

# Values Matter Discovery Starters

## We Want to Know God

### 1. KNOW GOD

YWAM is committed to know God, His nature, His character and His ways as revealed in the Bible, the inspired and authoritative Word of God. We seek to reflect who He is in every aspect of our lives and ministry. The automatic overflow of knowing and enjoying fellowship with God is a desire to share Him with others.

[2Ki 19:19](#); [Job 42:5](#); [Psa 46:10](#); [Psa 103:7-13](#); [Jer 9:23-24](#);  
[Hos 6:3](#); [Joh 17:3](#); [Eph 1:16-17](#); [Php 3:7-11](#); [1Jo 2:4-6](#)

### Value #1 – Know God: Pursuing Relational Revelation

#### Biblical Foundation:

*"I had only heard about you before, but now I have seen you with my own eyes"*  
(Job 42:5).

#### Discovery Starter:

Walking through the bustling street market, I heard a local vendor address her young child, "I have to leave the stand for a few moments. Don't you dare move from this chair while I'm gone. If you do, God will see you and he will get you." I cringed. The mother's threatening tone evoked in my mind images of a story-book ogre who took delight in punishing wayward children. Imagine what these words must have produced in the spirit of that young, impressionable child? What mark did they leave on his heart? Was God really like that? Does he sneakily spy on fidgety kids, cackling with sinister delight when they mess up so he can "get" them?

So many things are said about God. Some of them are true. Many are not. We see this even in the book of Job. At the end of the story, God says that Job's three friends had not "spoken accurately" about God and his ways. He said this not only once, but twice (Job 42:7,8)! This is shocking, for the words of Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar occupy nearly one fifth of this dramatic book. Steer clear of their words – even those which seem fairly orthodox – for they do not meet with God's approval.

The point is this: second-hand “facts” about God should be shunned. We don’t want mere information about God. We want him. We want a deeply intimate, experiential encounter with the living God. For this reason, Job resisted his friends’ pat answers and their religious platitudes. Amidst his pain, he passionately pursued God with hard-hitting questions until he reached a relational revelation; until he could say to God, *“I have seen you with my own eyes.”* This kind of knowledge is truly transformational. This kind of knowledge is not accidental. It comes to those who – like Job – earnestly yearn for God. Job’s hunger for God was unquenchable, his pursuit of God was unstoppable. He declared his undying hope, *“I will see God! I will see him for myself. Yes, I will see him with my own eyes”* (Job 19:26-27). May this be our undying goal as well.

### **Keep Going:**

Read the following verses and consider how you can passionately pursue God:

- Deu 4:29
- 1Ch 28:9-10a
- Act 17:27
- Heb 11:6

## **Value #1 – Know God: Our Driving Desire**

### **Biblical Foundation:**

*This is what the LORD says: “Don’t let the wise boast in their wisdom, or the powerful boast in their power, or the rich boast in their riches. But those who wish to boast should boast in this alone: that they truly know me and understand that I am the LORD who demonstrates unfailing love and who brings justice and righteousness to the earth, and that I delight in these things. I, the LORD, have spoken!”* (Jer 9:23-24)

### **Discovery Starter:**

Jeremiah began his ministry in 627 BC *“during the thirteenth year of the reign of Josiah”* (Jer 1:2). At that point Josiah would have been 21 years old (2Ki 22:1) and Jeremiah was likely only a few years younger (Jer 1:6). What a pair they must have been! Both of them starting life; each in their respective calling – eager to know and obey God. When Jeremiah spoke these words, the king had not yet ordered Hilkiah the high priest to repair the temple. These words were spoken before the discovery of “the Book” and the great spiritual awakening which followed.

These were formative years for the king, in which the foundations of his administration’s future policies were being established. What legacy would he leave behind? Should he make wisdom his claim to fame? His thirteen-times great grandfather Solomon’s wisdom was legendary. We are told that he *“was wiser than*

*anyone else*" (1Ki 4:30-31). But even so, Solomon "turned away from the LORD" (1Ki 11:9). He pursued excessive military power and "built up a huge force of chariots and horses" (1Ki 10:26). He also pursued excessive taxation policies. The annual taxes he imposed on his subjects included 666 talents – or about 25 tons – of gold (1Ki 10:14-21)! This unfettered greed was so grievous to his subjects that the number 666 became synonymous with everything that is contrary to the character and ways of God!

