



TRANSFORMED

DEVOTIONS CONNECTING TEENS TO CHRIST

How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

Psalm 139:17–18a

Thank you, God, for your plan.

We wake up every morning with so many thoughts, some bad and some good. Sometimes we just can't shut off our mind. Our minds wander during the day at school. We think of the tests coming up or the quizzes we're getting back. We think of the clothes that we're wearing and if that certain person will notice us. We think of the friends we have and the stupid decisions that we've made. We think of what we'll eat today and what practice will be like. So many thoughts.

Emotions flood our heart and mind too. We wonder what people really think of us. We wonder who we can really trust. We wonder about the decisions we make, second-guessing many of them. Sometimes we even wonder what we're really worth, or if we really make a difference in this world. Our minds are filled with thoughts, some bad and some good.

God too has thoughts, a vast sum of thoughts that are intent on giving us everything good. In this month of November we turn our thoughts to Thanksgiving and all the reasons that God has given us to say, "Thank you, God!"

There many reasons to thank God. Where do we start? After all, he made us. He gave us all our talents, our gifts and abilities. And he gave them to each one of us, each one individually, each one specifically and specially. This is all a gift from our Creator, from our Father, our God.

And it's not just that. God didn't just make us. He came for us. He lived for us. He died for us. And in Jesus' dying for us, God declares that we are of inestimable value to him. In Jesus' rising for us, God says that we are completely perfect in God's eyes.

These are God's thoughts, and we're just getting started. That's why God's thoughts are so precious to us. They go on and on and on. They bring endless comfort, joy, and hope to our souls. That's why it's a good thing to turn our thoughts to God's thoughts now. And not just in November, but always. In him, we find love, forgiveness, and guidance for this challenging life. His thoughts are not our thoughts, and we praise him for that!

A challenge for week one: Jot down in your notes app or in a journal your Top 10 reasons to say, "Thank you, God."

Prayer: Thank you, God, for your many and precious thoughts that center on your love for me and for all your creation! Amen.