

Your Thoughts for Us

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One of the most profound fears we have is to be forgotten, to be alone. There is a longing in each of our souls to be remembered and to be thought of. Countless accounts from soldiers and missionaries alike shine light on the need for people to be thought of. We know that we offer love when we simply tell others that we are thinking about them. In fact, we often use hyperbole to meet this need in others. We say things like, “I’m thinking about you every moment.” But the reality is that nobody can actually always be thinking about us. That is, of course, with the exception of our heavenly Father.

Our God holds every person in His thoughts at every moment.

Scripture makes it clear: God alone is omniscient. He knows and thinks of everything. He is literally holding the world together with His thoughts (Hebrews 1). He is causing electrons to stay in orbit around the smallest atoms. He is keeping the tides on schedule. He is conscious of the bloom of flowers in Nepal—right now. His thoughts and His capacity for thought are unimaginably immense. Yet, the Scripture says He preserves countless thoughts for you and for me. There is only one in all creation who can say with no hesitation—no hyperbole—what this song claims in the opening verse: *“Oh God Your thoughts for us / Outnumber stars above / And grains of sand upon the shore ...”*

While this is amazing poetry, it is not simply poetic. This is reality. Our God has thought about each of us 10,000 times before we finish reading this sentence. What a love! “How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! If I would count them, they are more than the sand. I awake, and I am still with you” (Psalm 139:17-18 ESV).

God is faithful, so we will never be alone or without hope.

“That You never leave my side, You never turn away / I’m confident in this, Your faithfulness”

The chorus of this song is the sure foundation that God has created for us in Christ Jesus. He not only promised that He will be faithful to deliver us; He proved in the death and resurrection of Jesus that He is our faithful deliverer. Not only that, but God sent His Spirit to dwell in us as a deposit, ensuring His trustworthy promise to redeem all our sorrow for future glory. Our confidence in God is built on His character, His Word, and His power shown in faithfully accomplishing everything He ever promised. The apostle Paul explains it this way:

For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaimed among you ... was not Yes and No, but in him it is always Yes. For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory. And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has

anointed us, and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee. (2 Corinthians 1:19-22 ESV)

God is not only faithful to act on our behalf but is never without the knowledge or power to act. No one is like Him. He is both constantly thinking of us and never separated by space or the ability to act on our behalf. When we sing the words in this song, we sing them with faith in His Word, not with blind sentimentality. Our God is faithful. No matter our situations, our God is thinking about us, He is near to us, and He is faithful.

“The outcast finds their place / In Your amazing grace / The anxious heart can rest assured”

God’s thoughts of His people stir His love.

God not only has thoughts about us, His thoughts about us move His heart and stir His love. It is possible to fixate on many things we do not love. We fixate on things that bring us anxiety, sadness, or despair—so the *number* of thoughts is not our only consideration. What do you think God *feels* when He thinks of you? In short, He is overwhelmed with love and joy. What a glorious reality. When we look at our failures and our sin, when we contemplate our cowardice and our deception, we may be tempted to think God’s thoughts of us consist of begrudging tolerance or benign indifference. However, as people redeemed through Christ, when God thinks about us, His heart breaks out in a song of joy.

No matter how many times we sing songs of love about our God, be awed. He has sung songs of joy ten thousand more times than that! “The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing” (Zephaniah 3:17 ESV).

