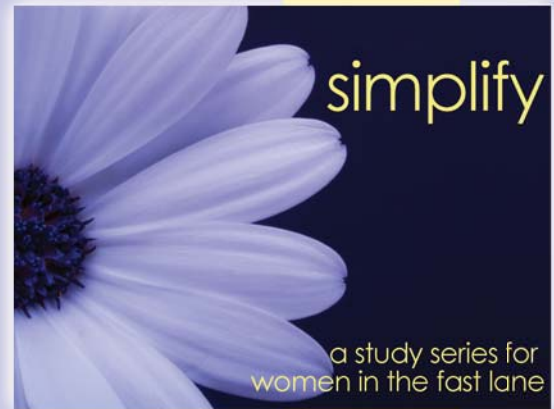


simplify

think is an action verb



We are still studying Matthew 22:37-39 (NIV) where a Pharisee asks Jesus which of the commandments is the greatest. *“Jesus replied: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”*

If your mind works like mine, first of all I’m sorry, and second, loving God with “all your mind” may be your biggest challenge. I’ve got a lot of mind taking in and processing a lot of information. The other day I blurted out what I was thinking and my 11-year-old son said in astonishment, “Mom, did you really just think all of that? I mean did all that really just go through your mind?”

I said, “What?” because it was nothing new to me. As women, our minds can frequently wander to the “what, when, and how” of things. It’s easy to complicate matters. It is an acquired discipline to truly “cast your cares on the Lord.” We want to think everything through to the nth degree, but God wants our minds stayed (focused) on him.

Isaiah 26:3 (KJV) *“Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee; because he trusteth in thee.”*

It is our choice to focus, or stay, our mind on the things of God. In reality it all boils down to a trust issue. Do we really trust God with the outcome of every circumstance? If we do we will focus on the fact that God is in control and no matter how things turn out, God has our best interest at heart.

Many times my mind will race off, exploring all the “what if’s” in a particular circumstance. When things finally settle down I am so ashamed for letting myself to think that my faithful Father would allow anything to happen to me that had not passed through His loving hands. I have to admit that in the midst of a few fiery trials I have wondered if God doesn’t have me mixed up with someone of much

greater faith. Actually, He knows me very well, better than I know myself and His word is true. 1 Corinthians 10:13 (The Message) says *“No test or temptation that comes your way is beyond the course of what others have had to face. All you need to remember is that God will never let you down; he’ll never let you be pushed past your limit; he’ll always be there to help you come through it.”*

I have found that to be so very true.

In the midst of a major trial a prophet once told me “You should be laughing by now.” That was so true after I thought about it. My mind wanted to panic but, as I reviewed and recounted God’s track record in my life, I could find Him nothing but **FAITHFUL AND TRUE** at the end of every test.

2 Corinthians 10:5 says, *“Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.”*

What we allow our mind to dwell on is truly our choice. You hold in your hand a lasso, the Word of God, that will help you cast down everything that magnifies itself against the knowledge of God. Take control of your thought life. *“As a man thinks in his heart, so is he.”* Don’t allow any thoughts contrary to what you want to be stay in your mind. Choose to think on the good things (Phil. 4:8). Think is an action verb, so take action. Slay some mental giants today and begin to love God with all your mind!

I’ll pray for you, if you’ll pray for me in this process of loving God with all our minds.



Simplicity Suggestions

1. What is the focus of your thoughts?
2. What are the “what if’s” that keep you from trusting God with everything in your life?
3. How can you take action today to turn your thoughts toward God?