**Philippians 4: 7 -8**

**Focal Truth: When believers pray the peace of God guards their minds so that they can think about godly things**

**Paul calls the Philippians to think deeply about 6 qualities – 4:8**

**Observations**

1. Believers experience the peace of God when they pray
2. The peace of God is the peace of Jesus Christ

Peace - eirene = the tranquil state of the soul assured of salvation in Christ

John 14:27 – Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you, not as the world gives, do I give to you, do not let your hearts be troubled, nor fearful

1. The peace of God surpasses comprehension

Surpasses – hyperecho – to rise above

Comprehension – nous – thoughts, feelings, understanding, desires

The peace of God

1. Calms the anxious mind
2. Produces peacefulness in the mind
3. Raises the mind above what can be humanly understood – strengthens faith
4. The peace of God guards the heart (emotions) & mind (thoughts, desires & will)

Guards – phroureo – protection like a military guard from hostile invasion or attacks from within the city

Hearts – kardia = affections

Mind – noema – thoughts

2 Cor. 10:5 – we are destroying speculations, and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought – noema – perception or thoughts, captive to the obedience of Christ

Peace of God guards from the troubles of the mind: worry, fear, anger etc…

1. Believers must practice spiritual thinking - whatever you think about should honor & glorify the Lord Jesus Christ

**Whatever – hosos – all that is**

1. Think about whatever (all that is) true – alethes – not concealed, not hidden

* The Lord Jesus is true light – John 1:9 that was the true Light, which lights every man coming into the world

John 15:1 – I am the true vine

1 John 5:20 – we know that the Son of God is come, & has given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, & we are in him that is true, even in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life

* The new man in Christ is created in righteousness & true holiness – Eph. 4:24
* Growing in the true knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ – Col. 2:2

1. Think about whatever (all that is) honorable - semnos – honored by character, acts of character, people of character

* Think on the honorable character & work of the Lord Jesus Christ
* Think on the acts of character that have been done to you
* Think about honorable people of character who walk with God

1. Think about whatever (all that is) right – dikaios – righteous observing the Law of God

* Think on the righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ
* Think on the righteousness given to us by faith in Jesus Christ
* Think on acts of righteousness that come as we obey God’s word

1. Think about whatever (all that is) pure - hagnos – sacred, reverence, pure from fleshly sin, modest, clean

* Think on the Lord Jesus Christ who was pure & holy
* Think on living on the cleanness of purity in the Holy Spirit

1. Think about whatever (all that is) lovely - prosphilies – acceptable, pleasing

* Think about the loveliness of the Lord Jesus Christ
* Think about acceptance in Christ by justification by faith
* Think about pleasing God by a life of obedience

1. Think about whatever (all that is) good repute - euphemos – speaking well, good words, gracious words

* Think of the Lord Jesus gracious words – full of grace & truth
* Think about those who have spoken good words to you

**Now a transition – to thinking about where & who demonstrates these following traits in all the circumstances of life**

1. Think if or whether there is anything excellence - arete – moral goodness, moral thinking, modesty & purity -**Is there anything excellent**

* Think on the excellence of the Lord Jesus Christ
* Think on the excellence of godly words
* Think on the excellence of purity in life

1. Think if or whether there is anything worthy of praise – epainos – commendation, praise

* Think about praising God for all we have in Christ

1. **Dwell on these spiritually good qualities**

Dwell – logizomai – calculate, reckon, consider, think about as something having force or weight

Rom. 8:6 – for the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace

Now brothers, practice thinking on what is true, what is honorable, what is right, what is pure, what is loveable, what is high – toned, yes, on everything that is excellent or praiseworthy. Phil. 4:8 Williams Translation

I’d say you’ll do the best by filling your minds and meditating on things true, noble, reputable, authentic, compelling, gracious, the best, not the worst, the beautiful not the ugly, things to praise, not things to curse. Phil. 4:8 The Message

**Daily Use**

1. **Each day renew your mind by confession, repentance, prayer & time in God’s word**
2. **Remember that God sees your thoughts & you must face them whether they are sinful or holy**
3. **Daily set before you mind something to think deeply about from God’s word – Phil.4:8 is a good place to start**
4. **Stay with that one thought throughout the day**
5. **At night pause to reflect on your deep thoughts on the truth – ask God to teach you**