

# Godly Thinking

In our series of lessons we have been taking a look at spiritual stability. This is a significant theme throughout the New Testament. Over and over again we are called to be faithful, consistent, stable, strong, bold, courageous, unwavering, and uncompromising. It's at the very heart of Christian living. So, how can we be stable? We *stand firm in the Lord*. And the exciting thing here is God tells us how! He says to stand firm *in this manner*. Spiritual stability comes to us by the possession of: peace, joy, humility, faith, and gratitude. Is your life characterized by these spiritual attitudes?

## I. Spiritual Stability is the Result of How You Think

- A. Where is your focus?
  - 1. Philippians 4:8: .... ***dwell*** on these things. This is an imperative.
  - 2. You are a product of your thinking. Proverbs 23:7: *For as he thinks within himself, so he is.*
  - 3. God has commanded us to think. Isaiah 1.18: *Come now, let us **reason** together, says the Lord:*
- B. Careful thinking is a distinctive of our revealed faith.
  - 1. Romans 10:17: *So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the message about Christ.*
  - 2. Jesus calls us to think.
    - a) Matthew 6:26: **Consider** the birds of the sky:...
    - b) Matthew 6:28: **Observe** how the wildflowers of the field grow...
    - c) Worry is not thought ... it is the absence of thought.
  - 3. 2 Corinthians 10:4–5: *The weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but are powerful through God for the demolition of strongholds. We demolish arguments and every proud thing that is raised up against the knowledge of God, and we take **every thought** captive to obey Christ.*
- C. We have to keep our minds renewed
  - 1. Romans 12:2: *be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.*
  - 2. 1 Peter 1:13: *with your minds ready for action, be **sober-minded***

## II. The Right Things to Think About

- A. Philippians 4.8a: Whatever is true. Where do we go for truth?
  - 1. Psalm 19:9: *The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the Lord are **reliable** and altogether righteous.*
- B. Philippians 4.8b: Whatever is honorable. We avoid things that are trashy or filthy.
- C. Philippians 4.8c: Whatever is **just**. Whatever is in harmony with the revealed word.
- D. Philippians 4.8d: Whatever is **pure**. Whatever is morally clean or undefiled.
- E. Philippians 4.8e: Whatever is lovely. Whatever is sweet, gracious, generous.
- F. Philippians 4.8f: Whatever is **commendable**. Whatever is well thought of or highly regarded.

## III. As We Close

- A. We have to protect our mind. Our mind is what determines what we want and desire ... and that is how we react to life.
- B. Your mind is the greatest treasure you have. Protect its influences. Avoid all the things which negatively impact your thinking.
- C. Upon what are you dwelling?