

Kev's sermon notes Elevation Church Ballantyne
Oct. 6, 2019
Pastor Furtick
Sermon Title: "I Caught A Thought"

- Elevation Worship
God of the Promise: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G26HDdqCyGw>
- Never Lost: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FER7eswvqSc>
- "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less" - Old School Hymn: This Christian was hymn written by Edward Mote in 1834 - pastor at Rehoboth Baptist Church in Horsham, West Sussex England.
- Victory: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YNd-PbVhnvA>

Scripture

- **Numbers 13: 30 to 33:** Report on the Exploration - 26 They came back to Moses and Aaron and the whole Israelite community at Kadesh in the Desert of Paran. There they reported to them and to the whole assembly and showed them the fruit of the land. 27 They gave Moses this account: "We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit. 28 But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Anak there. 29 The Amalekites live in the Negev; the Hittites, Jebusites and Amorites live in the hill country; and the Canaanites live near the sea and along the Jordan." 30 Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, "We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it." 31 But the men who had gone up with him said, "We can't attack those people; they are stronger than we are." 32 And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored. They said, "The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size. 33 We saw the Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim). We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them."
- **2nd Corinthians 10:4:** (NIV) - Paul's Defense of His Ministry - 10 By the humility and gentleness of Christ, I appeal to you—I, Paul, who am "timid" when face to face with you, but "bold" toward you when away! 2 I beg you that when I come, I may not have to be as bold as I expect to be toward some people who think that we live by the standards of this world. 3 For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. 4 The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. 5 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. 6 And we will be ready to punish every act of disobedience, once your obedience is complete. 7 You are judging by appearances.[a] If anyone is confident that they belong to Christ, they should consider again that we belong to Christ just as much as they do. 8 So even if I boast somewhat freely about the authority the Lord gave us for building you up rather than tearing you down, I will not be ashamed of it. 9 I do not want to seem to be trying to frighten you with my letters. 10 For some say, "His letters are weighty and forceful, but in person he is unimpressive and his speaking amounts to nothing." 11 Such people should realize that what we are in our letters when we are absent, we will be in our actions when we are present.
- **Proverbs 6: 30 to 31:** People do not despise a thief if he steals to satisfy his hunger when he is starving. 31 Yet if he is caught, he must pay sevenfold, though it costs him all the wealth of his house. 32 But a man who commits adultery has no sense; whoever does so destroys himself. 33 Blows and disgrace are his lot, and his shame will never be wiped away.
- **Mark 5:28:** Jesus Raises a Dead Girl and Heals a Sick Woman - 21 When Jesus had again crossed over by boat to the other side of the lake, a large crowd gathered around him while he was by the lake. 22 Then one of the

synagogue leaders, named Jairus, came, and when he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet. 23 He pleaded earnestly with him, "My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live." 24 So Jesus went with him. A large crowd followed and pressed around him. 25 And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. 26 She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. 27 When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, 28 because she thought, "If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed." 29 Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.

