

The ONE Voice

"Where Are My Thoughts?"

PASTOR CRAIG SWEENEY

May 9, 2021

Thread: _____ **Jesus as our highest goal of thought and action brings breakthrough clarity.**

Now I appeal to Euodia and Syntyche. Please, because you belong to the Lord, settle your disagreement. ³ And I ask you, my true partner, to help these two women, for they worked hard with me in telling others the Good News. They worked along with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are written in the Book of Life.

⁴ Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice! ⁵ Let everyone see that you are considerate in all you do. Remember, the Lord is coming soon.

⁶ Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. ⁷ Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

⁸ And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. ⁹ Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me—everything you heard from me and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you.

Philippians 4:2-9 NLT

1. Taking Thoughts Captive

- *"Don't worry about anything..." Philippians 4:6*

- Why?

"Jesus is Lord" Philippians 2:11

*"For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. ⁵ We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and **take every thought captive to obey Christ...**" 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 ESV*

2. Bring God into the Conversation

- *"...instead, pray about everything..." Philippians 4:6*
- *"Tell God what you need, and..." Philippians 4:6*
- *"...thank him for all he has done." Philippians 4:6*

3. God's Peace

- *"Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds..." Philippians 4:7*
- *"...as you live in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:7*

4. The One Voice

- Jesus is LORD and THE final Word on ALL of IT!
"And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing." Philippians 4:8
- Jesus embodies all these qualities:
*"Fix your thoughts on...
what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable.
Think about things that are...
excellent...
and worthy of praise." Philippians 4:8*

5. Practice and Thoughts Are Intertwined

- *"**Keep putting into practice** all you learned and received from me—everything you heard from me and saw me doing." Philippians 4:9*

6. Peace is No Accident

- *"**Then** the God of peace will be with you." Philippians 4:9*

Challenge:

- What thoughts do I need to take captive?
- When and how will I bring God into the conversation?
- Is my guilty conscience undermining my ability to TRUST and therefore acquire peace?
- What examples do you have that are worthy of following?

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www.dougbrittonbooks.com/resources/focus-on-positive

Seek to Please God in Everything You Do

www.dougbrittonbooks.com/resources/please-god

Find Freedom from Anxiety, Fear and Worry

www.dougbrittonbooks.com/resources/anxiety-verses

SUMMIT UP DEVOTIONALS

<https://heightschurchonline.com/daily-devotionals/>

Life Group Homework

For the week of May 9, 2021

MY STORY

- 1) If you had to eat one meal every day for the rest of your life, what would it be?
- 2) You're going to sail around the world. What's the name of your boat?

QUICK REVIEW

- 3) What was your takeaway from Sunday's message?

DIGGING DEEPER/ TAKING IT HOME

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Philippians 4:2-5 NLT

- 4) We don't know what the dispute was between Euodia and Syntyche, but it's clear the conflict was a problem because word of it had traveled to Paul. What does Paul tell them to do, and why is this important?
- 5) Sometimes we think that settling a dispute means we must agree. This is incorrect; we must agree on the essentials of our faith but show grace and deference when we disagree. What does "settle it in the Lord" imply?
- 6) What does Paul remind them of?

- 7) Why is it important to live as if Christ was coming back any minute?

- 8) How can this perspective help us today with the conflicts encircling us on all sides?

CHAIR TIME TOOL

Think and pray about the following questions.

- 1) Is there someone you need to end conflict with in the Lord?
- 2) Is there something you need to shift to keep the main thing the main thing?
- 3) How can thinking about Jesus' return encourage you?

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