



Mat 13:45 "When the merchant found a pearl of great value he sold everything he had and bought it"

Rom 12:2 "Do not be conformed to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind."

Phil 4:8 "Whatever is noble is true.. noble.. right.. pure.. lovely.. admirable.. praiseworthy.. think about such things."

1. The joyful seeker Mat 13:45

The merchant in search of pearls is so joyful in his quest, that he gives everything for one pearl of great value. Jesus implies that our searching has to have that element of commitment & joy.

The Bible tells us that Jesus was full of joy (Heb 12:2, Lk 10:21) and that we should know joy too (1 Pet 1:8). Like an auxiliary engine in a sailing boat, so we often need the engine of discipline & effort. Nevertheless sometime in our lives we may move from "duty to delight". If our spiritual search does not have joy somewhere, we are vulnerable to sin.

2. The truthful seeker Rom 12 1-2

The values and attitudes of the world can squeeze us – just as a potter squeezes clay. To resist these pressures we need a renewed mind. We need to take charge of negative & destructive thoughts that keep playing in our brain. We can do this by monitoring our thoughts in a journal or talking with a friend/ counsellor.

3. The inspired seeker Phil 4:8

The brain has an amazing capacity to change. If we don't use certain faculties, they die, but if we put in renewed patterns of thinking – we can re-wire our brains!

Questions

1. Where do we find joy in our life with God? Where does our joyless-ness, hard work and frustration make us vulnerable? How can we have more joy?
2. What are those "negative tapes" that play in our brains? How do we deal with them?
3. What new patterns of thinking can we put in?