Sermon notes – "I Caught A Thought" – Pastor Steven Furtick

- Opening prayer: Blessed be the name of the Lord. The Devil must be so confused right now. He has been swinging at you all week - and you have bounced back with a loud praise. Thank You Lord for every victory seen and unseen in my life. Thank you lord – for every victory in my life – both seen and unseen. I have victory in Jesus. Not sure if you saw the score, but I have the victory in Jesus. By the blood of the Lamb and the power of our testimony, we are over-comers. Give God your greatest praise that you can muster. This is the day the Lord has made – let us rejoice and be glad in it.
- Welcome all 19 campuses. Before you came, this was just a building.
- On Tuesday and Wed. of this week we are hosting over 400 churches (45 states in over 11 countries) during our Inside Elevation event. One of the best ways to express our thanks for a blessing is to be a blessing for others - to share what we have learned. Please pray for us this week and help us motivate others to lead with excellence and effectiveness.
- This is how we multiply this ministry. You give here. You serve here. You worship here. You are an evangelist. You are part of this - where your persistent giving and participation allows us to do things like "Inside Elevation" and be a blessing for others - and multiply.
- The month of October is Pastor Appreciation Month.
- Say this: I caught a thought.
- It is possible to catch an attitude - just by seeing a person's name on your phone?
- Can you catch faith?
- Can you catch fear?
- Can you catch a vision, a thought, a dream or an idea?
- Can you catch a word from God that will make you worship from a deep place? – past the shallow feelings and emotions that run wild in our lives.
- You're here today because you caught a thought - to come to church today. You caught a ride and then you came - but before that - you caught this thought - I need to go to church today.
- I'm demonstrating this physically however I want to demonstrate this to you scripturally.
- See Numbers 13: 30 to 33.
- This passage of Scripture has been very helpful to me so many times when I'm caught between two thoughts - where one thought says you should, and you can - and another thought says you can't, so don't bother trying.
- This passage is often helped restore my perspective.
- This passage of scripture is quite familiar for those of us that attended vacation Bible study.
- The children of Abraham are coming into the land that God promised them.
- In the book of numbers, they have the opportunity to receive the gift - but they get more focused on the giants that oppose them – vs. the gift that God has given them - and this happens to us all.
- There will always be a thought that God will bring to deliver you – and there will always be a thought that the enemy will bring to destroy you. And they're both right here in Numbers 13.
- There are no actual conversations about the giants.

- This is not what they heard - it is what the spies thought.
- **In Numbers 13, The nation never saw the promised land for themselves - they relied on the report from the spies - to provide them the picture of the promise of God - as well as to provide them a prediction as to the outcome.**
- And wasn't because they saw something - it was because they heard something - and what they heard was the result of something that the spies thought - the spies spread among the Israelites a bad report - and that report prevented the Israelites from going into the promised land that God had given them.
- **Here I realize that it is possible to be stopped - not from giants - but from your thoughts - Not because of something actually bigger than you - but because of something that you think might be bigger than you.**
- God wants to take you to a place of believing that he loves you - called you - qualified you - put you there to do it - and the issue with me, is that I experience both thoughts - both voices simultaneously.
- **Let me break this down for you: I have Caleb telling me I can do this. And I have 10 other spies telling me I shouldn't.**
- Isn't it interesting there was a lot more people telling you not to do something?
- **Have you ever felt outnumbered in your thought life?**
- There are 10 spies that are entering the land - and the number one rule of the spies is don't get caught - Moses told the 10 spies to make sure they remain unseen - but they got caught - not by their enemies - they got caught by their own thoughts - by their own insecurities - and their thought was we are not big enough - we don't have enough - we can't because they are bigger - so now the spies are dominated not by their enemy - by their thoughts.
- And today I'm preaching to someone - who was caught between two thoughts.
- One thought is that God gave you everything that you need to raise that child - the other thought is telling you that you're the one that screwed your child up.
- Oh Ya. I'm in a preaching to your business today.
- **One thought is telling you that things are all right and you can restore the years of the "locusts of Eden." The other thought is telling you that you wasted too much time and nothing good can happen in your life's - And we are caught between two thoughts.**
- On one hand I see the size of the grapes and I see the size of the promise - and I see the size of my God.
- On the other hand, I hear all the reasons why a great big God can't use a puny person like me - from Monks Corner, South Carolina - who has never done things at this level before.
- One person thinks this is the best sermon that they never heard - while another person is looking for ways to slip out and how did they get stuck in the middle this row - and the preachers too loud and his shirt is to bright - and I just want to get out here.
- **On the same line of thinking, we need to stop seeing certain people - because I realized that we catch what we are close to. Some of you don't have to lift your hands to have more faith - some of you need to swipe and delete some things on your phone - because it is from your contacts that you catch something.**
- When you scroll through your phone it's amazing how fast we go from happy to sad or anguished.
- And before I caught a feeling - I caught a thought.
- When I was scrolling through my phone, the feelings of sadness or anguish didn't come right away - sort of like when I didn't feel sick immediately after eating a whole bag of Oreos after a Thanksgiving dinner. My taste buds didn't tell me to stop. And while scrolling through my phone, I don't feel sick until I after I stop.
- A Pastor Steven classic: Perhaps you are more spiritually mature than me and you know at Pastor at a church who is whole and healthy - and doesn't have these issues - regardless - here is what I learned about myself: We become mad at ourselves based on what we saw on our phone 10 minutes ago - because we are in everyone else's life but her own - trying to figure out "Am I my better than them?" "Are they better than

me?" Where I catch of feeling of judgment - and now I'm sick from the thought that I caught while I scrolled through someone else's situation - that has nothing to do with my purpose and life.

