

P245

Grace Notes Radio Program

SERIES: Think Right Thoughts – What is Noble?

SONGS: I LIFT MY HANDS 3:45

GOD'S WAYS 3:28

INTRO: A man's life is governed by his thoughts. He will ultimately become what he dwells upon most in his mind. This is the reason for Paul's instruction in Romans 12 verse 2, "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind". It's important that we THINK RIGHT THOUGHTS. That's the subject of our current series on Grace Notes. Today, Barbara Sandbek will elaborate on what it means to think about things that are noble. So put your thinking cap on and have a listen...

Philippians 4:8 says...

**Whatever is TRUE,
whatever is NOBLE,
whatever is RIGHT,
whatever is PURE,
whatever is LOVELY,
whatever is ADMIRABLE;
If anything is excellent or praise-worthy
THINK ABOUT SUCH THINGS.**

I believe the apostle Paul started his 'THINK ABOUT' list with TRUTH because that's the standard by which everything else should be evaluated.

A poll of America adults, taken in 1991, showed that 67 percent felt there is no such thing as absolute truth. And that's over 10 years ago. The truth is, however, that whether they admit it or not, God's Word is absolute. It's perfect in quality and nature, complete in itself, and not to be doubted or questioned. In fact, it's a living miracle, because it's still applicable today, even though it was written thousands of years ago, over a period of 1600 years. Isaiah 40:8 says...

**The grass withers, the flower fades,
but the Word of our God SHALL STAND FOR EVER.**

God's written word, the Bible, and His manifested Word, Jesus, are the only sources of truth we can depend on. God's WORD is not only TRUE, it's all the other things in the list, too - noble, right, pure, lovely and admirable. If we're to THINK on things that are TRUE we need to meditate on God's word - then we'll speak the truth and act it out in our lives.

Let's consider now what is NOBLE. This word is used to describe either a skill or deed that is renowned (or as my husband would say is above and beyond the call of duty) or a person who possesses high moral qualities or ideals. A synonym for NOBLE is 'honest' or 'venerable', meaning 'that which is to be regarded with awe and reverence because of its magnificence, majesty and character'. Who fits these descriptions to a tee?

You've got it – the Lord God.

King David praised the Lord in his prayer recorded in 1 Chronicles 29 saying...

“Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is Yours. Yours, O LORD, is the kingdom; You are exalted as head over all. Wealth and honor come from You; You are the ruler of all things. In Your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. Now, our God, we give You thanks, and praise Your glorious Name.

******* WRITER: Sandy Patty**

***** I LIFT MY HANDS *****

*My Father in heaven - Who reigns in power and glory
Your kingdom eternal - Thy Word is everlasting
Almighty Creator - Who rules a vast dominion
Enduring forever - Through countless generations*

*Praise the Lord from the highest of mountains
Praise the Lord from the lowest of valleys
And for as long as I live I will give You praise*

Chorus:

*I lift my hands to You - In the heavens where You reign
I lift my hands to You - And the glory of Your name
To the wonder of Your love I lift my hands*

*My watchman, my keeper - Whose eyes are ever on me
I wander, You find me - And rescue me from danger
My blessed Redeemer - Spared not Your Son to save me
You cleanse me and crown me - With great love and compassion*

*Let the words of my mouth be as praying
And may the prayers be as incense before You
As for as long as I live I will give You praise*

Repeat Chorus

*No other God before Thee
You are my Lord, will always be*

*Praise the Lord from the highest of mountains
Praise the Lord from the lowest of valleys
And for as long as I live I will give You praise*

*I lift my hands to You
In the heavens where You reign
I lift my hands to You
For You're worthy to be praised
I lift my hands to You
And the glory of Your name
And to the wonder of Your love I lift my hands
And to the wonder of Your love I lift my hands*

**God's WAYS are His conduct which reflects His NOBLE character.
In other words, God's WAYS are NOBLE – much nobler than ours.**

The Lord God said in Isaiah 55:8-9...

My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways...for as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

'Higher' here means 'lofty' meaning 'elevated in character, rank, dignity – or NOBLE-minded'.

In Romans 11:33 the apostle Paul wrote...

**Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God!
How unsearchable his judgments, and his WAYS past finding out.**

If God's ways are past finding out, then how can WE think on them?

**Let's see how King David went about this in Psalm 25...He said
SHOW me your ways, O LORD, TEACH me your paths;
GUIDE me in your truth and TEACH me, for you are God my Savior,
and my HOPE is in you all day long.**

**David wanted to know so he asked to know. He said SHOW me, TEACH me,
GUIDE me, in what? In the way of TRUTH. And he asked with expectation.**

**God spoke to him as recorded in Psalm 32:8 saying...
I will instruct you and teach you in the WAY you should go;
I will counsel you and watch over you.**

**In Psalm 37:5-7 David gives us advice as a result of his experience...
Commit your WAY to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this:
He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your
cause like the noonday sun. Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for
him; do not fret when men succeed in their ways, when they carry out their
wicked schemes.**

**Even though David spent a great deal of time dodging his enemies, He found that what
Proverbs 10:29a says is true...
The WAY of the LORD is a refuge for the righteous.**

**Are we righteous? Only if we've committed our way to the Lord by accepting
Jesus as our Savior. The only way we can approach a righteous God is through
His Righteous Son. Remember, Jesus said in John 14:6... "I AM the WAY, the
truth and the life, no man comes to the Father but by Me". Jesus died and rose
again to pay the penalty for our sin so we could have fellowship with God. He
took our sin upon Himself. When we accept his gift of salvation, we take on His
righteousness.**

**God's ways are righteous and God's ways are loving. Psalm 145:17 says...
The LORD is righteous in all his ways and loving toward all he has made.**

God's ways are faithful, too. He keeps His promises.

Why not take time now, to reflect on His faithfulness to you as I read this poem.

GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

By Barbara Sandbek

***Indeed we see Your faithfulness
when it seemed all was lost
when You became a man and died
for sin to pay the cost.***

***Indeed we see Your faithfulness
When we so often fail
When our desires for earthly things
Seem always to prevail.***

***Indeed we see Your faithfulness
In how You change our lives
In how You intervene at times
And take away the strife.***

***Indeed we see Your faithfulness
In how You meet our needs
In how You richly bless our lives
When we follow where You lead.***

Psalm 18:30a says... As for God, His way is perfect.

God's WAYS are TRUE. GOD'S WAYS are NOBLE. So think on THESE THINGS.

***** GOD'S WAYS *****

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Sandbek Ministries

P.O. Box 581

Fallston, MD 21047

or visit us at our web site at www.gracenotesradio.com.

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