

How do we bring “into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ”?

Christians have been called to live a life that has every word, thought and deed held captive to the high calling of Christ. The practicality of living such a life is a daunting task.

1. What does it look like?

Ephesians **5:15-21**

Romans **8:29-30**

2 Kings 6:15-17

2 Corinthians **10:12**

When every thought is brought into obedience to Christ, we begin looking like Christ. We look like God. With the understanding that we are to be just like God and Christ, we can consider our thoughts and actions and compare them with what we understand to be the thoughts and actions of the Lord Jesus Christ. Those thoughts and actions that are not in agreement with the thoughts and actions of the Lord Jesus Christ are the thoughts and actions that need to be changed.

2. How can we know what the thoughts and actions of the Lord Jesus Christ are?

James **1:21-25**

Revelation 1:3

James **4:6-10**

2 Peter **3:15-18**

Philippians **2:5-8; 4:8-9**

Proverbs 3:5-6

The journey to understanding the thoughts and actions of ourselves and of the Lord Jesus Christ begins with the process of filling our minds with the Word of God. As the Word of God enters into our mind, being understood as actually being the Words of God, then some of our thoughts and actions will begin to change. We will have the knowledge of good and evil that is based upon God's understanding of good and evil and we will have the power of the Holy Spirit (once we believe) to be able to overcome the temptations of the flesh and to begin thinking and acting as God would have us to think and act. Beyond filling our lives with the Word of God is truly trusting in what God said He thinks and did. For example, when God said that He created the heavens and the earth in six days, we can believe it simply because God, who cannot lie, said that is what He did.

Beyond just reading the Word of God, we must be proactive in actually DOING the Word of God. This means that we need to practice evaluating every thought, word, and deed in light of what God's word communicates so that we might begin changing our own thoughts and practices so that they conform with what God would have us do. It takes time and practice.

3. How difficult could it actually be?

Romans **7:14-22**

Galatians **5:16-17**

Joshua **9:11-14**

Ephesians 6:12

Living the life that Christ wants us to live is an immense challenge. Although we have the Spirit of God that dwells within us, we also have the natural, fleshly nature that operates contrary to the call of God and seeks to satisfy itself and not satisfy the call of God. Our fallen human nature and the new nature of Christ in us are in constant battle. We must endeavor in order to listen and take heed to the voice of God and to turn from our ways to God's ways.