Emma Ellis

From doing the study of *Thinking Like A Christian,* I have learned many things about the Christian way of thinking, or as the book states, the Christian worldview. I learned that it is truly the way you view the world that makes all the difference. Many people will look at the facts and believable things about life and the world. But as Christians, we are called to go deeper than that and rely on faith in Christ and what His Word says, allowing us to believe in extraordinary things. Many people like to label this as blind faith but God gave everyone the amazing gift of free will. This means that, though it would be great for everyone to believe in His power, He still gave us the gift of choice. As a Christian, I may have questions about the meaning of life and what my purpose is but, all thanks to God Himself, the Bible is always there to direct me in the path I need to take. I just need to set my view on God and listen to Him to hear what He has to say to me, personally. Many times I have questioned what I wanted to do with my life, who Emma was, and what she could do in this life that was presented to her. This study has helped me to expand my ideas of the way God reveals His plans. He has His Word, which the book classifies as a “special revelation” to tell of His teachings and set our beliefs in stone. Along with that, I also have a God who wants to answer those questions to me personally and does not want to see me wander around confused. But at the same time, even though I know where to find the answers, I also learned that it is okay to not know or understand everything about the Bible. Not understanding God fully or the things that He does just shows that I am human and some things of God can not be understood by someone as imperfect as me. To know that I was not a mistake, or I was not created by accident, but that God wanted me is such a rewarding idea. He did not make me as a result of sin but in his image. How could I not want to praise him and thank him every chance I get? The amazing thing about God is that he does not just give us His Word to tell the story of His miracles, but He also gives us nature and the beauty around us. I have never had problems believing in God’s creation because no one could ever convince me that our perfectly planned bodies evolved from apes after two rocks collided and created every animal, mountain, and climate without a single flaw also known as “The Big Bang.” To me, that seems more unbelievable than the idea of Creation! It has always been hard to accept myself for who I am because I was always nothing like the girls in my town, physically or personality-wise. It was not until I started to look at how God views me and think about how He created me perfectly that I started to love myself, down to every flaw I thought I had. It’s so easy to be caught up in what society considers “trendy” that you lose sight of who God created you to be. Something that I did not realize before reading this book, though it seems quite obvious, was that viewing yourself the way God views you brings you closer to Him. As a Christian, you are to have the same ideas as him and try to see things the way he would help bring us closer to him. He already knows our purpose, even when we are in our mother’s womb. We have to seek him and allow him to reveal what he wants to be done in our lives. Another thing that stuck out to me in this book was the idea of morality, knowing what is right and what is wrong. In each culture, there are different sets of morality; in one country something may be praised while in another, it is highly disrespectful. People who are struggling to find out what their morals come to the idea of simply doing what makes them feel right. What I have learned is that we are imperfect and sinful, and while we know what the Bible says is morally right, we might still make the wrong choice because those wrong choices can still “feel good”. It is not that He sets these rules and morals to keep us from making our own choices, it is so we can know for sure what is acceptable and what is not. I have always heard the expression “This is God’s money, He has just loaned it to me” and that’s true. But what I never realized was that God has allowed us to work and make our own money, so that we can buy what we need, along with what we want. It is so easy to not want to spend any money because you feel greedy or selfish. But to know that God allowed you to gain that money to spend on things you enjoy, just demonstrates how caring and loving God is. I feel that the reason this study is called *Thinking Like A Christian* is that, though this country was built on Christian ideas, we have strayed from those ideas in all the principles brought up in this book. As Christians, we have to keep our focus on a Christian worldview over the worldview of everyone else. Though some of the revelations I came across during this book, it was not solely because it was written in the book but what I realized while reading through the chapters. This study has revealed to me how easy it is to think of something in an earthly, negative way instead of a Christian, positive way.