



## **PAUL'S TEACHING ON THOUGHTS**

...and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.  
II Corinthians 10:5b (NIV)

Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.  
Romans 12:2 (NLT)

For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. 2 Timothy 1:7 (KJV)

So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace. Romans 8:6 (NLT)

### **1. LEARN TO SEE THINGS FROM \_\_\_\_\_**

Therefore, although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do what you ought to do, <sup>9</sup>yet I prefer to appeal to you on the basis of love. It is as none other than Paul—an old man and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus—<sup>10</sup>that I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, who became my son while I was in chains. <sup>11</sup>Formerly he was useless to you, but now he has become useful both to you and to me. <sup>12</sup>I am sending him—who is my very heart—back to you. <sup>13</sup>I would have liked to keep him with me so that he could take your place in helping me while I am in chains for the gospel. <sup>14</sup>But I did not want to do anything without your consent, so that any favor you do would not seem forced but would be voluntary.  
Philemon 8-14 (NIV)

### **How Do I Learn? \_\_\_\_\_**

And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. <sup>9</sup>Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me—everything you heard from me and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you. Philippians 4:8-9 (NLT)

...But we have the mind of Christ. I Corinthians 2:16b (NAS)

Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. Ephesians 4:23 (NLT)

**"As a single footstep will not make a path on the earth, so a single thought will not make a pathway in the mind. To make a deep physical path, we walk again and again. To make a deep mental path, we must think over and over the kind of thoughts we wish to dominate our lives."  
(Henry David Thoreau)**

### **2. LOOK FOR THE \_\_\_\_\_ IN THE \_\_\_\_\_**

Perhaps the reason he was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back forever—<sup>16</sup>no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother. He is very dear to me but even dearer to you, both as a fellow man and as a brother in the Lord. <sup>17</sup>So if you consider me a partner, welcome him as you would welcome me.  
Philemon 15-17 (NIV)

Onesimus hasn't been of much use to you in the past, but now he is very useful to both of us. <sup>12</sup>I am sending him back to you, and with him comes my own heart. Philemon 11-12 (NLT)

**INSTEAD OF ASKING " \_\_\_\_\_ ?";  
ASK " \_\_\_\_\_ ?"**

And I want you to know, my dear brothers and sisters, that everything that has happened to me here has helped to spread the Good News. <sup>13</sup>For everyone here, including the whole palace guard, knows that I am in chains because of Christ. <sup>14</sup>And because of my imprisonment, most of the believers here have gained confidence and boldly speak God's message without fear. <sup>15</sup>It's true that some are preaching out of jealousy and rivalry. But others preach about Christ with pure motives. <sup>16</sup>They preach because they love me, for they know I have been appointed to defend the Good News. <sup>17</sup>Those others do not have pure motives as they preach about Christ. They preach with selfish ambition, not sincerely, intending to make my chains more painful to me. <sup>18</sup>But that doesn't matter. Whether their motives are false or genuine, the message about Christ is being preached either way, so I rejoice. And I will continue to rejoice. <sup>19</sup>For I know that as you pray for me and the Spirit of Jesus Christ helps me, this will lead to my deliverance.  
Philippians 1:12-19 (NLT)