

How To Have Proper Thinking Patterns Philippians 4:4-9

Introduction:

- How complex is the human mind?
 1. It only weighs _____ pounds but can store as much information as 170 million books.
 2. Scientists do not know how the brain transmits information.
- God created our brains and knows exactly how it works
 1. Our thinking has been adversely affected by s _____
 2. Our thinking patterns can be c _____ so that our mind is functioning as God designed it – to p _____ Him.

F _____ your mind with God's thinking (4-7)

- Verses 4-7 taught us that by deciding to r _____ in the Lord no matter what changes our perspective.
- Isaiah 55:8-11
 1. God's thoughts are h _____ than our thoughts
 2. God's thoughts consist of His w _____
 3. Therefore we need to a _____ what God says in the Bible.
- What messages might we readily absorb from the world?
 1. C _____ may tie your identity with the your looks, what you drink, what you drive, etc.)
 2. Institutions of learning may tie your intelligence to g _____
 3. What your p _____, spouse, or family members say may affect how you view yourself.
- Other Scriptures
 1. Rom 12:2 – do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by renewing our m _____
 2. 2 Tim 3:16 – all Scripture b _____ us in some way (teaching, rebuking, correcting, or training).
 3. Psalms 1:2 – m _____ on God's word makes a difference in our thinking.
- How much time should we spend in God's word?
 1. It's not about how much r _____ you do
 2. It's about making God's word o _____ your mind all the time.
 - a. When temptation comes, then I will think about what God says about overcoming temptation.
 - b. When someone tries to damage my self-image, then I will think about what God says about who I am (His c _____, servant, useful to Him).

F_____ your mind on godly things (8)

●Truth

1. In the B_____ (doctrine)
2. Discovered by m_____ (malnourishment, fitness, stress)
3. Distinguish between t_____ and truth (e.g. evolution)

●Honorable things

1. This word comes from an old word meaning w_____
2. Things that give g_____ to God

●Right things - Our world presents s_____ things as appealing (e.g. lust, greed)

●Pure things

1. Dr. Ruth wrongly counsels that impure thoughts are healthy for marriages.
2. You will n_____ get yourself into trouble with pure thoughts!

●Lovely things

1. Literally, things that *bring forth h_____ affection*
2. Examples include God's c_____ (flowers, sunset, sound of ocean waves)

●Things of good report

1. The Greek word used is where we get our word euphemism, which is saying something negative in a n_____ way.
2. How we say something is directly related to how we think – think in a nice way!

F_____ your mind with godly activity (9)

●Paul commands us to p_____ his teachings

1. The apostles did not teach their opinions but God's w_____ (Jn 14:26)
2. Practicing God's word produces proper thinking patterns.

●How this works

1. In the natural realm – you need directions to a place in a strange town; your told the directions; but not until you actually d_____ to the place will how to get their be imprinted in your mind. The more you drive there, the better you will remember.
2. In the spiritual realm – someone says something designed to damage your self-image
 - a. If you follow this up with n_____ activity (go away with slumped shoulders or a frown, or sulking, or if you are reactionary), it will make you think little of yourself.
 - b. If you follow this up with godly activity (praying for God to remind you of what He says, praying for them, serving them).
3. Godly activities include – praying, reading God's word, fellowshiping, serving)