

Character Profile: My God Wants me to Love Him and His Word

Isaiah 26:3-4 Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. 4 Trust ye in the Lord for ever: for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength:

Matt. 22:37-38 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38 This is the first and great commandment.

2 Cor. 10:5 Casting down imaginations [arguments], and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

Eph. 4:22-24 22 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; 23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; 24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

Phil. 2:5-8 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

James 1:5-6 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. 6 But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

1. Look for key/ repeating words in these verses. Do you see any themes or common ideas?
2. **Meditate on Isaiah 26:3-4.** When can you experience “perfect peace?”
 - Be transparent with each other. What are some things your mind is typically “stayed on”? (What do you think about the most?)
 - Keeping your mind on God includes trusting Him. Why does this verse tell us to trust in God?
3. **Meditate on Matt. 22:37-38.** Discuss what wholeheartedly loving God with your whole heart, soul, and mind would look like.
 - How does obeying the greatest commandment help us to obey the others?
4. **Meditate on 2 Cor. 10:5.** God expects/ commands us to cast down arguments and every opinion raised against the knowledge of God.
 - Give some examples of arguments and opinions that contradict god’s character.
 - Be transparent. What are some influences that you need to cast down in your life?
 - Discuss the application of bringing every thought into the captivity of Christ.

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5. **Meditate on Eph. 4:22-24.** This passage impacts our thinking in a big way. What does it mean to be renewed in the spirit of your mind? Is it enough just to “stop sinning?”

6. **Meditate on Phil. 2:5-8.** Verse 5 tells us to think like Jesus thought. Starting in verse 7, discuss and apply each phrase about Jesus and how that should look in our lives.

7. **Meditate on James 1:5-6.** When we don’t know what to think or do about a situation, what should we immediately do?

- Why?
- Discuss the attitude in which we are instructed to go to God based on these verses?

How should we apply these truths?

1. How do we tend to think incorrectly about God in this area?
2. How do we need to “renew our mind” (change the way we think) because of today’s verses? (Hint: What thoughts should replace the wrong thoughts from discussion question 1 above?)
3. **Pray specifically for each other.** As you go around your circle, specifically pray that the person to your right will Love God with their whole heart, soul, and mind (Matt. 22:37-38) and specifically pray that the person on your left would cast down every opinion that goes against God and His Word (2 Cor. 10:5).