

Philippians 11 - Spirit-Led Thinking Leads to Spirit-Filled Living

Dr. John Carmichael

[Phi 4:8-9 NASB95] 8 Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things. 9 The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

- **The battle is often won or lost in the mind. Paul didn't just tell us to behave rightly. He told us to think rightly.**
- **"This verse also speaks of the influence of a person's thoughts and attitudes on his or her life. Whatever occupies a person's thinking will eventually work its way out in words or actions." (FBN)**
- **What you dwell on will eventually direct your life. And here's the good news: the Holy Spirit doesn't just change your heart. He transforms your thoughts.**

What do these verses teach us about the interaction of Spirit-led thinking and Spirit-filled living?

These verses teach us three things about Spirit-led thinking that leads to Spirit-filled living.

I. Choose What You Think

- a. **[Phi 4:8 NASB95] 8 Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.**
- b. **Paul lists what we should filter our thoughts through: truth, honorable, right, pure, lovely, good repute, excellent, or praise worthy. Use the filter on what you dwell on.**
- c. **The Holy Spirit helps us discern and reject ungodly thoughts. You don't have to let every thought stay; you can evict it. (Hagin: birds fly over, but we can keep them from building a nest on our heads.)**
- d. **"We are often not what we think we are, but we are always what we think. We are the product of our thoughts. If you do not control your thought life, you will not control your life. Feed material into your mind that produces evil thoughts and you will soon lose control of your life. Someone has said, 'Sow a thought, reap an act; sow an act, reap a habit; sow a habit, reap a destiny.'" (Butlers Expositor)**
- e. **One of the battlefields in our spiritual warfare is our thought life. [2Co 10:5 NASB95] 5 [We are] destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and [we are] taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,**
- f. **The mind is (should be) in a constant state of being renewed. [Rom 12:2 NASB95] 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.**
- g. **Set a daily habit of Scripture meditation to filter your thoughts. When a negative thought enters, speak the opposite truth aloud. Use prayer in the Spirit to realign your inner world. Concerning negative situations: DEAL with them, don't DWELL on them.**

II. Do What You Know

- a. **[Phi 4:9 NASB95] The things you have learned ... received ... heard ... seen in me, practice these things . . .**
- b. **Do what you know to do concerning your peace. It's not just about knowing truth. It's about living it.**

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- c. The Spirit doesn't just illuminate truth. He empowers obedience. He gives fire to your follow-through.
- d. [Jas 1:22 NASB95] 22 But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.
- e. [Jhn 14:26 NASB95] 26 "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.
- f. Spirit-empowered obedience. [Rom 8:13 NASB95] 13 for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.
- g. Ask the Spirit each day: "What am I supposed to obey today?" Be quick to act on the Word. Don't delay obedience. Model your life after godly examples in the church.

III. Peace Will Be With You

- a. [Phi 4:9 NASB95] ... and the God of peace will be with you.
 - b. Notice that in v7 - the peace of God is the guard... now you are participating in the guarding of the mind.
 - c. Right thinking + right living = peace-filled living. God's peace isn't just a moment. It's a presence that walks with you. God's peace is the dividend of doing.
 - d. The peace of God is not passive. It's powerful. It's the tangible result of a Spirit-led mind and life.
 - e. [Isa 26:3 NASB95] 3 "The steadfast of mind You will keep in perfect peace, Because he trusts in You.
 - f. [Gal 5:22 NASB95] 22 But the fruit of the Spirit ... peace ...
 - g. Identify what disrupts your peace and remove it. Spend time in Spirit-filled worship to renew peace. Guard your mind like a gate so only allow thoughts that are peace-builders.
- **When the Holy Spirit governs your thoughts, peace rules your life, and righteousness becomes your rhythm.**
 - **We're not just told to be holy; we're told to think holy. Not just to behave like Jesus, but to think like Jesus.**
 - **And the best part? You're not doing this alone. You have the Holy Spirit as your mind-renewer, peace-giver, and strength-supplier.**
 - **You can think right, live right, and walk in peace by the power of the Holy Ghost.**