- **So - here's how it goes with me: I caught a thought of offense - and then I reaped an attitude of frustration - where I get offended when I see God bless someone that wasn't supposed to be blessed. Where I find myself feeling insecure - because I caught thought of an offense about someone else - and I became a victim of my own judgment. And when we judge others this way - we judge ourselves this way - so when we judge others this way, we should not be surprised when others judge us this way.**
- Did you ever watch God do something to the wrong person? And God didn't even consult you!
- Now I realize the thought that I hold onto - sort of like catching a wave - or catching a football - but I never knew I can catch a thought.
- **And then I trace the weakness of my faith - and then ask myself this question: where did that thought come from? It is important where it came from - because where it comes from determines where it leads to.**
- My issue is this: when I hear from God, I don't hear them out loud - God bless you if you do - I've never heard the audible voice of God's - God does speak to my wife all the time - but other than that exception - I never heard the audible voice of God.
- When Peter said Jesus spoke to me - it was literal - Jesus spoke to him.
- Recall when Peter met Jesus for the first time. Before Peter lowered his nets to catch more fish, he caught a thought.
- Consider this church. Before there was a seat, there was a thought.
- **I don't connect with God in auditory or sensory level - I connect with God on the level of thought - which is fine provided he speaks to me and he's the only one speaking - however I got this other joker - they call him the devil - and when the enemy speaks to me, it doesn't come to me as a person dressed in discounted devil suit of from Target - it comes to me in the form of a thought.**
- As I've got God speaking to me through my thoughts and I got the enemy speaking to me against what God is trying to tell me.
- I have two voices on the same device.
- And I'm caught between a thought.
- Note these two thoughts: Your greatest years are ahead of you - and the other thought tells me that you've already done all the great things that you going to do in your life - and you better write it out because it won't be much longer.
- **One thought is telling me to say it- to speak it - and to do it - and believe it. In the other thought is saying - don't go too far out there - be careful - don't aim too high. I'm caught between Caleb and the other spies.**
- **I have this thought that runs through my mind all the time - that says it doesn't matter.**
- The face of it would be an eye rolling emoji.
- The thought behind it goes something like this: who cares? It doesn't matter. You're not enough.
- The thought that "you're not enough" runs wild in all of us - even with professional athletes (those that society worships).
- **The reason that this thinking is so prevalent today is because we don't measure ourselves by the calling that God has given us - we compare ourselves to a fictionalized account of someone else's life. You always get in trouble when you start comparing your calling somebody else's calling.**
- **Because when you compare callings you catch insecurity. When you compare yourself to other callings you catch insufficiency.**
- When you think that "I'm not enough" - even the disciples said that there was enough food to go around - and they directed Jesus to send the 5000 away - how many times have we sent away something that God put in our lives because I caught a thought that I'm not enough?

