



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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Think on These Things!

Focus Verse: 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.

Lesson Text: Joshua 1:8-9

Truth About God: God wants us to meditate on His Word.

Truth For My Life: Meditating on God's Word (or good things) will bring peace and success to my life.

What we allow to occupy our thoughts and influence our reasoning is extremely important. A consistent diet of temporal concepts, secular opinions, and earthly values contaminates our thinking and leads to a lack of true wisdom. On the other hand, a steady consumption of eternal concepts, spiritual opinions, and heavenly values purifies our thinking and leads to an abundance of true wisdom. God's Word is that source. Psalm 1:1-2 says the one who meditates on God's Word is blessed and finds delight.

Many voices speak and compete for our attention. Our world is a marketplace full of merchants trying hard to sell us on their answers for our questions, but their answers change based on the latest polls, protest, and social media trends. Each voice attempts to direct how we think, feel, or reason—to guide what we prioritize and value—and to lead us to behave in certain ways. These voices speak through entertainment, spiritual leadership, our social media feed, our relationships, workplace conversations, and the list could continue. The only voices worth listening to are those speaking in unison with God's Word. For our lives to fully align with God's plan for us, we must seek guidance from His Word. We can trust the principles and values contained therein; they will lead us in the direction of God's best for us.

We see God's command to meditate on His Word all throughout His Word. God commanded Joshua to meditate on the Book of the Law day and night. When we meditate on God's Word, we intentionally contemplate godly principles and values, which produces sound reasoning. As we continue in our journey of transformation to be more like Christ, we must prioritize God's Word, for that is where He has communicated His character, nature, and principles. We can make the same commitment the psalmist made in Psalm 119:15: "*I will meditate in thy precepts, and have respect unto thy ways.*"

The practice of meditating on God's Word moves us toward obedience. We must know His Word so we can obey His Word. Every instruction, command, or principle found in the Bible appears intentionally. We cannot overlook or undervalue an instruction or challenge from His Word because it challenges our comfort, current lifestyle, tradition, or previous experience. While God's Word is the revelation of His nature and values, it also reveals His plan for us. His instruction to "*be holy, for I am holy*" (Leviticus 11:45; 1 Peter 1:16) contains both His nature ("*I am holy*") and His plan ("*be holy*"). Thus, in order to fulfill His plan for our lives—to be holy like Him—we must meditate on and practice obedience to His Word. Micah 6:8 states: "*He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?*"

God is the mapmaker, and the Bible is our map. God and His Word guide us in the direction we ought to walk to fulfill God's plan and purpose for our lives. We can trust Him and His Word. He has been leading pilgrims since Genesis, and He knows how to get us from where we are to where we are headed.

Our **spiritual instruction** manual—the Word of God—contains the words and nature of the one we are called to be like. It all starts with what we think about and meditate on. Let us think about and meditate on the goodness of God, obey God and His Word, and we will find ourselves holy just as our God is holy.

What a wonderful and merciful God to give us power along with the instructions and commands He has given. His Word gives light to our path (Psalm 119:105), order to our steps (Psalm 119:133), and understanding to our minds (Psalm 119:130). He has given us what we need to be successful in our pursuit of Him by giving us access to His presence and His Word.