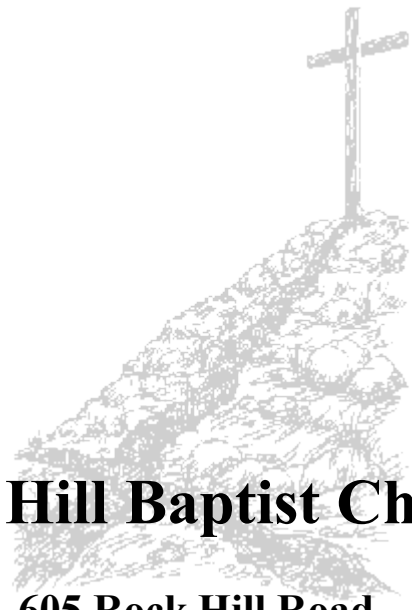


Voices

Philippians 4:6-9



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FOCAL TEXT (Philippians 4:6-9 KJV) Be careful¹ for nothing²; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. {7} And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep³ your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. {8} Finally, brethren, whatsoever¹⁰ things are true⁴, whatsoever¹⁰ things are honest⁵, whatsoever¹⁰ things are just⁶, whatsoever¹⁰ things are pure⁷, whatsoever¹⁰ things are lovely⁸, whatsoever¹⁰ things are of good report⁹; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. {9} Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

I am going to start the message today with this statement, and I want you to THINK about it:

You MAY become what you THINK you CAN become, but what you THINK is impossible or without value, you will NEVER achieve.

Humans, though we live in the physical, are truly controlled by what we think. The Bible speaks of the hearts and minds of people. We even see hearts and minds referred to in verse 7 above. When the Bible speaks of hearts and minds, it is talking about the emotional and intellectual being of the human. What you do with this message today will be determined by *what you think about it*.

There is a battle going on all around us. This battle began long before you were born. This battle has taken

1. Humans, though we live in the physical, are truly _____ by what we think.
2. When the Bible speaks of **hearts and minds**, it is talking about the _____ and _____ being of the human.

many lives, ruined many people, elevated many to eternal life, and seen others lost forever in a place of eternal torment. **There is a battle going on all around you, unseen with the human eye, though its effects are seen everywhere. This battle is a battle fought on the *spiritual level* not the *physical level*.** Two mighty forces are on this battlefield opposing one another. One force, led by Satan and his fallen angels, encourages you to dismiss all that you hear as *invalid*, foolishness, mere superstition, intolerant. The other force, led by Jesus Christ and all of the redeemed, Blood bought Church, encourages you to hear the Voice of God, to consider this message.

What you think matters. What you think ultimately will determine whether you end up in eternity, be it Heaven or Hell. What you think today will shape your tomorrow. What you think important today will effect what you do with your life tomorrow. What you think today will not only effect how your life is shaped, but what you think today will have an effect on the lives of those around you. Satan and his demons want you to believe that what you think doesn't matter, but God the Son wants you to know that this is a lie. Satan worked in

the minds of Adam and Eve, making them believe that eating that little old fruit really didn't matter. Adam took a bite, and we still suffer for that today. What you think matters, and it matters to those closest to you!

3. There is a battle going on all around you, unseen with the human eye, though its effects are seen everywhere. This battle is a battle fought on the _____, not the physical level.

Let's see what our text has to say.

1. Both You and SOMEONE Will Work Together With You In Your Life

FOCAL TEXT

(Philippians 4:6 KJV) Be careful¹ for nothing²; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

The first four words of our text are:

Be careful¹ for nothing²

This is the (Present Active Imperative) verb **merimnao**¹ {pronounced mer-im-nah'-o} with the adjective **medeis**² {pronounced may-dice'}. This literally means **stop being troubled with cares** or quite simply, **quit worrying about things**. What an interesting command, for it is a command. We live in a troublesome time, a time when there are many things to worry about. In fact, today is

about as bad as it was when the early Church was formed. Babies are being aborted at the rate of about 4000 a day. The world gets stranger and stranger. People are battling to establish same sex marriages as normal, even though the Bible clearly shows it to be abnormal. If you turn on television, all you see is *moral noise*, confusion, anger, discouragement, trials, tribulations. What you see in the world today is no more than the outward manifestation of a *lost world*. The world at large has never loved Jesus, and never will love Jesus. Those who are lost love *self satisfaction and the ways of the fallen angels* better than they love God. The Bible says:

(John 3:19-20 KJV) And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. {20} For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.

