

## Noble Thoughts

Our world needs noble thoughts. Not the kind that kings and queens and dukes and duchesses might have, but thoughts that look higher and better for all people. The dictionary defines noble as having or showing fine personal qualities or high moral principles and ideals.

That's what God wants for us. We humans don't have a problem being petty and small minded and mean. But it takes God to make us always think of others, to think big thoughts, and to exhibit kindness to all we meet.

We may have to look hard and long for noble thoughts and actions in today's world. God has them, and stands ready to share them with his people.

Even people who don't know God can have noble thoughts, but they are limited by our human imperfections and limits.

When Jesus said that he came to give his life for others, and calls us to do the same, those are noble thoughts. When Jesus calls us to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and our neighbor as ourselves, those are noble thoughts as well.

Perhaps we must begin with a mindset to look for the good rather than the bad each day. If we look for the good, we will find it. If we look for the bad, the same is also true. "Look for something positive in each day," writes Harvey Mackay, "even if some days you have to look a little harder."

There are many wonderful things about our country and world. We have much in common, and there are many good things we can do together. Rather than focusing on the desires of one over the other, we must come together to celebrate the good of all.

The same sun comes up on us all. The same wind blows, the same God created and loves us. He seeks unity and blessing for all of his people. I cannot for the life of me see anything good about criticism, anger, and negativity. Building up, loving and forgiving no matter what, and looking for the good is God's only way.

If we keep focused on Christ our Lord, and the noble tasks of the Christian he has set before us, we will see wonder and majesty. Sometimes we are blind because

we do not see. Helen Keller, a blind teacher who shows us much about faith, said, "Keep your face to the sunshine and you cannot see a shadow."

The scripture records at one point that Jesus set his face toward Jerusalem, and the day he would accomplish salvation for his people. To that end he did great things, thoughtless of himself than others, and changed the world forever

If we can do the same, and walk with him as he continues to do it, we will bring hope, healing, and blessing to the world. Henri Nouwen, who gave up a teaching position to care for the disabled, has written much on this subject.

"Did I," writes Nouwen, "offer peace today? Did I bring a smile to someone's face? Did I say words of healing? Did I let go of my anger and resentment? Did I forgive? Did I love? These are the real questions. I must trust that the little bit of love that I sow now will bear many fruits, here in this world and the life to come."

We must ask ourselves how we affect the world around us. Do we raise life or do we lower it? Do people want to be around us or do they run from us?

Perhaps today can be a new beginning for us. For the first time we see life as it is meant to be seen. Baby steps of love begin quietly and hopefully, and we do not walk alone.

Find a group of people who love others and do good things and think good thoughts. This is the church in its highest description. Other groups can be similar, but lack the divine power and influence that only God can bring. We must bring our hurts and dreams there to be healed and nurtured.

"The best thing to do," Karen Armstrong says, "when you find yourself in a hurting or vulnerable place, is to surround yourself with the strongest, finest, most positive people you know.

In God we must trust. With God all things are possible. Noble things can happen when we look toward heaven and measure the worth of what we are about to do. In a very real sense, we are all children of the King of Kings, so we have a very real claim to some bit of nobility, even in our humanness.

“Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things.”~Philippians 4:8

Think noble thoughts, dear reader. And our world will be much the better for it.