**CHANGED BY THE POWER OF GOD’S WORD**

 **SCRIPTURE READING….PHILIPPIANS 4:8
“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”.**

BELOVED, THROUGHOUT THE NEW TESTAMENT WE ARE CONSTANTLY REMINDED BY OUR SAVIOR AND THE APOSTLES TO THINK AND TO REASON THINGS OUT FOR OUR SELVES IN A GODLY MANNER.

JESUS HIMSELF SPOKE TO HIS FOLLOWERS IN PARABLES IN ORDER MOTIVATE THEIR MINDS AND TO WAKE UP THEIR ABILITY TO BE ABLE TO THINK IN GODLY TERMS.

**JESUS: IN THIS PARABLE HE SPOKE ABOUT A MAN WITH A HUNDRED SHEEP
*(MATTHEW 18:12-14) 12How think ye? if a man have an hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray?13And if so be that he find it, verily I say unto you, he rejoiceth more of that sheep, than of the ninety and nine which went not astray.14Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish. “HOW THINK YE?”***

1. ***NOTICE HOW HE OPENED UP THE PARABLE BY ASKING A QUESTION….“HOW THINK YE?”***
2. ***Why was this so important…He wanted them to think things out for themselves with the use of Godly reasoning!***
3. ***TO HIM IT WAS COMMON SENSE, BUT HE KNEW THEY NEEDED A FRESH WAY OF THINKING BECAUSE THEY WERE VERY illiterate IN THEIR WAY OF REASONING GODLY THINGS OUT FOR THEMSELVES!***

So He gave them another parable….
**JESUS: HERE JESUS SPOKE THIS PARABLE OF A WOMAN THAT LOST A COIN**(***LUKE 15:8-10 …. 8Either what woman having ten pieces of silver, if she lose one piece, doth not light a candle, and sweep the house, and seek diligently till she find it?9And when she hath found it, she calleth her friends and her neighbours together, saying, Rejoice with me; for I have found the piece which I had lost.10Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of Go over one sinner that repenteth.*** ***“how think ye?”***

***Next we see Jesus asking them another question”?***

 (MATTHEW 22:42) Saying, **“What think ye of Christ? whose son is He? Notice at this point they still don’t fully understand who he really was, They say unto him, The son of David”.**
Beloved one thing to be observed is that FOLLOWING JESUS IS GOING TO REQUIRE A GOOD SOLID MIND WITH GOOD SOLID GODLY WAY OF THINKING.

Here is what the bible says concerning thinking patterns….
***HEBREWS 5: 11-14 “11 Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing. 12 For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. 13 For every one that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. 14 But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil”.***

***Beloved so many of Gods followers say so many foolish things because they fail to understand scriptures!!!***

Over in the Gospel of Matthew 5:48 Jesus said the following statements…

 ***“48 Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect”. Then He proceeded to give them a lesson on how to use their minds….***

So, He gave them a series of instructions so they can study them out and change their way of thinking! Their thinking patterns had to change!!!

***MATTHEW 5:1- And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him:2And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying,3Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.4Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.5Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.6Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.7Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.8Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.9Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.10Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.11Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.12Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.13Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.14Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.15Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.16Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.17Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.18For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.***

**So then the main question here is …**
 (WHY DID JESUS TEACH THESE THINGS AND then quote VERSE 48 AS WELL?)

Beloved it’s because we all need GUIDANCE IN OUR way of GODLY THINKING!!!!!
***PETER NEEDED HELP IN HIS THINKING:
MATTHEW 16:20-21 “20 Then charged He His disciples that they should tell no man that He was Jesus the Christ. 21 From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto His disciples, how that He must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day”.***
WHAT JESUS WAS TELLING PETER WAS VERY IMPORTANT AND A VERY VALUABLE LESSON EVERY CHILD OF GOD NEEDS TO UNDERSTAND:

JESUS WAS TEACHING A LESSON ON SERVITUDE; BUT (hot head) PETER DID NOT WANT JESUS SERVING HIM.
***MATTHEW 16:23*** ***But He turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men”.***

JESUS WAS CORRECTING HIS WAY OF THINKING, THEN TELLS THE DISCIPLES TO DENY THEMSELVES (VS. 24-28)

HOW DO WE THINK RIGHT? IS THERE SUCH A WAY FOR US TO THINK IN A GODLY MANNER?