Yes, we should be concerned at the condition of the world, and at the condition of America. Our country has slipped into moral noise, loving sin more than it loves the Creator. But I as a Christian am commanded to **Be careful¹ for nothing², to stop worrying about it.** What can I do? Our text tells us:

FOCAL TEXT

(Philippians 4:6 KJV) {Stop worrying about it} but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

The solution for the Christian is to *draw closer to God*, to *communicate your concerns* to Him - to draw closer to our source of power.

4. Our country has slipped into _____, loving sin more than it loves the Creator. But I as a Christian am commanded to **Be careful¹ for nothing²**, to _____. (John 3:19-20; Philippians 4:6)

In this mighty angelic conflict, where the forces of evil and the forces of God collide, the solution to the conditions of America and the world is undying allegiance to Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. I was watching an old war movie the other day - I think it was a John Wayne movie - and I was impressed by the fact that the Army always *followed the colors* into battle. As the Army went into battle the men at the very front lifted up two staffs, one with the United States flag, and the other with the Flag of the Seventh Calvary. Everyone, even the Generals of that Army, *followed the colors*. Where they saw the flags go, that was where they went. In the same way the Christian must *follow the colors, follow Jesus Christ*. If you are a Christian you are citizens of a *Heavenly Kingdom*, and Jesus Christ is your King. We are not of this world Jesus was very clear on this. He stated:

(John 17:14-17 KJV) I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. {15} I pray not that thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that thou shouldst keep them from the

evil *{literally, the Evil One}*. {16} They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. {17} Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

Several times Jesus remarked that - just as HE is not of this world, WE are not of this world. We are IN the world, but are not OF the world. We are IN Jesus. Therefore when we are faced with the troubles of this old world, we are to *follow the colors*, take it to Jesus, and trust it to His care. When I try to fix it myself, when I worry about it and worry about it, when I go after the problem with my own meager resources, I am sure to mess it up worse. Listen Beloved: Both you and SOMEONE is working with you in your life. If you take your concerns to God, to the Precious Savior, then the SOMEONE working together with you is Jesus. If you try to attack the problem using your own resources, then the SOMEONE who will be helping you is Satan or one of the fallen ones. Frankly, I'd rather it be Jesus helping me!

5. In the same way the Christian must _____, *follow Jesus Christ*. If you are a Christian you are citizens of a *Heavenly Kingdom*, and Jesus Christ is your King. We are not of this world! (John 17:14-17)

FOCAL TEXT When you *follow the colors*, trust all of your heart and mind to Jesus Christ, then God promises this. Read further in the verse with me:

(Philippians 4:6-7 KJV) Be careful¹ for nothing²; but

in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. {7} **And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep³ your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.**

The "peace of God" or *peace from God* is that power of God that *guards* the heart and mind of the believer. I want you to notice the words **shall keep³**. These words are the (Future Active Indicative) verb **phroureo** {pronounced froo-reh'-o}, which literally means *to post guard so as to protect*. **When you follow the colors, that is, when you draw close to Jesus Christ instead of using your own resources to attack a problem, then our Lord garrisons or posts a guard on our thought lives. Our hearts and minds are guarded against the Evil One.**

We are told in the Scripture that the battle going on around us is *not physical*, but it is *spiritual*. Who do I wrestle against? Who wants my demise, my failure, my loss? Who wants to see my children cursed, my wife harmed, my life set in disarray? No earthly foe desires this, but the Scripture says:

(Ephesians 6:12 KJV) For we wrestle NOT against flesh and blood, but AGAINST PRINCIPALITIES, AGAINST POWERS, AGAINST THE RULERS OF THE DARKNESS OF THIS WORLD, AGAINST SPIRITUAL WICKEDNESS in high places.