Wisdom. Power. Riches. Jeremiah's words served as a warning to the young king: "Don't build your legacy on these things. Don't boast about these things. Instead, pursue God. Get to know him and imitate him." History tells us that Josiah took these words to heart. We read that "Never before had there been a king like Josiah, who turned to the LORD with all his heart and soul and strength, obeying all the laws of Moses. And there has never been a king like him since" (2Ki 23:25). Like Josiah, we need to determine what is priority in our lives. What will be the legacy we leave behind? Jeremiah's words remind us that knowing God should be our driving desire.

### **Keep Going:**

Read the "Law of the King" found in Deu 17:14-21. Note three things that the king is not supposed to do. Reflect then on what the king is exhorted to do. Then compare these instructions with the life of Solomon as told in 1Ki 10:14-11:13. Turn your observations into prayer and ask God to give you a heart to know him above all else.

## **Value #1 – Know God: Insatiable Hunger**

### **Biblical Foundation:**

*I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ and become one with him... I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me. No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us (Php 3:7-14).*

### **Discovery Starter:**

Chariots of Fire is an Oscar-winning movie that focuses on the lives of two British track stars who competed in the 1924 Olympics in Paris, France: Harold Abrahams and Eric Liddell. The inspirational drama is punctuated with pulsating montages of the athletes preparing for every aspect of the race. It's intense. They are fighting for every inch of the track, trying to shave off a few more milliseconds from their time. They are intent on just one thing: winning the prize at the end of the race. Paul uses similarly dramatic language to describe his unquenchable passion to know God more and more.

Paul wrote these words from jail in Rome in the early to mid 60s. At that point he'd been following Jesus for nearly three decades. Everything in the book of Acts has already occurred. Three amazing missionary trips. The Gospel powerfully proclaimed. Churches planted. Miracles performed. Leaders disciplined. Letters written: Galatians and the letters to the churches in Thessalonica, Corinth, and Rome – all this was in his past. But none of these things could be compared to the driving passion of his life: knowing God more! He says that compared to knowing Christ Jesus everything else is *skubala*, which is delicately translated "garbage." In Greek it means "dung" with the force of a four-letter exclamation. Compared to knowing Jesus, everything else is nothing but a pile of s... *skubala*! Do you think he got the attention of the Christians in Philippi?

He got mine. Paul's passionate pursuit of God echoes Hosea's insatiable hunger, when – eight centuries earlier – he cried out, "*Oh, that we might know the LORD! Let us press on to know him*" (Hos 6:3). If after all Paul had accomplished, the thing that still drove him was his passion for an ever deepening knowledge of God, how much more should it drive me? Paul's relationship with God was anything but stale or sterile. His passion to know God was unquenchable. This inspires me to press on for more of God. I don't want to settle for the status quo. I want to live hungry for God. I want more intimacy with him. How about you?

### **Keep Going:**

Paul not only spoke of his passion to know God ever more intimately; he also prayed that the same would happen in the life of other followers of Jesus. At the time of imprisonment in Rome he prayed, "I have not stopped thanking God for you. I pray for you constantly, asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you spiritual wisdom and insight so that you might grow in your knowledge of God" (Eph 1:16-17). Take time today to pray this prayer for yourself and for everyone God lays on your heart. May your intercession be that all would hunger insatiably to grow in the knowledge of God.

## **3. HEAR GOD'S VOICE**

YWAM is committed to creating with God through listening to Him, praying His prayers and obeying His commands in matters great and small. We are dependent upon hearing

His voice as individuals, together in team contexts and in larger gatherings, as an integral part of our process for decision-making.

