

Think for the King

Some Ways to Grow in Yielding Your Mind to Christ

Here are some suggestions for those of us who want to grow in our intellect and becoming more available to the Lord in this way.

First, I include a summary of some recommendations from Dr. John Piper's book, *Think: The Life of the Mind and the Love of God* (available free from this website: http://cdn.desiringgod.org/website_uploads/documents/books/think.pdf)

Secondly, I am including some other, do-these-this-week suggestions from the sermon.



May we all learn to love the Lord, our God with all of our minds!

Pastor Darryl

From *Think*, by Dr. John Piper:

1. Be Born Again

" to do Christian scholarship, a person must be born again. That is, a person must not only see the effects of God's work in the world but also savor the beauty of God's nature in the gospel, and in all that he has made, and in all that he does." (p. 169)

2. Seek Wisdom Past Difficulties

" There is no other path in the pursuit of knowing and loving God as fully as he would be known and loved. With all its perils, we must walk this path. We should not be so fearful that the task seems like a necessary evil. That is not the spirit of the Proverbs, which tell us to pursue the knowledge of God in his Word and in his world the way people seek silver and gold." (p. 171)

3. Be Thankful for Thinkers

" be humbly thankful for the countless benefits you enjoy both spiritually and naturally from those who have devoted their lives to the rigorous use of the mind. Without thousands of people who use their minds rigorously, you would not be wearing the clothes you have on, or driving the car you drive, or eating the food you eat, or holding a manufactured book in your hand." (p. 179)

4. Respect Those Who Serve You with Thinking

"...Respect those who by inclination and calling devote time and effort to thinking for the sake of understanding the Bible and the world we live in." (p. 180)

5. Think Consciously for the Glory of Christ

" make all your thinking a partner in God's ultimate purpose to magnify the supreme worth of his glory—the glory of Christ. This is the ultimate theme and purpose of Scripture. This is why all thinking and all scholarship exists. The heavens are designed by God to tell the glory of God (Ps. 19:1; Rom. 1:19–21; Col. 1:16); Pharaoh and every human king exists for the glory of God (Ex. 9:16; Acts 12:23); all of redemptive history exists for the praise of his glory (Eph. 1:6); everything you do, from eating to dying, is to be for his glory (1 Cor. 10:31; John 21:19); history will end with everyone

marveling at his glory (2 Thess. 1:10). Make God's supreme beauty and worth the driving force of all your thinking. And make it the centerpiece of everything you create." (p. 182)

6. Become Like Children

"[Jesus wants us to] be humble and dependent. "Do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature" (1 Cor. 14:20). Humility is the great prerequisite for understanding the truth of God—and that means the truth that matters most about everything.

6A. Embrace Humility

"Admit and confess your absolute dependence on Christ and his Spirit. 'Apart from me you can do nothing' (John 15:5)." (p. 182)

6B. Beware of Showing Off

"Beware of showing off. (I'm still pleading for your humility.) Thinkers are often clever folks. Therefore, I plead with you to keep in mind the crucial word from James Denney: "No man can give the impression that he himself is clever and that Christ is mighty to save."³ The temptation is huge in our day among very gifted entertainment-oriented preachers. They make a trademark out of clever speech. There is, from time to time, a place for the shrewd and penetrating riposte, but as a diet, it does not magnify Christ or feed the soul." (p. 183)

7. Think for the Sake of Love

"Make all your thinking an act of love for people. "Let all that you do be done in love" (1 Cor. 16:14)—that includes thinking... Thinking that does not aim to display Christ and build up people is not worthy of God's approval. It may produce wonders—antibiotics, buildings, bridges, books, big-screen TVs—but the final stamp on the box will be: Disapproved. For 'whatever does not proceed from faith is sin. . .Without faith it is impossible to please [God]' (Rom. 14:23; Heb. 11:6)." (p. 184)

8. Remember the Role of God in Our Thinking

"We think, and the Lord gives understanding. We seek it like silver; the Lord gives it. Not either-or. Both-and. Our thinking does not replace God's grace. It is the gift of grace and the pathway to more and more." (p. 184)

9. Pursue These Habits of the Mind

" So the habits of mind and heart are:

- observing
- understanding
- evaluating
- feeling
- applying
- expressing (p. 192)

Piper, John. *Think: The Life of the Mind and the Love of God*. Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway, 2010.

Consider adding some of these disciplines and habits to your schedule:

- intentional silence
- temporary fasting (from food or other appetites)
- prayer
- Bible Study
- service
- solitude

What can you do this week to begin to become a better thinker?

Confess to God that you struggle: “apart from [Christ] you can do nothing” (John 15:5)

- Grow with a friend: invite a friend to challenge your thinking when you say or do things that are inconsistent with what you say you believe. Really listen when they take you up on it!

- Intentionally choose to think, reason this week:

With Communication:

- Listen carefully when people talk or music plays
- Read carefully whenever you read
(Do you understand what you're reading? Do you understand the words being used? Do you understand the big picture the words are communicating? Could you communicate the point of what you read to another person who didn't read it?)
- Understand words you and others use
(Are you using words the right way? Are there other words you could use that would communicate more accurately?)
- Retract words you don't want to use
(Thoughtful communication involves choosing well from the beginning. Acknowledging mistakes resets high standards as well.)
- Learn new words

With Every-Day Living

- Look up background information about topics you care about (foods you eat, hobbies you have, movies you enjoy, sports you enjoy, books you read, people you love)
- Write out similarities between things you know well and a topic you are learning about (i.e. two languages, two cars you like, your current job vs. your former job)
- Turn off autopilot. Take a week and purposefully do the things you usually do automatically. Got laundry? Think about what you're doing and why. Got a job? Think about what your job is and why you do each part. You might discover that there are parts of your regular routine that can be done better, dropped or passed on to someone else.

In Relationships:

- Take time to write out some things you love about your family. Do this for your friends too. Consider letting them know what you

appreciate about them!

In Rest

- In your rest: are the down-time activities actually restful or do they cause you more stress. Can you change them? How?

Take some time to consider what of these things you can do this week with the goal of glorifying God more fully with your mind.