NOT flesh and blood, BUT principalities. NOT flesh and blood, BUT powers. NOT flesh and blood, BUT rulers of the darkness. NOT flesh and blood, BUT spiritual

wickedness in high places. Listen Beloved: the war we

6. When you *follow the colors*, that is, when you draw close to Jesus Christ instead of using your own resources to attack a problem, then our Lord _____ or _____ on our thought lives. Our **hearts and minds are guarded** against the Evil One. (Ephesians 6:12; Philippians 4:7)

fight may outwardly look physical, but it is truly a *matter of the thought life*. Draw near to God in prayer and in obedience, draw near to the *Colors, to Jesus Christ*, and He will *post guard* on your hearts and minds.

2. Listen To The Voice Of The God Of Peace, Not To The Voices of Confusion

FOCAL TEXT

(Philippians 4:6-9 KJV) Be careful¹ for nothing²; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. {7} And the **peace of God**, which passeth all understanding, shall keep³ your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. {8} **Finally, brethren, whatsoever**¹⁰ things are true⁴, **whatsoever**¹⁰ things are honest⁵, **whatsoever**¹⁰ things are just⁶, **whatsoever**¹⁰ things are pure⁷, **whatsoever**¹⁰ things are lovely⁸, **whatsoever**¹⁰ things are of good report⁹; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. {9} Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the **God of peace** shall be with you.

I want you to notice *three words in verse 7* and *three words in verse 9*. In verse 7 we just read about the **peace of God**, and in verse 9 we read the **God of peace**. This is a "no brainer", but something you need to understand: the *peace of God* only comes from *the God of peace*. You cannot find the peace of God in *self help projects*.

When I was a little boy I used to try and get momma to buy the breakfast cereal that had a little prize in it. You know, a decoder ring, or some other piece of plastic junk that today I wouldn't even look at twice. Listen Beloved: You can search and search, but you'll not find anything but a *cheap plastic toy at the bottom of a cereal box* if you're looking for the peace of God anywhere but IN GOD. He's called **the God of peace** because He's the only Source of peace. The God of peace is with His Church, desiring that you listen to His Voice:

(Romans 15:33 KJV) **Now the God of peace be with you all. Amen.**

When the God of peace reigns in a Church, Satan's head is bruised. He empowers His Church to walk triumphantly, telling all others about Jesus:

(Romans 16:19-20 KJV) **For your obedience is come abroad unto all men. I am glad therefore on your behalf: but yet I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil. {20} And the God**

**of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly.
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
Amen.**

There are many *voices* in our world. Each voice calls out to you, trying to get you to *bind your mind* to it. The Fallen One wants you to bind your mind to his confusing thought pattern, following him and ignoring God the Son. The God of peace encourages you to follow His Voice, and then act on what you hear - to *put your faith into action*:

FOCAL TEXT

(Philippians 4:9 KJV) Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, DO: and the God of peace shall be with you.

Faith must be put *in action*, faith must *act itself out* in obedience to the God of Peace. The Church at Thessaloníki was told:

(1 Thessalonians 5:23 KJV) And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The God of peace wants only the best for you. The God of peace will work among you to grow Rock Hill, to draw others to this place, to win souls for Christ, to help you live victorious lives in Jesus. The God of Peace raised God the Son from the grave. The God of Peace, God the Holy Spirit, is that Member of the Godhead that Jesus sent to indwell every believer in Him, to empower

us to serve Him:

(Hebrews 13:20-21 KJV) Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, {21} Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Romans 8:11-14 (KJV) "But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. {12} Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. {13} For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. {14} For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."