[1Sa 3:7-10](#); [2Ch 15:2-4](#); [Psa 25:14](#); [Isa 6:8](#); [Amo 3:7](#); [Luk 9:35](#);  
[Joh 10:1-5](#); [Joh 16:13-15](#); [Heb 3:7-8,15](#); [Rev 2:7,11,17,27](#); [3:6,13,22](#)

## **Value #3 – Hear God’s Voice: God is Speaking**

### **Biblical Foundation:**

*Samuel did not yet know the LORD because he had never had a message from the LORD before. So the LORD called a third time, and once more Samuel got up and went to Eli. "Here I am. Did you call me?" Then Eli realized it was the LORD who was calling the boy. So he said to Samuel, "Go and lie down again, and if someone calls again, say, 'Speak, LORD, your servant is listening'" So Samuel went back to bed. And the LORD came and called as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel replied, "Speak, your servant is listening" (1Sa 3:7-10).*

### **Discovery Starter:**

Radio waves fill the air. Music to suit every ear; sporting events, news, talk shows, public announcements. They are all around us, but we do not hear them unless we get a radio. Still we hear nothing. So we plug it in to an outlet. Still we hear nothing. So we make sure it's turned on. Still we hear nothing. So we check the volume. Still we hear nothing. So we dial our favorite station. Now we hear clearly. The radio waves were there all the time, but we couldn't hear because our radios weren't tuned in. God is speaking. Are we tuned in?

This story of Samuel begins with a tragic commentary about that moment in history. We are told, "The word of the LORD was rare in those days" (1Sa 3:1 NRSV). The problem was not a lack of communication on God's part, but a shortage of listening on the part of his people. Of all the things the Bible tells us about God, his capacity to communicate is the action most frequently mentioned! In the Original Testament, we are told that God speaks (Hebrew *'amar*) over 1400 times. In the New Testament, God is said to speak (Greek *lego*) over 500 times. These – and many other words – are used to describe God's great communication skills. He answers, asks, assures, calls, commands, declares, directs, explains, instructs, mentions, orders, promises, replies, responds, reveals, says, speaks, swears, tells, warns, etc. All told, God's great ability to communicate is mentioned nearly 3000 times in the Bible!

No one communicates more abundantly than God. But are we listening? Are our radios tuned in? Do we need to posture ourselves, like Samuel, to hear with a servant's heart? God declares, "Oh, that you had listened to my commands! Then you would have had

peace flowing like a gentle river and righteousness rolling over you like waves in the sea" (Isa 48:18). Again God shares his heart, "Oh, that my people would listen to me! ... How quickly I would then subdue their enemies! ... I would feed you with the finest wheat. I would satisfy you with wild honey from the rock" (Psa 81:13-16).

### **Keep Going:**

Read Psalm 81:8-16 several times. Take your time to savor it and reflect on it slowly. Listen with your heart. What stands out to you? Note what it says about listening. What is the result of paying attention to God? What are the consequences when we fail to heed him? What is God wanting to do for his people when they listen to him? Ask God to help you cultivate a listening heart, like Samuel's, to hear and obey the word of the Lord.

## **Value #3 – Hear God's Voice: Listen to Jesus**

### **Biblical Foundation:**

*Then a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, my Chosen One. Listen to him."* (Luk 9:35).

### **Discovery Starter:**

The Jewish people divide the Hebrew Scriptures into three parts – the *Torah* (Law), the *Nevi'im* (Prophets), and the *Ketuvim* (Writings). Together they sum up the entirety of the Original Testament. This is why the resurrected Jesus spoke as he did on the road to Emmaus. Given the Jewish worldview of his disciples, he is saying, "The whole of the Scriptures bears witness to me" (Luk 24:47). However, this tripartite description of the Original Testament, is often summarized – by Jesus and the New Testament authors – simply as "the Law and the Prophets" (See Mat 5:17; 7:12; 11:13; 22:40; Luk 16:16; 24:27; Joh 1:45; Act 13:15; 24:14; 28:23; Rom 3:21).

When Peter, James and John are with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration (Luk 9:28-36), they are amazed to see Moses and Elijah, for these two represent "the Law and the Prophets" like nobody else! Through them God had spoken clearly time and again. Overcome with emotion, Peter suggests building three monuments; excited that Jesus – his rabbi! – was on the par with these great spiritual heroes of old. But then God breaks in and his words make it clear that Jesus is to be listened to above all others.