IT BEGINS BY UNDERSTANDING AND REALIZING THAT YOU AND I DO NOT HAVE THE CAPACITY TO THINK LIKE GOD!!!
***(ISAIAH 55:8-9) “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the Lord. 9 “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts”.***

**BELOVED GOD HAS PROVIDED A WAY FOR US TO THINK LIKE HIM. BUT HOW IS THIS POSSIBLE YOU MIGHT ASK? HE IS GOD!!! WE CAN’T THINK LIKE HIM!!**

**BELOVED, GOD HAS REVEALED IT TO US BUT OUR SPIRIT MUST BE CONNECTED TO HIS SPIRIT!**

 ***I CORINTHIANS 2:10-11 “10 But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. 11 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God”.***

BUT THERE ARE SOME THINGS OF GOD WE JUST DON’T KNOW.
HOW CAN WE KNOW THE THINGS OF GOD?
WE CAN’T KNOW ALL UNLESS GOD REVEALS THOSE THINGS TO US!!

Beloved the answer is found in the following scripture in the old testament….
***DEUTERONOMY 29:29 “The secret things belong unto the Lord our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law”.***

***Beloved we in our finite mind can never understand the infinite mind of God!***WHAT WE NEED IS A MENTAL METAMORPHISIS TO TAKE PLACE IN OUR LIVES!!!
FROM THE MIND TO OUR THINKING BRAIN FUNCTION!!!
METAMORPHISIS: A CHANGE; as in from .. A WORM TO A BUTTERFLY
There needs to be a change of heart before we can become what God wants us to be.
It all starts with our mental state.
It needs our willingness to change.

**SO THEN HOW DO WE CHANGE OUR MINDS?**
***ROMANS 12:1-2 “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God”.***

**BELOVE, PAUL GAVE SOME IN DEPTH INSTRUCTIONS TO THE PHILLIPIANS IN ORDER TO GET THEM TO CHANGE THEIR ENTIRE PERSPECTIVE ON HOW THEY WERE TO CONDUCT THEMSELVES BY THE WAY THEY PROCESSED IN THEIR MIND SOME OF THE THINGS THAT PERTAINED TO LIVING A LIFE THAT WOULD BE PLEASING TO GOD!**

LET US BREAK IT ALL DOWN IN ORDER FOR US TO UNDERSTAND WHAT PAUL WAS COMMUNICATING BY WAY OF THE SPIRIT OF GOD….

FIRST, HE STARTED OUT BY SAYING….

**WHATSOEVER THINGS ARE TRUE**Truth must always come first in everything we do.
This is the nature of God and Christ and the Holy Spirit who would come to reveal all truth.
The things of God are true.
If we are going to be children of God, we must also be true.
“Genuine” is a word that fits here.

**WHATSOEVER THINGS ARE HONEST**Someone once said….“Honesty is the best policy” this is so true!!!
Who would you do business with?
If you are honest, you would want those you deal with to be honest also.

**WHATSOEVER THINGS ARE JUST**Treat others as you would want to be treated.
Expectation of others obeying and living by the rules.
Expectation of punishment for those who violate the law.

**WHATSOEVER THINGS ARE PURE**The church is supposed to be pure, but we all know that these are the end times, it’s a shame what we see all around us in many churches!!!
So we need to think on ways to keep the church pure, this is what God is expecting from us.
That also carries the responsibility to keep anything that defiles out of the church.
People also need to be pure in conduct, thought, spirituality and honesty.

**WHATSOEVER THINGS ARE LOVELY**Beauty is in the eye of the beholder, is not what this means.
Watching things take place that God calls good are lovely things.
Seeing people treat others as God wants them to is a lovely thing to see.
Seeing someone take a stand for the truth is a lovely thing.

**WHATSOEVER THINGS ARE OF GOOD REPORT**Reminds us of elder qualifications that they should have a good report.
This is Also known as a good reputation.
***1 Peter 1:15 “be holy in all your behavior”.
1 Peter 2:12 “Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles…”***

**IF THERE BE ANY VIRTUE**Virtue is actually speaking of Moral Excellence!
Free from sin or error.
Having a reputation of moral purity.
Often ridiculed in our culture, but this is what God wants.

**IF THERE BE ANY PRAISE**
Anything worthy of “Praise”.
God is to be praised for sure,
But God also will praise you for your goodness”.
It is nice to be honored, but we have to earn such honor.

**CONCLUSION**We all need to “Meditate upon these things”
Fill your mind with these good things and concentrate upon making them a part of your life.
Thinking on these things first will always leave room for our daily things to think about.
***2 Peter 1:10 “As long as you do these things you will never stumble”.***