- The Israelites wandered around the wilderness for 40 years - not because of a conspicuous enemy - but because of their thought.
- And even when things are going good - we get these thoughts - and we don't know where they come from - and I don't think it's God - it is hard to tell sometimes - it's just a thought - even if it comes to us in a deep voice like Morgan Freeman.
- Come on now - if God sounded like Morgan Freeman - you could do this - if Morgan Freeman narrated your life, you can do this - you would go to sleep and wake up and be ready for whatever challenges faced you.
- **But it comes like a thought - even when you say things like - yeah things are going good now - but it won't last – it will leave you to - you can't count on them - and then you sabotage the gift - because you're not securing it - because even when good things are happening, you don't believe it's real.**
- These are my thoughts - I don't know where I caught them.
- I had a good mom - I had a good dad - and I wish I could trace it back to one traumatic event - I think that would be easier -vs. asking where did that dark thought come from?
- **I'm not sure I know where the dark thought comes from - but I know where it takes me.**
- And when I look back on those seasons of my life where I was deep in depression - and I know the Bible versus - and I probably know the Bible better than some of you - rejoice in the Lord always - I will say it again rejoice - and you can say it as many times you want - but Paul, if I could be quite honest with you - I'm sad right now - and I can't find my way out this – and now fighting on the level of my feelings - and watch this - before it became a feeling - it was a thought.
- It wasn't that Moses was a bad leader - even Paul had to fight against opposing voices - and thought systems that undermined the essence of the grace of God found in the gospel. Even the church that he started - the church of Corinth - he would write to the church - they still would be led astray – Paul says this: I fear that you are being deceived by the power of suggestion - he used the example of Eve being deceived by the serpent - where God told Eve she could eat any of this - however she was deceived by the snake - something that was beneath her to speak to her - and she caught a thought.
- Now I've never had a snake slither up to me and talk to me - I wish it was a snake that walked up to me that I could chop the head off of - but it was a thought - I have to live with this - have to deal with this - just like Eve the enemy will introduce the possibility of doubt – “Did God really say that?” - Causing her if the focus on what is available versus what is not.
- **And Paul is very concerned in his letter to the Corinthians that they were being deceived - spies that are leading Christian astray - they are doing this by the power of thought - introducing the thought that you need something other than Christ – to justify your existence - leading people away from the pure devotion to Christ. Pure is the right word here - it's that uncontaminated place - that you access occasionally. We know that God has got you and that you're going to be all right.**
- **The enemy can't take you would God gave you. I'll make sure you know this. The enemy can't take what God gave you - however if he can get you to think of thought that opposes it, he can keep you so weak, that you will not walk into it.**
- **And this is what Paul says to the church at Corinth: since they have spies running over all over the church creating thoughts that oppose the will of God – See 2nd Corinthians 10:4 - he says the weapons that we fight with are not the weapons of the world - on the contrary they have divine power to demolish strongholds. What is a stronghold? In military terms it's a place where you go to seek refuge - where you go to a place in battle with the enemy can't get you.**
- **Or it can be a place where the enemy traps you. Paul says what happens is a physical battle can happen mentally – spiritually – emotionally - to anyone of us at any time.**
- **It is with the thought that I can experience God - I can catch the thought of Jesus and his grace for me - his love for me - his mercy for me - and thought can move me to worship him in the beauty of holiness - in the**

splendor of his magnificence - one thought that Jesus can lift you above any wave of worry - one thought of Jesus - have you had trouble breathing this week? Get a thought of God. You see that battle he brought you through. You see the way that he made for you - and one thought of Jesus can lift you out of the pit - one thought can do this.

- But a stronghold can also ensnare you.
- I thought of being not enough - I thought of "I wonder what they are thinking of me right now?" - but that thought makes you think that things are not going to end well - that thought of not being what they think I am. Here's one of my strongholds: if they really knew you, they would not like you. Because all of us are bluffing - all of us are faking it - are your cool friends, there are faking it too. They all got acne. They all got issues. They all feel lonely. And none of you are cool - because everybody is faking it.
- **You know the devil is a thief, right? He can't pick your promise and potential - so he wants to steal your thoughts. See Proverbs 6:30 - People do not despise a thief if he steals to satisfy his hunger when he is starving. 31 Yet if he is caught, he must pay sevenfold, though it costs him all the wealth of his house. The enemy is a thief - a thief is just a thief - you can blame him for his attempting to try to steal what you already have.**
- Today we came into the service - to let the devil know - give my joy back - give my peace back - give me my wisdom back.
- **I caught a thought - and I realize that Jesus loves me. If he loves me, it doesn't matter if you like me - I am made for this - and I need to walk into the future with the favor of God on my side. I caught a thought - that he is able - that he who began a good work in me will be faithful to complete it.**
- Some of you need to catch this favor - catch this word - catch this joy - catch this piece - and you came in today to get some faith.
- Listen to Caleb - we can - we should - we will.
- I caught a thought - that Jesus loves me
- I found out he is the bread of life.
- He is more than enough.
- I caught a thought of God today.
- A thought brought me into depression and a thought is going to bring me out - when I survey the wondrous Cross - where the Prince of glory died for me.
- I caught a thought of the gift of God it pulled me out the pit of despair.
- **You can't keep the thought from coming - however let's see what Paul says about this - he says that we demolish strongholds - and how do we do this? We demolish every spy that says we can't - and we demolish every pretension that sets up against the promises of God. So that when we have a thought that opposes what we know about God, what you do about? You can't keep it coming - Paul says we take captive every thought to make it obey Christ.**
- We know something about God that is deeper than a feeling.
- We've known this since we were children - we know this in our soul - we know this in our spirit.
- And so another say, you seem different this week - you look so stressed this week - tell them you caught a thought - I found out that God is with me - I caught a thought of His greatness - and magnify this thought in my mind - and I began to rejoice in the rock of my salvation.
- This I recall to my mind.
- Therefore, I have hope.
- I caught a thought and it led me to hope.
- **The thought that you hold onto - the one that you allow to dominate - that will be the stronghold of your life. If the Lord is your stronghold - if he is the place where you hide - you catch a glimpse of your calling.**