God communicates through Jesus in a unique, unparalleled way. As the author of Hebrews states, "Long ago God spoke many times and in many ways to our ancestors

through the prophets. And now in these final days, he has spoken to us through his Son" (Heb 1:1-2). John calls Jesus "the unique One, who is himself God," and declares that Jesus "has revealed God to us" because he "became human and made his home among us" (Joh 1:14,18). The New Testament clearly establishes that Jesus is God. But the emphasis of this incarnational revelation is not only on Jesus' God-likeness; but on God's Jesus-likeness. Jesus perfectly displays the character of God. Jesus himself says, "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father!" (Joh 14:9), because – as Paul affirms – "God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ" (Col 1:19). There's no one like him. That's why we too are called to, "Listen to Jesus."

### **Keep Going:**

Pick a passage – perhaps a chapter or two – in the Gospels. Ask Holy Spirit to lead you. As you read, consider the words of Jesus; meditate on the acts of Jesus. As you look to him, what do you learn about God? As you listen to him, what is God saying to you? Jesus says, "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me" (Joh 10:27). Keep pressing in to know Jesus better. Listen to him. Focus on him. As you get to know his character more and more, it will become increasingly easier to detect his voice in every moment of your daily walk.

## **4. PRACTICE WORSHIP AND INTERCESSORY PRAYER**

YWAM is dedicated to worship God and engage in intercessory prayer as integral aspects of daily life. We also recognize the intent of Satan to destroy the work of God and we rely upon God's empowering presence, the Holy Spirit, to overcome his strategies in the lives of individuals and in the affairs of nations.

[1Sa 7:5](#); [2Ch 7:14](#); [Psa 84:1-8](#); [Psa 95:6-7](#); [Psa 100:1-5](#);  
[Mar 11:24-25](#); [Act 1:14](#); [Eph 6:13-20](#); [1Th 5:16-19](#); [1Ti 2:1-4](#)

### **Value #4 – Practice Worship and Intercessory Prayer: Enter with Praise**

#### **Biblical Foundation:**

*Shout with joy to the LORD, all the earth!  
Worship the LORD with gladness.  
Come before him, singing with joy.  
Acknowledge that the LORD is God!  
He made us, and we are his.  
We are his people, the sheep of his pasture.  
Enter his gates with thanksgiving;  
go into his courts with praise.  
Give thanks to him and praise his name.*

*For the LORD is good.  
His unfailing love continues forever,  
and his faithfulness continues to each generation.(Psa 100:1-5)*

### **Discovery Starter:**

In this beautiful Psalm we find seven imperatives. They are:

<b>Verse</b>	<b>Strong's</b>	<b>Hebrew</b>	<b>NLT</b>	<b>NIV</b>	<b>ESV</b>	<b>NASB</b>
1	#7321	<i>ruwa'</i>	shout with joy	shout with joy	make a joyful noise	shout joyfully
2a	#5647	<i>'abad</i>	worship	worship	serve	serve
2b	#935	<i>bow'</i>	come	come	come	come
3	#3045	<i>yada'</i>	acknowledge	know	know	know
4a	#935	<i>bow'</i>	enter	enter	enter	enter
4b	#3034	<i>yadah</i>	give thanks	give thanks	give thanks	give thanks
4c	#1288	<i>barak</i>	bless	praise	bless	bless

It is important to note that the command to “come” in 2b and the one to “enter” in 4a are the same verb in the Hebrew. This helps spot a favorite literary device often used in ancient Hebrew called a chiasm. It looks like this:

- A<sub>1</sub> Two exhortations to praise
- B<sub>1</sub> An invitation to come
- C A call to know
- B<sub>2</sub> An invitation to come
- A<sub>2</sub> Two exhortations to praise

When a chiastic structure is used, the main idea of the author is communicated in the central point of the structure. What the Psalmist is telling us (ver 3) is that the key to entering into his presence with praise begins by acknowledging (embracing) these three essential truths:

- God is God
- God made us
- We are his

First we acknowledge who God is. Next we affirm what God has done: he created us. Next we embrace the implications of his creation of us: we belong to him. Therefore, we worship him secure in our relationship with him. This kind of knowledge is not an abstract concept. It is a transforming truth which enables us to worship God confident that we belong; we can praise because we are relationally secure.

