

The Importance of Thinking and Doing in the Christian's Life

Philippians 4:8-9

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Introduction

What a person thinks about is important because it will eventually effect the way they live.

Context: Philippians 4:1-9

“Stand firm” (v. 1)

Last week Pastor Scott listed 3 ways to stand firm. Rejoice (v.4), Be gentle (v. 5) and Don't worry. Pray (v. 6)

These exhortations were followed by the promise. “ And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” (v. 7).

Verses 8-9 continue to show us what we need in order to stand firm in the Lord.

Paul is addressing Christians

⁸Finally, brethren,

To stand firm in the Lord we must think about what we think about.

whatever is true,

“True as it accords with fact (reality). Stresses undeniable reality when something is fully tested, i.e., will ultimately be shown to be fact, (authentic).”

Truth - John 14:6; John 17:17; John 18:37-38

whatever is honorable,

worthy of respect, venerable, dignified, noble

1 Timothy 2:2; 3:4, 8, 11; Titus 2:2, 7

whatever is right/just, (righteous)

“In accordance with God’s standard.”

Psalm 11:7

whatever is pure/holy,

Ethically, ritually, ceremonially; chaste, modest.

Chaste - 2 Corinthians 11:2; Titus 2:5

morally upright - 2 Corinthians 7:11; James 3:17; 1 John 3:3

whatever is lovely,

pleasing, amiable, agreeable

“Like a welcome fragrance.”

whatever is of good repute,

“gracious, good report” “commendable”

if there is any excellence

“Moral excellence, goodness, virtue”

1 Peter 2:9 (excellencies/wonderful deeds)

2 Peter 1:3 “excellence”, 1:5 moral excellence/virtue

if anything worthy of praise,

Praise that is offered to God Philippians 1:11; Ephesians 1:6, 12, 14

Of persons - 1 Peter 2:14

dwell on these things.

To think, consider, dwell upon

Let your mind continually dwell on these things.

To stand firm in the Lord we must put into practice what we have been taught and have seen modeled by godly examples.

⁹The things

you have learned

Philippians 4:11

Matthew 11:29

and received

1 Corinthians 11:23-26; 15:1-5

1 Thessalonians 4:1; 2 Thessalonians 3:6

and heard and seen in me,

Philippians 1:30

Philippians 3:17 (1 Corinthians 4:16; 11:1)

practice these things,

“keep putting into practice”

Matthew 7:24-27

James 1:22-25

To stand firm we must trust God's promises.

and the God of peace will be with you.

(See 4:7)

Romans 15:33; 16:20; 2 Corinthians 13:11; 1Thessalonian 5:23

Hebrews 13:20

See also Romans 15:13; 2 Corinthians 1:3; 2 Thessalonians 3:16

Application

1. Think about your thought life.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

2. Repent of ungodly thinking.

3. Be careful what you feed your mind.

Romans 12:1-2

4. Cultivate Biblical, God-centered, Christian thinking.

Read, memorize and meditate on God's Word.

5. Be obedient to what you know to be true.