

You Just Have to 'Stop'

No, I am not waxing philosophical; but have you ever *thought about thinking*?

Have you ever been talking with someone and something is said that forces a pause into the conversation, "I'll have to think about that"?

People think about things in different ways. Some look up at the sky and scratch their head and just think, think, think. Others look down and scratch their head. Some might want to talk it out; brainstorming ideas (with another person or even a wall). Still others like a visual approach using pencil and paper, whiteboard and marker, or something similar. Whatever the case, two things are common to all: *Pause...and ideas* turning over and over in the mind.

James wrote, "Consider it all joy when you face various trials..." (James 1:2). I think he really meant for people to STOP...and then think about what he was writing.

When Jesus said, "*Look* at the birds of the air... and *observe* the lilies of the field..." (Matthew 6:24, 26), I think he really meant for people to STOP...and look and observe and THINK about the birds and the flowers.

Paul wrote:

Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.

—Philippians 4:8

What do you think Paul expected of his readers?

Do you know why God's word is difficult for some people? Do you know why some people can never find peace or comfort or help from God's word even though they read and read and read?

They never...stop! They never...think.

So, stop...and think about the things Paul wrote.

Really...take this home...and...STOP...

And...think...

(Here, I've left the rest of this column empty to give you 'extra time'....)