Psalm 100 concludes highlighting three more truths about God (ver 5). God is to be worshiped for his goodness (*towb*), lovingkindness (*chesed*) and faithfulness



(*emuwnah*). At least one of these character attributes is mentioned in 62 different psalms. However only three Psalms mention all 3 attributes in relationship to God (100,119,143). 22 psalms mention at least two of them (21,23,25,33,36,40,52,63,69,85,86,88,89,92,98,103,106,107,109,118,136,145). There's much on which to meditate. So, dive in order to know and worship God with all your heart!

### **Keep Going:**

As you dive in you may want to consider the four praise verbs that begin and end the chiasm mentioned above. Even though you can find one or more of these Hebrew verbs in 81 different psalms, Psalm 100 is the only one to employ all 4 of them! Here are all the occurrences of these four praise verbs in the book of Psalms for you to reflect upon at your leisure:

- #7321 (12x in 10 psalms) – Psa 41:11; 47:1; 60:8; 65:13; 66:1; 81:1; 95:1,2; 98:4,6; 100:1; 108:9
- #5647 (8x in 8 psalms) – Psa 2:11; 18:43; 22:30; 72:11; 97:7; 100:2; 102:22; 106:36
- #3034 (67x in 44 psalms) – Psa 6:5; 7:17; 9:1; 18:49; 28:7; 30:4,9,12; 32:5; 33:2; 35:18; 42:5,11; 43:4,5; 44:8; 45:17; 49:18; 52:9; 54:6; 57:9; 67:3a,3b,5a,5b; 71:22; 75:1a,1b; 76:10; 79:13; 86:12; 88:10; 89:5; 92:1; 97:12; 99:3; 100:4; 105:1; 106:1,47; 107:1,8,15,21,31; 108:3; 109:30; 111:1; 118:1,19,21,28,29; 119:7,62; 122:4; 136:1,2,3,26; 138:1,2,4; 139:14; 140:13; 142:7; 145:10
- #1288 (75x in 43 psalms) – Psa 5:12; 10:3; 16:7; 18:46; 26:12; 28:6,9; 29:11; 31:21; 34:1; 37:22; 41:13; 45:2; 49:18; 62:4; 63:4; 65:10; 66:8,20; 67:1,6,7; 68:19,26,35; 72:15,17,18,19; 89:52; 95:6; 96:2; 100:4; 103:1,2,20,21,22a,22b; 104:1,35; 106:48; 107:38; 109:28; 112:2; 113:2; 115:12a,12b,12c,13,15,18; 118:26a,26b; 119:12; 124:6; 128:4,5; 129:8; 132:15; 134:1,2,3; 135:19a,19b,20a,20b,21; 144:1; 145:1,2,10,21; 147:13

## **Value #4 – Practice Worship and Intercessory Prayer: Spiritual Warfare**

### **Biblical Foundation:**

*Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. Stand your ground,*

- *putting on the belt of truth*
- *and the body armor of God's righteousness.*
- *For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared.*
- *In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil.*

- *Put on salvation as your helmet,*
- *and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.*

*Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere. And pray for me, too. Ask God to give me the right words so I can boldly explain God's mysterious plan that the Good News is for Jews and Gentiles alike. I am in chains now, still preaching this message as God's ambassador. So pray that I will keep on speaking boldly for him, as I should (Eph 6:13-20).*

### **Discovery Starter:**

We are impressed with God, the lover of our soul. "Who is like you among the gods, O LORD—glorious in holiness, awesome in splendor, performing great wonders?" (Exo 15:11). No one! Only our God is rightly called "Wonderful" (Isa 9:6) for he alone fills us with enduring wonder. We are not the only ones amazed by such a remarkable God! "The highest angelic powers stand in awe of God. He is far more awesome than all who surround his throne. O LORD God of Heaven's Armies! Where is there anyone as mighty as you, O LORD? You are entirely faithful" (Psa 89:7-8). God's unparalleled capacity and his spotless character deserves our undivided admiration.

