

Jeremiah 29:11, “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.”



The word ‘thoughts’ in this verse is the Hebrew word ‘machashabah’ which means: thought, device, plan, purpose, invention. God knows the thoughts, the plan and purpose He has for me. That purpose is one that will bring me joy. The reward for following His plan for my life will result in peace. He sees the expected end, the final destination, the completed work He has prepared for me.

Isaiah 55:8-9, “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

Isn’t it a good thing that we are not following the thoughts or plans that we think upon? God’s plans for us are always beyond our imagination. If we followed our own thoughts, we would limit our abilities and our own foolish thoughts would lead us to destruction.

So the next time those thoughts of worry come our way, shoo them away with the confidence that God has everything all under control and He is thinking thoughts of peace and not evil towards us.

Psalms 40:5, “Many, O LORD my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to us-ward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered.”

Psalms 139:17-18, “How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! How great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand: when I awake, I am still with thee.”

It amazes me to think about how God can ponder innumerable thoughts towards me and everyone else all at the same time. I may not be able to comprehend the mind of God, but I can bask in the joy of His thoughts towards me.

Doesn't it feel wonderful when your child, spouse or a friend makes contact with you to tell you that they were thinking about you, missing you or praying for you?

It warms my heart when I see the outward results of someone thinking good thoughts about me. On the opposite hand, it bothers me greatly when someone thinks thoughts of evil towards me. Those thoughts are evident in their speech and actions, just as thoughts of peace are evident in one's speech and actions.

Let us work on controlling our thoughts towards others so our speech and actions reflect thoughts of peace and not of evil, following the pattern set by our Lord.

Psalm 92:5, "O LORD, how great are thy works! And thy thoughts are very deep."

Sometimes God's thoughts towards me are expressed through discipline, but that discipline always results in peace if I let Him mold me.

Hebrews 12:11, "Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby."

Just because God is thinking thoughts of peace towards me does not mean that I will walk on a path of ease in this life. As long as we live in a world of sin, we will feel the effects of sin. But take hope in the fact that God is directing our path; we simply must trust Him and follow His leading even if He directs us to walk through a difficulty to get to the other side. The other side is where we experience His peace and joy – the expected end!