

Think On These Things

How are Christians supposed to think?



Psalm 119: 113 I hate vain thoughts: but thy law
do I love.

So... What does the Bible say about
our thoughts?

What does the Bible say about our thoughts?

How valuable are my thoughts?

The Lord knoweth the thoughts of man, that they are vanity
Psalm 94:11

Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness. And again, The Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain.

1 Corinthians 3:18-19

For he knoweth vain men: he seeth wickedness also; will he not then consider it? For vain men would be wise, though man be born like a wild ass's colt.

Job 11:11-12

What does the Bible say about our thoughts?

Are they neutral?

And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Genesis 6:5

What does the Bible say about our thoughts?

But are they really that bad?

But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies

Matthew 15: 18-19

And he said, That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.

Mark 7: 20-23

What does the Bible say about our thoughts?

Is it easy to spot the bad ones?

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately
wicked: who can know it?

Jeremiah 17:9

There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

Proverbs 16:25

What does the Bible say about our thoughts?

Do my thoughts really matter?

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour

1 Peter 5:8

Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another:
and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of
remembrance was written before him for them that feared
the Lord, and that thought upon his name. And they shall be
mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up my
jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son
that serveth him.

Malachi 3:16-17

A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.

Luke 6:45

What does the Bible say about our thoughts?

What should I think about?

God tells us what to think about!

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

Philippians 4:8

Some More Questions

- Can I rule my thoughts?
- Which thoughts should I rule?
- How do I rule my thoughts?
- What are the biggest obstacles to ruling my thoughts?

Can I rule my thoughts?

- We are commanded to think certain ways in Scripture

Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

1 Peter 1:13-16

Can I rule my thoughts?

- We are commanded to think certain ways in Scripture
- God's commandments are not grievous

For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments:
and his commandments are not grievous.

1 John 5:3

Can I rule my thoughts?

- We are commanded to think certain ways in Scripture
- God's commandments are not grievous
- You are not alone in the struggle

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

1 Corinthians 10:13

As in water face answereth to face, so the heart of man to
man.

Proverbs 27:19

I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Philippians 4:13

Which thoughts should I rule?

- Everything that isn't Phil 4:8! - God does not make us guess; He makes it rather plain
- True
- Honest
- Just
- Pure
- Lovely
- Good Report
- Virtuous
- Praise-worthy

...How God Defines Each

How do I rule my thoughts?

- Identify the wrong ones through intention and prayer

Through desire a man, having separated himself, seeketh and
intermeddleth with all wisdom.

Proverbs 18:1

Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Psalm 139:23-24

How do I rule my thoughts?

- Identify the wrong ones through intention and prayer
- Don't let bad thoughts linger

And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.

Matthew 11:12

How do I rule my thoughts?

- Identify the wrong ones through intention and prayer
- Don't let bad thoughts linger
- Talk to yourself – ask why you're thinking that thought

Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou
disquieted within me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise
him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God.

Psalm 42:11

How do I rule my thoughts?

- Identify the wrong ones through intention and prayer
- Don't let bad thoughts linger
- Talk to yourself – ask why you're thinking that thought
- When in a rut – praise God creatively

Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7

How do I rule my thoughts? (2)

- Use the resources God has given you

Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of
counsellors there is safety.

Proverbs 11:4

Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.
Honour thy father and mother; which is the first
commandment with promise; That it may be well with thee,
and thou mayest live long on the earth.

Ephesians 6:1-3

How do I rule my thoughts? (2)

- Use the resources God has given you
- When you have strong emotions – Test them with Bible

We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

2 Peter 1:19-20

How do I rule my thoughts? (2)

- Use the resources God has given you
- When you have strong emotions – Test them with Bible
- Prepare to wrestle with the Pastor

Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth
itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity
every thought to the obedience of Christ

2 Corinthians 10:5

How do I rule my thoughts? (2)

- Use the resources God has given you
- When you have strong emotions – Test them with Bible
- Prepare to wrestle with the Pastor
- Admit you know nothing and need God's guidance

Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths

Proverbs 3:5-6

The Biggest Obstacles

- Thinking Circumstances / Results justify decisions

These things hast thou done, and I kept silence; thou thoughtest that I was altogether such an one as thyself: but I will reprove thee, and set them in order before thine eyes.

Psalm 50:21

The Biggest Obstacles

- Thinking Circumstances / Results justify decisions
- Pride blinds us

Every way of a man is right in his own eyes: but the Lord
pondereth the hearts.

Proverbs 21:2

The Biggest Obstacles

- Thinking Circumstances / Results justify decisions
- Pride blinds us
- Allowing the wrong Inputs

Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.

1 Corinthians 15:33

The Biggest Obstacles

- Thinking Circumstances / Results justify decisions
- Pride blinds us
- Allowing the wrong Inputs
- Laziness stops us from trying

Through desire a man, having separated himself, seeketh and
intermeddleth with all wisdom.

Proverbs 18:1

You Can Rule Your Thoughts

- Powerful truth in a world that preaches you're powerless
- God has sent us His Holy Spirit!
- If we walk in the Spirit – we can mold our thoughts
- Satan wants you hopeless, bitter, miserable, and proud
- Our King helps us be better

For Further Study

- [Bring It Back To The Bible! – 2006](#)
- [Your Thoughts Can Destroy You – 2006](#)
- [Bitterness Will Destroy You – 2000](#)
- [Gird Up The Loins Of Your Mind – 2015](#)
- [Victorious Christian Living – 2023](#)
- [Faith Or Feelings - 2000](#)