We are not impressed with Satan, the enemy of our soul. Now, we don't discount Satan or ignore his activity. But neither are we awed by him, for he is a defeated enemy. God is great; Satan is not. The story of Simon the Sorcerer (Act 8:9-13) illustrates that even when the enemy seeks to amaze people with counterfeit efforts; only God's work is genuinely amazing. We are not intimidated by the enemy for "we use God's mighty weapons, not worldly weapons" (2Co 10:4). Indeed, "we use the weapons of righteousness in the right hand for attack and the left hand for defense" (2Co 6:7).

Spiritual warfare surrounds us, but God "has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son" (Col 1:13). God invites us to participate with him in the retaking of planet earth. For this reason, we are to "put on all of God's armor" (Eph 6:11) and take a stand with God. We are to arm ourselves with his mighty acts – with the truth, righteousness, peace, faith and salvation which come from God, relying on Holy Spirit and the Word of God for victory. Then we will be counted among those who "sing for joy as they lie on their beds" because they have "the praises of God ... in their mouths, and a sharp sword in their hands" (Psa 149:5-6) to establish God's good and kind purposes in our world.

### **Keep Going:**

Time and again we are told in the Original Testament that God astounds people "with amazing wonders" (Isa 29:14). The gospel writers do the same when they record how people were astonished and amazed with Jesus' words and actions. Take some time to look at the following passages: Mat 7:28; 12:23; 13:54; 19:25; 22:33; Mar 1:22; 2:12; 5:42; 6:2,51; 7:37; 10:26; 11:18; Luk 2:47-48; 4:32; 8:56; 9:43; 24:22. Ponder on

those things which most amaze you about God. Set your heart to praise him for his extraordinary capacity and excellent character.

## 9. HAVE A BIBLICAL CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW

YWAM is called to a Biblical Christian worldview. We believe that the Bible – the textbook for all of life – makes a clear division between good and evil; right and wrong. The practical dimensions of life are no less spiritual than the ministry expressions. Everything done in obedience to God is spiritual. We seek to honor God with all that we do, equipping and mobilizing men and women of God to take roles of service and influence in every arena of society.

[Deu 8:1-3](#); [Deu 32:45-47](#); [2Ki 22:8](#); [Psa 19:7-11](#); [Luk 8:21](#);  
[Joh 8:31-32](#); [Php 4:8-9](#); [2Ti 3:16 17](#); [Heb 4:12-13](#); [Jam 4:17](#)

### Value #9 – Have a Biblical Christian Worldview: Live by Every Word

#### Biblical Foundation:

*Be careful*<sup>6213</sup> *to obey*<sup>8104</sup> all the commands I *am giving*<sup>6680</sup> you today. Then you *will live*<sup>2421</sup> and *multiply*<sup>7235</sup> and you *will enter*<sup>935</sup> and *occupy*<sup>3423</sup> the land the LORD *swore to give*<sup>7650</sup> your ancestors. *Remember*<sup>2142</sup> how the LORD your God *led*<sup>3212</sup> you through the wilderness for these forty years, *humbling*<sup>6031</sup> you and *testing you to prove*<sup>5254</sup> your character, and *to find out*<sup>3045</sup> whether or not you *would obey*<sup>8104</sup> his commands. Yes, he *humbled*<sup>6031</sup> you by *letting you go hungry*<sup>7456</sup> and then *feeding*<sup>348</sup> you with manna, a food previously *unknown*<sup>3045</sup> to you [*unknown*<sup>3045</sup>] and your ancestors. He *did it to teach*<sup>3045</sup> you that people *do not live*<sup>2421</sup> by bread alone; rather, we *live*<sup>2421</sup> by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD. (Deu 8:1-3)

#### Discovery Starter:

All the verbs in the foundational passage have been tagged with the Strong's Concordance number which points to the original Hebrew text. There are a total of 22 verbs: twelve of them have human subjects (numbers in subscript) and ten of them have God as the one doing the action (numbers in superscript). The following list organizes the verbs into two columns:

#### Man's actions (12 verbs)

3x	2421	8:1,3a,3b	to live
2x	8104	8:1,2	to obey
	3045	8:3a,3b	to know
1x	6213	8:1	to be careful
	7650	8:1	to swear

#### God's actions (10 verbs)

2x	6031	8:2,3	to humble
	3045	8:2,3	to make known
1x	6680	8:1	to give commands

7235	8:1	to multiply
3212	8:2	to lead
935	8:1	to enter
5254	8:2	to test
3423	8:1	to occupy
7456	8:3	to make hungry
2142	8:2	to remember
348	8:3	to feed

Consider the repeated verbs linked to our human actions. We see that God wants us to know his ways and to obey his will. Why? Because applying God's revelation will have a life-giving, life-enhancing, life-multiplying result. God wants us to live, really live; his words are that which make true life possible. This has always been God's purpose. Consider how the good, life-giving intent of God's instruction is reiterated many times in Deuteronomy:

- I am giving you these instructions so you will enjoy a long life in the land the LORD your God is giving you for all time (4:40).
- Then you will live a long, full life in the land the LORD your God is giving you (5:16).
- If you obey all his decrees and commands, you will enjoy a long life (6:2).
- If you obey, you will enjoy a long life in the land the LORD swore to give to your ancestors and to you, their descendants... (11:9).
- ... so that you may enjoy a long life in the land the LORD your God is giving you (25:15).
- You can make this choice by loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and committing yourself firmly to him. This is the key to your life (30:20).
- These instructions are not empty words—they are your life (32:47)!

### **Keep Going:**

The phrase "the mouth of the Lord" found in Deu 8:3 is a phrase (*peh yahweh*) that is used 49 times in the Hebrew Scriptures. One of the more "literal" translations – NASB – translates it as the "command" (30x), "mouth" (8x), "commandment" (6x), "word" (4x), or "counsel" (1x) of the Lord. Other translations use even a greater range of words, for it is not unusual that a word in one language can be accurately represented by several words in another language. Below are listed all 49 occurrences of the Hebrew phrase *peh yahweh*. Take time to read through these passages and consider how the word of the Lord can have an ever greater formative part in your life.

- Exo 17:1
- Lev 24:12
- Num 3:16,39,51; 4:37,41,45,49; 9:18a,18b,20a,20b,23a,23b,23c; 10:13; 13:3; 14:41; 22:18; 24:13; 33:2,38; 36:5
- Deu 1:26,43; 8:3; 9:23; 34:5
- Jos 9:14; 15:13; 17:4; 19:50; 21:3; 22:9

- 1Sa 12:14,15; 15:24
- 1Ki 13:21,26
- 2Ki 24:3
- 1Ch 12:23
- Isa 1:20; 40:5; 58:14; 62:2
- Jer 9:12; 23:16
- Mic 4:4

Before you finish, reflect one more time on Deu 8:3. The last two things that God does in this passage are: he makes people hungry and then he feeds them. Ask God to make you hungrier for his word. Ask him to feed you. That spiritual hunger will only be filled when you partake of the true life-giving manna – Jesus himself (Joh 6:32-40,47-51), for only Jesus “is the Word of life” (1Jo 1:1). Take time to worship him for his life-giving sacrifice.

## **Value #9 – Have a Biblical Christian Worldview: Think and Act!**

### **Biblical Foundation:**

*And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me—everything you heard from me and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you (Php 4:8-9).*

### **Discovery Starter:**

As Paul gets ready to draw this lovely “thank you letter” to a close he has two final commands (excluding the charge to greet one another in 4:21): to think and to act. Paul introduces this dual command as “one final thing” – because they are two sides of the same coin. Let’s take a look.