7. There are many *voices* in our world. Each voice calls out to you, trying to get you to _____ to it. The Fallen One wants you to _____ to his confusing thought pattern, following him and ignoring God the Son. (Romans 15:33; 16:19-20; Philippians 4:9; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 13:20-21; Romans 8:11-14)

If you are a Christian you are to *listen to the Voice of the God of Peace*, not to the voice of the god of confusion. The Scripture now identifies *six voices* that the Christian should listen to. **These *six adjectives* (by the way - the**

number six in itself is significant, because *six* is the number of man in the Scripture) are all introduced with the Greek *hosa* are unique to the mind of God. I am told that a diamond merchant determines the value of a cut or uncut diamond based on the number of flaws in that rock. Look at this verse as if it were *six facets on a diamond*:

FOCAL TEXT (Philippians 4:8 KJV) Finally, brethren, whatsoever¹⁰ things are true⁴, whatsoever¹⁰ things are honest⁵, whatsoever¹⁰ things are just⁶, whatsoever¹⁰ things are pure⁷, whatsoever¹⁰ things are lovely⁸, whatsoever¹⁰ things are of good report⁹; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

Robertson's *Word Pictures in the New Testament* says of this verse:

"**Whatsoever (hosa). Thus he introduces six adjectives picturing Christian ideals, old-fashioned and familiar words not necessarily from any philosophic list of moral excellencies Stoic [worldly] or otherwise. Without these no ideals can exist. They are pertinent now when so much filth is flaunted before the world in books, magazines and moving pictures under the name of realism (the slime of the gutter and the cess-pool).**"

There are many voices in the world, many opinions, many directions, many decisions, but only One God of Peace. The Voice you listen to is the Voice that will

determine whether you live a victorious life, or whether you live a life of mediocrity - or WORSE! The *six voices* that come from God are:

T **True**⁴ = Pilate asked Jesus "What is truth?" (John 18:38). You'll never know truth outside of Jesus Christ. The Scripture says:

John 1:14 (KJV) "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."

What is truth? It is found in Jesus! Hear the voice of truth, hear Jesus!

H **onest**⁵, without lies.

J **ust**⁶, always fair, lawful

P **ure**⁷, righteous, having no impurities or perversions

L **ovely**⁸, and

G **ood report**⁹

How do I follow the God of Peace? *I use my spiritual*

common sense. I listen to these *six pure voices* and heed them, not the voices of the world. Just as a human instinctively knows when something looks dangerous, the Christian - indwelt with the Spirit of God - knows when something is not *one of these voices of God's Spirit*.

8. The *six adjectives* in Philippians 4:8 (by the way - the number six in itself is significant, because *six* is the number of man in the Scripture) all introduced with the Greek word hosa are unique to the _____.

9. I should do these *four things* to achieve excellence in my Christian walk:

a. (2 Timothy 2:22) _____

b. (Hebrews 12:14-16) _____

c. (Matthew 6:19-21; Romans 14:19-21; Romans 14:12) _____

d. (Isaiah 26:3-4) _____

Until a recent trip out with the Youth, I had no idea what

a *copperhead* looked like. I knew a copperhead was a snake, but since I never saw one I had no idea as to what I should *specifically* avoid. But I guarantee you this: even though I was unfamiliar with copperheads, I wasn't about to be bitten by one. Why? Because when I see a snake, ANY snake, I go the other way! I don't go up and tap it on the head and say, "Here little snakey - let's see if you have fangs". No way Jose! I avoid copperheads by avoiding *all snakes*. Spiders? I avoid the deadly *brown recluse* spider by avoiding ALL SPIDERS. Do I know what one looks like? No! Do I know what a snake or a spider looks like? Yes! But only from a distance!

3. I Will Use Spiritual Common Sense

Here's some good advice on using Spiritual Common Sense:

(2 Timothy 2:22 KJV) Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

a Run away from scary, spider, snakelike things like *youthful lust*, and follow the trail of **righteousness, faith, charity, and peace**. Do this *with other like minded believers*. Notice the text says **with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart**.