- See Mark 5: Recall the story of the woman that was bleeding from the inside - and she saw Jesus coming through - and she had done everything to fix it - at the level of the symptom but nothing worked. The condition that she had was deep - it was causing her to hemorrhage and lose blood - just like many of us are hemorrhaging emotionally - and losing her energy and losing hope - and when she heard Jesus passing through - desperation for change caused her to do something dramatic in her life - because she had gotten a second opinion and a third opinion - and none of them worked - and now here comes healing - here comes hope - the Bible says that she did everything she could to get through all the people that tried to block her - and grab a hold catch of Jesus as he was passing by - the Bible says she touched his cloak - and she caught what could heal her - and she caught a miracle - and she caught change - See verse 38 - because she thought.
- **Before I caught the answer, I caught a thought - before I caught forgiveness, I caught a thought - before I caught bitterness, I caught a thought - and if I can touch him - he can make me well.**
- **Closing prayer:** Let's try to catch what heaven has today. I declare over your life, that faith and favor are flowing from Jesus in the form of the Holy Spirit in this moment - across every location and every family. Catch this - you've been holding on to thoughts of low self-worth - low self-esteem - all lead you to this moment in the presence of Jesus - that if you can catch a thought - the woman was made well because she touched Jesus' cloak - she touched his cloak because she caught a thought - and there are great opportunities for love and joy - and for peace and for provision - there's a great calling and assignment on your life - my sister - there is a tremendous promise in front of you - you should and you can - my brother. And there are 10 other spies that say you can't - and I don't care if you're outnumbered 10 to 2 - if you follow Caleb to Canaan you can eat the fruit - you can experience the joy of the Lord - if you can catch this thought - I caught a thought and it lifted me from my despair - I caught a thought and it lifted me from my addiction - I caught a thought of Jesus and it lifted me from my shame - and we rejoice and worship him - with gladness because we caught thought. For the victory in the battle belongs to the Lord - is my stronghold - he is the strength of my life - and I will not be put to shame - for the joy of my Lord is my strength. Catch this victory. Catch this wind. Lift your sails - catch this victory - see it in the land of the living - see the promises of God. I want to see a Victory.
- **Closing hymn: Lyrics for Victory:** The weapon may be formed, but it won't prosper. When the darkness falls, it won't prevail. Cause the God I serve knows only how to triumph. My God will never fail. Oh, my God will never fail. I'm gonna see a victory. I'm gonna see a victory. For the battle belongs to You, Lord. I'm gonna see a victory. I'm gonna see a victory. For the battle belongs to You, Lord (oh yeah). There's power in the mighty name of Jesus. Every war He wages He will win. I'm not backing down from any giant Because I know how this story ends. Yes, I know how this story ends. I'm gonna see a victory. I'm gonna see a victory. For the battle belongs to You, Lord. I'm gonna see a victory. I'm gonna see a victory. For the battle belongs to You, Lord. I'm gonna see a victory. I'm gonna see a victory.