

Think Your Way to a Better Life
Philippians 4:8-9, Psalm 19:1-14
August 13, 2017

***Finally, brothers and sisters,
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.*** (Philippians 4:8)

1. 4:8 thinking makes a difference in our relationships.

John 13:34 ***“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.”***

Matthew 5:43-44 ***“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor^[1] and hate your enemy.’ 44 But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,”***

Matthew 22:39 ***And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’***

2. Think about the Scriptures to learn 4:8 thinking.

Psalm 19:7-11 ***The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul;
The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.***

***8 The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;
The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.***

9 The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever;

The judgments of the Lord are true; they are righteous altogether.

***10 They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold;
Sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb.***

***11 Moreover, by them Your servant is warned;
In keeping them there is great reward.***

II Timothy 3:16 ***All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching,
rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the servant
of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.***

3. Think about Jesus to learn 4:8 thinking.

Colossians 3:1-2 ***Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your
hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.
2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.***

Matthew 22:37-38 ***Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your
heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” 38 This is the first
and greatest commandment.”***

4. 4:8 thinking produces _____.

Philippians 4:9 ***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.***

Romans 12:2 ***Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.***

Proverbs 27:3a ***For as he thinks within himself, so he is.*** (NASB)

5. 4:8 thinking is _____ for the Spirit-filled Christian.

I Corinthians 2:16 ***for, "Who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.***

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admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--
think about such things.*** (Philippians 4:8)

- Wouldn't it be great if you could think your way to a better life?
- Can't just think yourself thin or handsome or healthy or young etc.
- But on the other hand, if you think yourself fat or ugly or sick or old, you will be!
- How you think makes a difference in what you do and who you are.
- Proverbs 27:3a ***For as he thinks within himself, so he is.*** (NASB etc.)

- God gave us His Word because He loves us,
- And many places, God's Word lovingly teaches us about right thinking.
- We just read Philippians 4:8

- True – cf. Fake News.
- Noble – So much of what we see is ignoble, base. TV, Humor. Ted Talk to Session.
- Right – Just
- Pure
- Lovely
- Admirable – “of good report”
- Excellent – ἀρετὴ Virtue, Aristotle
- Praiseworthy

- “Sometimes I have a hard time focusing on that.” – Rev. Suzanne Zampalla
- This is > “The Power of Positive Thinking.”
- We’ll call this “4:8 thinking.”
- Could be “true thinking” or “noble thinking” or “right thinking” etc.

1. 4:8 thinking makes a difference in our relationships.

John 13:34 ***“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.”***

- What do you think about people with whom you’re in relationship? Spouse? Parents? Children? Boss? Pastor!
- What my wife thinks of me.

Matthew 5:43-44 ***“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor^[i] and hate your enemy.’ 44 But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,”***

- What do you think about your “enemies?”
- Attila the Hun “I hear he was an excellent horseman.”

Matthew 22:39 ***And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’***

- What do you think about yourself?
- Not conceit or arrogance.
- The apple of God’s eye!
- God’s Self-portrait. Masterpiece

- Right thinking also makes a difference in many things: Our jobs, how we face problems, our church life etc.
- Look for what is **true** and **noble** and **right** and **pure** and **lovely** and **admirable**

and **excellent** and **praise worthy** in every situation!

- We're so used to "junk thinking."
- How do we learn 4:8 thinking?

2. Think about the Scriptures to learn 4:8 thinking.

Psalm 19:7-11 *The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul;*

The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.

8 The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.

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10 They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold;

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II Timothy 3:16 *All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

- Use the sheet and cards to memorize and think about [Philippians 4:8](#).

3. Think about Jesus to learn 4:8 thinking.

- **Philippians 4:8 is a description of Jesus!**

- **True – John 14:6 *Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.***

- Noble – Revelation 17:14 ***They will wage war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will triumph over them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings—and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers.***
- Right/Just Romans 5:8 ***But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.***
 → **Gospel. Substitutionary Atonement**
- Pure Hebrews 4:15 ***For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.***
- Lovely
- Admirable
- Excellent
- Praiseworthy: Revelation 5:12 ***In a loud voice they (10k x 10k angels) were saying: “Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!”***

Colossians 3:1-2 ***Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.***

Matthew 22:37-38 ***Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ 38 This is the first and greatest commandment.”***

4. 4:8 thinking produces good results.

Philippians 4:9 ***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.***

Romans 12:2 ***Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.***

Proverbs 27:3a ***For as he thinks within himself, so he is.***
(NASB)

- **You are what you think!**

5. 4:8 thinking is possible, no, normal for the Spirit-filled Christian.

I Corinthians 2:16 ***for, "Who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.***

- Dan Merry, "Something to think about ..."
- God's Word creates reality.
- **This week, this word creates reality by giving you something to think about!**

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