A few years ago I watched a movie about mountain climbers. Why I was watching this I don't know. Myself, I'd rather take the elevator in the hospital than climb the stairs. Anyway, I noticed that the climbers *tied*

themselves together as they climbed, and that they were also tied to the mountain with safety harnesses. Why? Because if one climber fell, rather than falling to his death the *lifeline he had to the other climbers* would save him.

You need to understand that we're climbing this mountain together. We need one another for survival. We cannot afford to unharness ourselves from one another no matter what. I cannot tell you how blessed I was to come home from vacation, and find many believers gathered together in this House of God to study His Word this past Wednesday. *I need you to be as committed as you need me*. We're in this work of God together. Join with me to run away from the scary things, and run toward Jesus!

b Do not place the physical ABOVE the spiritual in your lives. The Bible warns us:

(Hebrews 12:14-16 KJV) Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: {15} Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled; {16} Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright.

We all remember Esau, a man who valued the physical over the spiritual. Though Jacob tricked Esau into selling him his birthright, Esau was *able to be tricked* because he found the *sensual* and *physical gratification* to be more desired than the spiritual.

The Bible is full of stories of people who, like Esau, they gave away a greater blessing by grabbing on to a lesser, physically gratifying thing. **Samson** satisfied himself with Delilah, and in so doing died blind by his own hand. **King David** took Bathsheba, Uriah's wife, and lost his firstborn son. Though warned by the God of Peace *ten times*, **Pharaoh** continued to refuse God's warning through Moses. He and the army of Egypt paid for this with their lives in the midst of the Red Sea. When the physical becomes more important for the Christian than the spiritual, he begins down a dangerous road!

Refuse to listen to the voice of Satan that entices you to disobedience. Beloved, God punishes disobedience! God wants none in hell, but be aware that many will enter Hell for all eternity because they listened to the voices of the fallen ones and not the Voices of Righteousness.

C Be very aware that this life is just *a short time* in the span of eternity. God the Son warned us all not to be more focused on the things of this world than on the things of God. He said:

(Matthew 6:19-21 KJV) Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: {20} But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: {21} For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Every day you live on this earth you are being monitored by the God of Peace. Everything you do goes into God's bank account, or into your earthly treasury. There's nothing wrong with having a bank account, nor is there anything wrong with having nice things. God wants us to have nice things, but He wants us to *love Him more than the things He's allowed us to have*. Listen Beloved: we should love one another and God our Savior *more than the things*. After all, we're going to spend eternity *together with one another*, not with the things of this world. Rather than follow money, fame, or fortune, follow what the Bible says we should follow:

(Romans 14:19-21 KJV) Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another. {20} For meat destroy not the work of God. All things indeed are pure; but it is evil for that man who eateth with offense. {21} It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor any thing whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak.

One day you will all stand before the God of Peace and give an account of your life. That's Biblical, by the way. The Bible says:

(Romans 14:12 KJV) So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

d Finally, realize that obedience to the God of Peace is *in your own best interest*. The world is a worrisome place filled with lost, confused, lonely, and discouraged

people. Why would you want to join this merry crowd? The peace that Jesus promised us, the Peace of God that is beyond all human understanding, this peace is lost when you turn from God's way to the world's way. How was it possible that **Daniel** refused to bow down to worship any but God, and was thrown in the lion's den - yet came out victorious? Because he focused his life and *bound his mind* to the God of Peace. How was it possible that **young David, but a boy**, could come up and defeat the giant Goliath many times his size? Because he focused his life and *bound his mind* to the God of Peace. How is it possible that **Joseph**, cast into a pit and sold to slavers by his brothers, could be raised up to the place where he was second to none in the Kingdom of Egypt? Because he focused his life and *bound his mind* to the God of Peace.

(Isaiah 26:3-4 KJV) Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. {4} Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength:

May God imprint these words on your hearts, binding you together in Christian love.