

# FIGURE IT OUT



Don't expect some prophet to tell you what's going to happen next.

Figure it out yourself.

Don't expect some theologian to prove to you that there is a God.

Figure it out yourself.

Don't keep looking to your preacher to soothe your conscience with a fresh dose of cheap grace. Let your conscience figure out how to make things right with God and your neighbor under the shadow of the cross of Christ.

We're not as stupid as we pretend to be.

When it comes to knowing right from wrong, or penetrating the mystery of God, we have been given all we need to figure it out.

We simply need to pay attention.

*"When you see a cloud rising in the west, you say at once, 'A shower is coming'; and so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat'; and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky; but why do you not know how to interpret the present time? And why do you not judge for yourselves what is right?"*

*Luke 12:54*



“But Lord, I thought he was a true prophet!”

“But Lord, everybody in my church was eating out of his hand.

**How was I to know he was an imposter?”**

It’s one thing to plead ignorance when we are truly ignorant. It’s quite another to wrap our lazy minds in a cloak of “ignorance” when God gave us brains to figure it out.

*“Are grapes gathered from thorns, or figs from thistles? So, every sound tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears evil fruit. A sound tree cannot bear evil fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will know them by their fruits.”*

*Matthew 7:16-20*

False prophets have been around since the beginning of time.

Lazy minds have been our problem since Adam and Eve stumbled out of Paradise. When Jesus came on the scene, he not only commanded us to love our neighbor...

**He demanded that we think.**

*“You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky; but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?”*

*And why do you not judge for yourselves what is right?”*

Just as surely as no one can do your praying for you,  
no one can do your thinking for you.

Each of us is accountable to God for what we do....  
with the light we have, the truth we know.

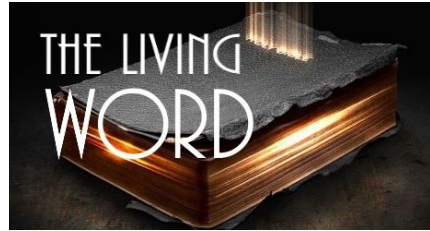
Each of us is called to love God with all our mind, as well as with all our heart.

If we are going to be of any use to God’s kingdom---of any use to ourselves---

We need to focus our minds on the things of God.

**To think.**

## Focus the mind on the Living Word.



***"It is the spirit that gives life, the flesh is of no avail; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life" .....***

*After this many of his disciples drew back and no longer went about with him. Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life...."*

*John 6:63 & 66-68*

The words of Jesus are few, clear, and simple.

But they require thought.

They need to be pondered.

Jesus describes his words as Spirit and Life.

They have the power to raise us from our graves of sloth and vanity.

But the words of Jesus can only lift us up....

If we take hold of them and think.

The words of our Master have a life of their own.

When we take them into our minds and hold them up to the light, those words become for us like that pillar of fire that guided the Israelites through the wilderness.

Every time we read the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5, 6, 7) we see something new.

The Spirit throws new light on the words.

And our Lord's words about the End open our eyes to see the hour in which we live, bristling with signs of an approaching Midnight.

We need to soak up those words of Jesus until we begin to actually think with his mind---the Mind of Christ.

## Focus the mind on the power of the cross.



*When I came to you, brethren, I did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness and in much fear and trembling; and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.*

*I Corinthians 2:1-5*

When he arrived in Corinth, Paul's mind was focused on one thing: the cross of Jesus.

*For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.*

**The cross as the source of our power.**

Every sign Jesus performed was powered by his approaching death.

*Surely he has borne our sicknesses and carried our pains....by his stripes we are healed....All we like sheep have gone astray, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

*Isaiah 53*

Jesus' death is a mysterious whirlpool that takes all evil down into the abyss.

*"Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"*

We set the captives free by bringing them under the power of the cross.

We deliver them from fear, from guilt, from addiction, from vanity by allowing the power of the cross to burn away their guilt. But we can accomplish such things only if our own minds are clearly focused on the power of the cross.

**The Lord's cross and ours.**

*I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*

*Galatians 2:20*

The same Lord who died for our sins also calls us to deny ourselves, take up our cross *daily* and follow him. When we take up our cross, we abandon ourselves to the Master, we die to ourselves and live our lives to him alone.

