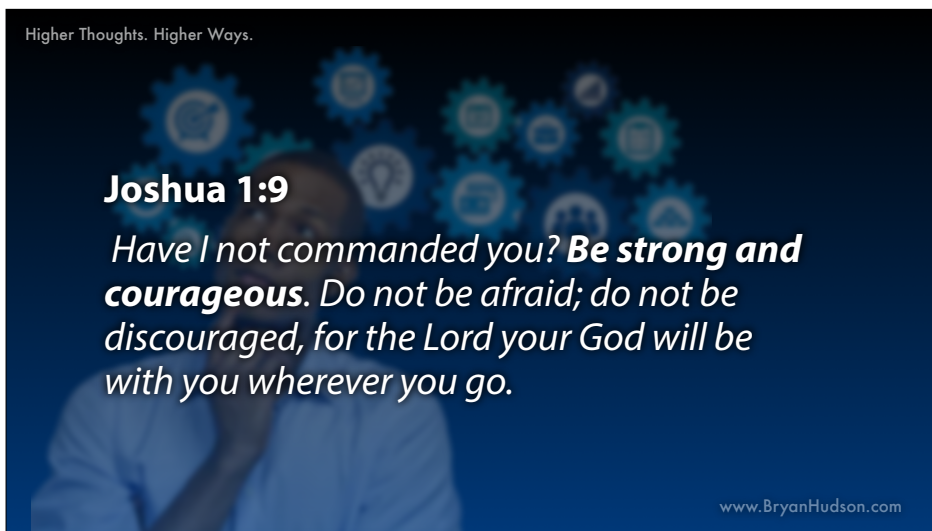


Higher Thoughts. Higher Ways.

### Isaiah 55:8

*"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the Lord. 9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts."*

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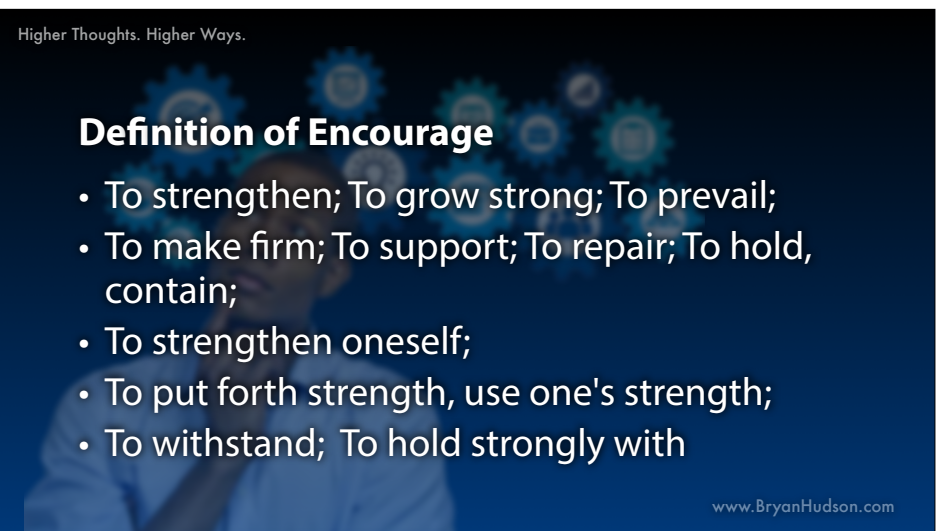


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### Joshua 1:9

*Have I not commanded you? **Be strong and courageous.** Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.*

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### Definition of Encourage

- To strengthen; To grow strong; To prevail;
- To make firm; To support; To repair; To hold, contain;
- To strengthen oneself;
- To put forth strength, use one's strength;
- To withstand; To hold strongly with

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## Isaiah 55:11

*So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.*

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We are living in times that have been called **"The Information Age."**

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A lot of things, occasions, and holidays were designed to influence our thinking and actions.

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Do you know why the National Anthem is sung at sporting events?

<https://www.mentalfloss.com/article/22150/why-do-we-sing-national-anthem-sporting-events>





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**Southern Baptist Convention** was founded in 1845 in support of slave-owning church members.

**James Boyce**, the SBC seminary's first president, was a chaplain to the Confederate Army

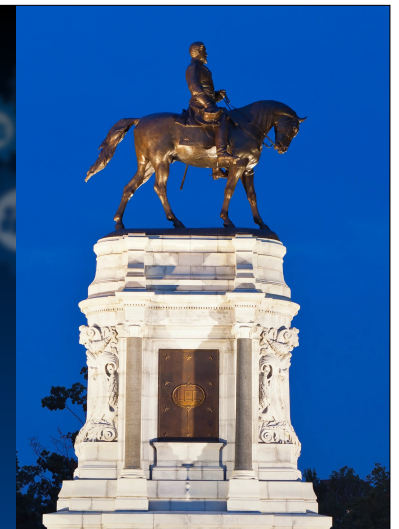
<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Southern-Baptist-Convention>



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Inscription on monument county courthouse grounds in Franklin, TN

That children ***"might know by daily observation of this monument"*** the values for which their ancestors fought.



Anti-**Critical Race Theory** actions are another example of influencing thinking.

Brand CRT as “Marxist”

Work to “sanitize” (re-write) history.

Ease “guilty” feelings.

**Critical Race Theory** is an academic concept that is **more than 40 years old**. The core idea is that race is a social construct, and that racism is not merely the product of individual bias or prejudice, but also something embedded in legal systems and policies.

<https://alsoacarpenter.com/2021/06/06/crt-commonplaces/>

Ten Black people were massacred in Buffalo NY on May 14 week by an 18-year old white supremacist who was influenced by “**Replacement theory**.” This tragedy verified (again) the findings of Critical Race Theory.



**Conspiracies** are an outcome of poor and deceived thinking

**Understanding** is a triumph of sound thinking.



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<https://cpwiindy.com>

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## 2 Peter 1:3

*As His divine power has given to us **all things that pertain to life and godliness**, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,*

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Things that pertain "life" and "godliness" are all God-given.

Many of the things that impact on "**life**" today don't have a specific Scripture.

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**2 Peter 1:3**, *As His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to **life** and **godliness**, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue.*

The "knowledge of God" as a relationship opens all kinds of doors.

Things that pertain to "godliness," come from relationship with God.

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Higher Thoughts. Higher Ways.

## Some Higher Thoughts

**Jeremiah 29:11**, *For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope*

**Philippians 4:8**, *Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.*

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Higher Thoughts. Higher Ways.

## Some Higher Thoughts

From *The Obstacle Is the Way* - by Ryan Holiday

1. See the opportunity within your obstacle: *"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me"*
2. Failure shows us the way—by showing us what isn't the way.
3. Everything we do matters
4. Think progress, not perfection.

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## Some Higher Thoughts

5. Can we see that this "problem" presents an opportunity for a solution that we have long been waiting for?
6. Nothing can ever prevent you from trying. Ever.
7. We don't get to choose what happens to us, but we can always choose how we feel about it
8. Persistence is an action. Perseverance is a matter of will. One is energy. The other, endurance. And, of course, they work in conjunction with each other.

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## **Proverbs 15:21-22**

*Folly is joy to him who lacks sense, But a man of understanding walks straight. Without consultation, plans are frustrated, But with many counselors they succeed.*

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