Paul urges his hearers to think about eight things, about whatever is:

- |              |                     |
|--------------|---------------------|
| 1. true      | 5. lovely           |
| 2. honorable | 6. admirable        |
| 3. right     | 7. excellent        |
| 4. pure      | 8. worthy of praise |

What an amazing list! The Greek verb is *logizomai* (Strong's #3049) and it is used as an imperative five times in the New Testament. Apart from this passage in Philippians you can find it in Rom 6:11; 1Co 4:1; and 2Co 10:7,11 (take a look; discover more!). Paul's point is that we are not to give this list a quick once over. We are to reflect on it very deliberately in order that we might give ourselves to these good things. When we truly value these things, we will no longer see them merely as an external standard which we strive to attain. They become an internal delight that we gladly embrace because we consider them to be both desirable and beneficial.

Paul doesn't stop with the "think about" command, because Biblical truth is actionable. It should make a difference in our lives. We should conform our actions to align with God's revelation. The goal of discipleship is truth understood and applied. Revealed truth must reshape the habits of our lives. So Paul's next imperative is *prasso* (Strong's #4238): "Keep putting into practice all you learned ...." Paul used this same word earlier, when he was testifying before Herod Agrippa. Paul begins his defense saying, "I preached first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout all Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that all must repent of their sins and turn to God—and prove they have changed by the good things they do" (Act 26:20). When we repent and follow Jesus, we do not only think about good things; we do them! This is the transformative power of the gospel in action.

### Keep Going:

So, here's a gift that will help you think and act as Paul exhorted: it is a list of all the occurrences in the New Testament of the eight words that we are to "think about" and "put into practice." There's plenty here for you to keep discovering more of what God wants to teach you. So, get started and may you lean into Holy Spirit as you seek to make these things your default way of thinking and doing life:

- "whatever is **true**" – *alethes* (#227) occurs 25 times: Mat 22:16; Mar 12:14; Joh 3:33; 4:18; 5:31,32; 7:18; 8:13,14,16,17,26; 10:41; 19:35; 21:24; Act 12:9; Rom 3:4; 2Co 6:8; Php 4:8; Tit 1:13; 1Pe 5:12; 2Pe 2:22; 1Jo 2:8,27; 3Jo 1:12.
- "whatever is **noble**" – *semnos* (#4586) occurs 4 times: Php 4:8; 1Ti 3:8,11; Tit 2:2.
- "whatever is **right**" – *dikaios* (#1342) occurs 81 times: Mat 1:19; 5:45; 9:13; 10:41a,41b,41c; 13:17,43,49; 20:4,7; 23:28,29,35a,35b; 25:37,46; 27:19,24; Mar 2:17; 6:20; Luk 1:6,17; 2:25; 5:32; 12:57; 14:14; 15:7; 18:9; 20:20; 23:47,50; Joh 5:30; 7:24; 17:25; Act 3:14; 4:19; 7:52; 10:22; 22:14; 24:15; Rom 1:17; 2:13; 3:10,26; 5:7,19; 7:12; Gal 3:11; Eph 6:1; Php 1:7; 4:8; Col 4:1; 2Th 1:5,6; 1Ti 1:9; 2Ti 4:8; Tit 1:8; Heb 10:38; 11:4; 12:23; Jam 5:6,16 1Pe 3:12,18; 4:18; 2Pe 1:13; 2:7,8a,8b; 1Jo 1:9; 2:1,29; 3:7a,7b,12; Rev 15:3; 16:5,7; 19:2; 22:11.
- "whatever is **pure**" – *hagnos* (#53) occurs 8 times: 2Co 7:11; 11:2; Php 4:8; 1Ti 5:22; Tit 2:5; Jam 3:17; 1Pe 3:2; 1Jo 3:3.
- "whatever is **lovely**" – *prospiles* (#4375) occurs only one time, here in Php 4:8.

- "whatever is **admirable**" – *euphemos* (#2163) occurs only one time, here in Php 4:8.
- "if anything is **excellent**" – *arete* (#703) occurs 5 times: Php 4:8; 1Pe 2:9; 2Pe 1:3,5a,5b.
- "or **praiseworthy**" – *epainos* (#1868) occurs 11 times: Rom 2:29; 13:3; 1Co 4:5; 2Co 8:18; Eph 1:6,12,14; Php 1:11; 4:8; 1Pe 1:7; 2:14.

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