

Philippians 4:8-9

Phil 4:8-9 *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. 9 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*

Spiritual battles are won in the mind

Joy and peace are attained by having the proper mindset. We must have our priorities in order. We must know what makes for real joy and real peace.

In verse eight Paul tells us what we need to meditate on to have the peace of God.

Matt 15:16-20 *So Jesus said, "Are you also still without understanding? 17 Do you not yet understand that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and is eliminated? 18 But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. 19 For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. 20 These are the things which defile a man, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a man." NKJV*

The Biblical heart includes our minds where evil thoughts originate.

Prov 23:6-7 *- Do not eat the bread of a miser, Nor desire his delicacies; 7 For as he thinks in his heart, so is he. "Eat and drink!" he says to you, But his heart is not with you. NKJV*

Your mind dictates the type of person you are.

2 Cor 10:3-6 *For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, 6 and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled. NKJV*

Every thought we have must be subject to Christ and bring about our obedience to Him.

Rom 12:1-2 *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 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. NKJV*

We are transformed into what God wants us to be by renewing our minds.

1 Peter 1:13-16 *Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; 14 as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; 15 but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy." NKJV*

Holiness starts with preparing our minds.

Phil 4:8-9 *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.*

True – unconcealed or not hidden.

We should think on God's **revealed** truth.

Ps 119:15 *I will meditate on Your precepts, And contemplate Your ways.* NKJV

Ps 119:27 *Make me understand the way of Your precepts; So shall I meditate on Your wonderful works.*

Ps 119:48 *My hands also I will lift up to Your commandments, Which I love, And I will meditate on Your statutes.*

Ps 119:148 *My eyes are awake through the night watches, That I may meditate on Your word.* NKJV

Ps 145:5 *I will meditate on the glorious splendor of Your majesty, And on Your wondrous works.* NKJV

We are to meditate on what has been **revealed** to us about God through nature and revelation.

Noble - august, venerable, reverend; to be venerated for character, honorable: of persons (A. V. grave), 1 Tim 3:8,11; Titus 2:2; of deeds, Phil 4:8. (Thayer's - PC Study Bible).

The other three times this word is used in the Bible it describes people: **deacons**, deacon's wives, and older men.

Just - in a wide sense, upright, righteous, virtuous, keeping the commands of God. (Thayer's - PC Study Bible)

Our minds should be meditating on things that are keeping with the **commands** of God.

Pure - a. pure from carnality, chaste, modest: Titus 2:5; b. pure from every fault, immaculate: 2 Cor 7:11; Phil 4:8; 1 Tim 5:22; 1 Peter 3:2; 1 John 3:3.

1 Peter 3:1-2 *Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, 2 when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear.* NKJV

The same word translated pure in Philippians 4:8 is translated **chaste** in 1 Peter 3:2.

1 John 3:1-3 *Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. 2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. 3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.* NKJV

The only way we are going to be pure as God is pure is through purifying ourselves by **thinking** on pure things.

Lovely - from a presumed compound of NT:4314 and NT:5368; friendly towards, i.e. acceptable – (Biblesoft's New Exhaustive Strong's)

We should let our minds meditate on things that are friendly towards **God** and the peace He provides.

Good report - from NT:2095 and NT:5345; well spoken of, i.e. reputable (Biblesoft's New Exhaustive Strong's)

Matt 9:23-26 *When Jesus came into the ruler's house, and saw the flute players and the noisy crowd wailing, 24 He said to them, "Make room, for the girl is not dead, but sleeping." And they ridiculed Him. 25 But when the crowd was put outside, He went in and took her by the hand, and the girl arose. 26 And the report of this went out into all that land.*

The word translated "Good report" is the word good and the word report that is used in Matt 9:26 to describe how the news of Jesus raising this little girl from the dead spread throughout all the land.

Virtue - a word of very wide signification in Greek writings; any excellence of a person (in body or mind) or of a thing, an eminent endowment, property or quality. Used of the human mind and in an ethical sense, it denotes: 1. a virtuous course of thought, feeling and action; virtue, moral goodness (Wisdom 4:1; 5:13; often in 4 Maccabees and in Greek writings): 2 Peter 1:5 (others take it here specifically, viz. moral vigor; compare next entry). 2. any particular moral excellence, as modesty, purity; hence (plural *hai aretai*, Wisdom 8:7; often in 4 Maccabees and in the Greek philosophers) *tis aretee*, Phil 4:8. (from Thayer's - Biblesoft, Inc. All rights reserved.)

We should think of things that are morally excellent.

Praiseworthy - laudation; concretely, a commendable thing. (Biblesoft's New Exhaustive Strong's)

We are to focus our attention on commendable things.

What we think about we do.

Phil 4:9 *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*

Paul again tells the Philippians to do what he taught and did in their presence. If they followed his example, the God of peace would be with them.