowing yourself to think the wrong thoughts. You have been letting your mind dwell on what is not good. I get that, what would you suggest? **I want you to fill your mind with what is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent and praiseworthy. They may not sound all that easy.** It doesn't. I'm not sure that I can identify thoughts and subjects that match up with all those words. This sounds like you would like me to think about what is perfect. **That's a very good place to start. What is perfect? What would have the power to instantly change your thinking to thoughts that please me?** Your word is perfect. You are perfect. I could think about you. I could think about your word. I could think about all that you want to teach me. I could think about your will. I could think about doing what pleases you. **Yes, that's right.**

Thinking about me and my word is not completely new to you. No, it is not. **What has happened to you when you have turned your thoughts on to me and my word?** I have been able to stop thinking thoughts that I don't want to think. I have stopped thinking thoughts that are not pleasing to you. Your word has been like a brush scrubbing the crud out of my mind. As I have meditated on your word I have felt strengthened and able to reject thoughts that neither you nor I want me to think. As I have considered your word I have been made able to know and do your will. **That's right. Will you allow me to strengthen and cleanse your mind with my word? Will you allow my word to help you to know and do my will?** Yes Lord, I will.

Lord, I know I have been quite a gifted negative thinker. I can see the downside of every situation. That's not what I want. That's not what you want. I want to think your thoughts and do your will so I can know you and live in your peace. Amen

Knowing God *Think About Such Things*

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

NIV Philippians 4:8-9

Knowing God *Think About Things*

And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me—everything you heard from me and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you.

NLT Philippians 4:8-9

Knowing God *Think About These Things*

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

NRSV Philippians 4:8-9

Knowing God *Take Account Of These Things*

For the rest, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is worthy of reverence and is honorable and seemly, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely and lovable, whatever is kind and winsome and gracious, if there is any virtue and excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think on and weigh and take account of these things [fix your minds on them]. Practice what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and model your way of living on it, and the God of peace (of untroubled, undisturbed well-being) will be with you.

AMP Philippians 4:8-9

Knowing God *Dwell on These Things*

Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things. The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

NASB Philippians 4:8-9

Knowing God *Think About These Things*

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

ESV Philippians 4:8-9

Knowing God *Meditate On These Things*

Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

NKJV Philippians 4:8-9

Knowing God *Meditate On Things*

Summing it all up, friends, I'd say you'll do best by filling your minds and meditating on things true, noble, reputable, authentic, compelling, gracious—the best, not the worst; the beautiful, not the ugly; things to praise, not things to curse. Put into practice what you learned from me, what you heard and saw and realized. Do that, and God, who makes everything work together, will work you into his most excellent harmonies.

MSG Philippians 4:8-9

Knowing God *Think About Things*

And now, brothers, as I close this letter, let me say this one more thing: Fix your thoughts on what is true and good and right. Think about things that are pure and lovely, and dwell on the fine, good things in others. Think about all you can praise God for and be glad about. Keep putting into practice all you learned from me and saw me doing, and the God of peace will be with you.

TLB Philippians 4:8-9

Knowing God *Think About Things*

Brothers and sisters, think about the things that are good and worthy of praise. Think about the things that are true and honorable and right and pure and beautiful and respected. Do what you learned and received from me, what I told you, and what you saw me do. And the God who gives peace will be with you.

NCV Philippians 4:8-9

Think About Such Things

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

Knowing God – Philippians 4:8-9

In Context: *Read Philippians 4*

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God’s Word: ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me--put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you. Philippians 4:8-9

Considering The Words: ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

Finally, | brothers, | whatever is true, | whatever is noble, | whatever is right, | whatever is pure, | whatever is lovely, | whatever is admirable | --if anything | is excellent | or praiseworthy | --think about | such things. | Whatever | you have | learned | or | received or | heard | from me, | or seen | in me | --put it | into practice. | And | the God | of peace | will be | with you. Philippians 4:8-9

Praying The Scripture: ***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Lord, I know I have been quite a gifted negative thinker. I can see the downside of every situation. That’s not what I want. That’s not what you want. I want to think your thoughts and do your will so I can know you and live in your peace. Amen

What It Means: ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

How are you taking charge of what you allow yourself to think?

Why is there always an opportunity to think positively or negatively in the same set of circumstances?

Why will whatever you allow yourself to consistently think help to determine the course of your life?

How will meditating on God’s word help you to think thoughts that are pleasing to Him?

How are you putting into practice what you have heard, learned, received and seen in God’s word?

How is putting into practice what you have heard, learned, received and seen from God helping you to know Him?

How is putting into practice what you have heard, learned, received and seen from God bringing peace into your life?

Living It Out: ***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Allow God’s word to help you to think His thoughts and do His will so you can experience His peace.

Seeing It Happen: ***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that you will come to know God better and experience His peace as you think His thoughts and do His will.

Get Ready To Share: ***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group how God has helped you to think His thoughts and do His will.

Close With Prayer:

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May you think God's thoughts and do His will so that you can live in His peace.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Lord, I will think your thoughts and do your will so I can live in your peace.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, how can I think your thoughts and do your will today so I can live in your peace?
