

NOVEMBER 2021 | VOL. 9

# PERSECUTION AND PRISONERS

Devotional of the Month

## Take Every Thought Captive

Written by Madison Phelps

This month we have been focusing on praying for those who are persecuted and imprisoned. We have gathered together to lift up women who are physically behind bars, as well as those who have been oppressed, but we have also intentionally taken time to pray for every woman who has ever *felt* imprisoned or felt like she is being held captive.

I know personally I often feel imprisoned by my own thoughts. I deeply desire to have control in situations, which ultimately roots itself in self-righteousness, because I want things the way I wish. When situations do not go the way I desire them to, I begin to worry. I worry about the outcome. I worry about the process. I worry about the pain it might cause me. When worry starts to root itself in my head, it quickly consumes my heart. Then, I cannot help but



*"I will give you a  
new heart and put  
a new spirit in you;  
I will remove from  
you your heart of  
stone and give you  
a heart of flesh."*

*~ Ezekiel 36:26*

worry about every single thing in life: the health of my family, finances, my body image, friendships, my marriage, and even how I think I should be spending my time during the day. All of that worry is a result of me not taking my thoughts captive, and instead feeling imprisoned by them.

Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 10:5 that “We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.” To take our thoughts captive is to capture them, to imprison them. We want to imprison our thoughts, before they imprison us. By capturing and imprisoning our thoughts, we are able to make them obedient to Christ, instead of letting the enemy’s lies take root in our minds.

How do we take every thought captive? In Philippians 4:8 Paul tells us, “Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is

lovely, whatever is admirable -- if anything is excellent or praiseworthy -- think about such things.”

So, what is it that imprisons you? Maybe you struggle with doubt, and don’t trust that the Lord is good. Some of you might be imprisoned by the constant fear of what others are thinking of you. Do depression and anxiety imprison your mind? Maybe you’re someone who is imprisoned by pride in your accomplishments. It is okay to struggle with these things, let’s not add shame and guilt on top of our struggles. Instead let us think of things that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent, and praiseworthy in order to make every thought obedient to Christ.

Christ is our ultimate hope; every thought he had was glorifying to the Lord which allowed him to die for our sins after living a sinless life, in order that one day we can dwell with him in paradise, free from the imprisonment of sin and death. I pray you feel the hope of Jesus in your life today.



*2 Corinthians 10:5*