### **Focus the mind on his Spirit.**

*To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, indeed it cannot; and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.*

*Romans 8:6-8*

To live under the power of the Spirit is not a matter of mood or feeling. We live under the power of the Spirit by focusing our minds on the Spirit. We refuse to be conformed to this world and daily submit our minds to be renewed by the Spirit.

*“If you who are evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him.”*

*Luke 11:13*

Our request to the Father for the Holy Spirit is more than a once-and-done event. It is a daily prayer. Daily we turn to the Father and ask that he will enable us to walk in the Spirit and think in the Spirit all through the day.

### **Focus the mind on his throne.**

*If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hid with Christ in God.*

*When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.*

*Colossians 3:2-4*

The natural mind is chained to the earth. It cannot think beyond itself and its fears, vanities, and obsessions. But the renewed mind looks beyond the present darkness to the Throne of Light. It keeps reminding itself that the movers and shakers of this age have a very brief shelf-life---that God is in charge.

That Jesus is Lord over all at this very moment.

The renewed mind remembers that it is already dead to this world, hidden with Christ in God, waiting for the approaching Day of the Lord.

That corrupt politician is not in charge.

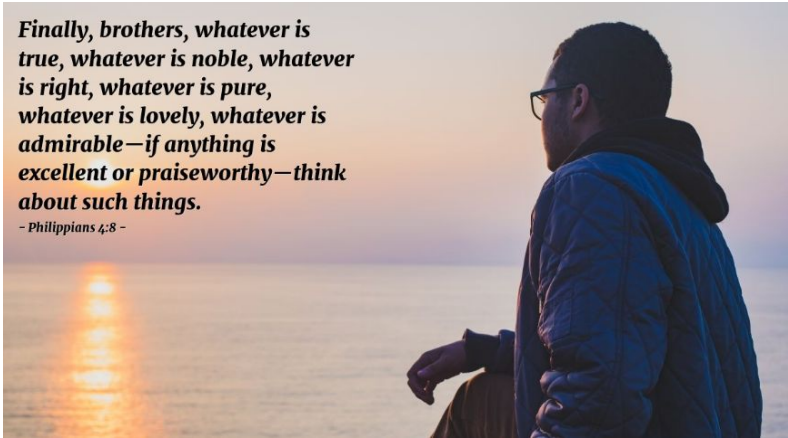
That evil dictator is not in charge.

Those billionaires are not in charge.

**God is in charge.**

Jesus is already Lord of heaven and earth!

**Focus the mind on goodness which comes from God alone.**



*Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.*

*- Philippians 4:8 -*

*Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.*

*Philippians 4:8*

Our minds will be dragged down into the corruption of this age unless we continuously focus on the things that come from God----

**The things that are good, true, just, pure.**

In the midst of all this world's lies, corruption and misery, the signs of God's Kingdom are blazing forth. There are men and women who are spending themselves for others. There are those who live with integrity.

“Lord, give me eyes to see them, give me the wisdom to follow their example!”

To live in this world as sons and daughters of God and not lose our way, we need to constantly “figure it out.”

To discern the difference between a messenger of heaven and the “good news” of a false prophet, we need to use the brains God gave us.

Lord, teach us how to think with a sanctified brain!

*Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

**Romans 12:2**



Prayer.

*Lord, lift us up from our sloth and vanity, as we take a hold of your words. May your words penetrate our minds so deeply, that we think with your mind. May your words be a pillar of light to us, as we cry out to you, as we abandon ourselves to you, our Master. May we daily walk and think with your spirit. Open our eyes to the Midnight hour we are living in, help us not to be sucked into this world's “corruption and misery”, but to keep our minds centered on your living throne, your justice, your goodness, and your purity. Lord, may we not veer from your living truth to follow the lies of corrupt leaders and false prophets. Renew our minds, sanctify our thoughts as we “figure out” with fear and trembling how to keep following in your perfect footsteps.*

**Maranatha Mirror Messages**

mmirror.net



THE LAMB  
WHO WAS SLAIN  
HAS BEGUN HIS REIGN