



# ~ Thought For The Day ~

~gathering from the 4 winds~

“come just as you are”

Refresh, Restore, Rebuild = Healing



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## Prayer

God Father; in Jesus' name I ask it, Lord lead and guide us today as to God's will for us and plans. Fill us with whom to pray for and whom to bless and how. Give us each peace. Protect us, supply our daily bread and needs and keep us and our families. Let Your agape love well up in us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## Worship Music

[Strong Enough-Matthew West](#)

[Broken Girl-Matthew West](#)

[The Healing Has Begun-Matthew West](#)

[Survivor-Matthew West](#)

## Scripture

### I Peter 4 ( 2005)

#### I Peter 4:1-19 (AMP)

<sup>1</sup> SO, SINCE Christ suffered in the flesh *for us, for you*, arm yourselves with the same thought *and* purpose [patiently to suffer rather than fail to please God]. For whoever has suffered in the flesh [having the mind of Christ] is done with [intentional] sin [has stopped pleasing himself and the world, and pleases God], <sup>2</sup> So that he can no longer spend the rest of his natural life living by [his] human appetites *and* desires, but [he lives] for what God wills. <sup>3</sup> For the time that is past already suffices for doing what the Gentiles like to do—living [as you have done] in shameless, insolent wantonness, in lustful desires, drunkenness, reveling, drinking bouts *and* abominable, lawless idolatries. <sup>4</sup> They are astonished *and* think it very queer that you do not now run hand in hand with them in the same excesses of dissipation, and they abuse [you].

<sup>5</sup> But they will have to give an account to Him Who is ready to judge *and* pass sentence on the living and the dead. <sup>6</sup> For this is why the good news (the Gospel) was preached [in their lifetime] even to the dead, that though judged in fleshly bodies as men are, they might live in the spirit as God does. <sup>7</sup> But the end *and* culmination of all things has now come near; keep sound minded *and* self-restrained and alert therefore for [the practice of] prayer. <sup>8</sup> Above all things have intense *and* unflinching love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins [forgives and disregards the offenses of others]. <sup>9</sup> Practice hospitality to one another (those of the household of faith). [Be hospitable, be a lover of strangers, with brotherly affection for the unknown guests, the foreigners, the poor, and all others who come your way who are of Christ's body.] And [in each instance] do it ungrudgingly (cordially and graciously, without complaining but as representing Him).

<sup>10</sup> As each of you has received a gift (a particular spiritual talent, a gracious divine endowment), employ it for one another as [befits] good trustees of God's many-sided grace [faithful stewards of the extremely diverse powers and gifts granted to Christians by unmerited favor].

<sup>11</sup> Whoever speaks, [let him do it as one who utters] oracles of God; whoever renders service, [let him do it] as with the strength which God furnishes abundantly, so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ (the Messiah). To Him be the glory and dominion forever and ever (through endless ages). Amen (so be it). <sup>12</sup> Beloved, do not be amazed *and* bewildered at the fiery ordeal which is taking place to test your quality, as though something strange (unusual and alien to you and your position) were befalling you. <sup>13</sup> But insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, rejoice, so that when His glory [full of radiance and splendor] is revealed, you may also rejoice with triumph [exultantly]. <sup>14</sup> If you are censured *and* suffer abuse [because you bear] the name of Christ, blessed [are you—happy, fortunate, to be envied, with life-joy, and satisfaction in God's favor and salvation, regardless of your outward condition], because the Spirit of glory, the Spirit of God, is resting upon you. *On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified.*

<sup>15</sup> But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or any sort of criminal, or as a mischief-maker (a meddler) in the affairs of others [infringing on their rights]. <sup>16</sup> But if [one is ill-treated and suffers] as a Christian [which he is contemptuously called], let him not be ashamed, but give glory to God that he is [deemed worthy to suffer] in this name. <sup>17</sup> For the time [has arrived] for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will [be] the end of those who do not respect *or* believe *or* obey the good news (the Gospel) of God?

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<sup>18</sup> And if the righteous are barely saved, what will become of the godless and wicked? <sup>19</sup> Therefore, those who are ill-treated *and* suffer in accordance with God's will must do right and commit their souls [in charge as a deposit] to the One Who created [them] and will never fail [them].

### 1 Peter 4–5. The Painful Trial

Be armed for suffering ( 4:1–6 ). It was a time of persecution. The special exhortation of this letter was for Christians to be ready for persecution and suffering. But there is comfort here for Christians who live in normal times. Very few people get through life without a good deal of suffering of one kind or another: physical suffering, mental suffering, heart suffering. Christians are to be prepared to willingly suffer unjustly for doing good. Such suffering enables the Christian to set straight personal priorities. Sinful desires and unrighteous activities that once seemed important become insignificant during times of suffering. The enemy, who causes persecution and suffering for Christians, hopes that they will fall away from God during these times. But suffering often has the opposite effect of drawing Christians closer to God!

Christian love ( 4:7–11 ), the supreme virtue of life. Peter's exhortations to love are beautiful.

- "Have sincere love for your brothers" ( 1:22 )
- "Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers" ( 2:17 )
- "Love as brothers, be compassionate" ( 3:8 )
- "Above all, love each other deeply" ( 4:8 ) are brothers and sisters in a common, glorious hope; let us be brothers and sisters to one another in time of suffering!

The painful trial ( 4:12–19 ). Nero's persecution of Christians was the direct work of the devil ( 5:8 ). Nevertheless, in the mysterious providence of God, it would turn out for the good of the church: the faith of those who suffer will "result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed" ( 1:7 ). There have been many persecutions since, many of them more brutal and widespread than Nero's, in which unnumbered millions of Christians have endured every conceivable kind of torture. When we think of this, we ought to be ashamed of ourselves for our fretfulness over our petty troubles. Peter's humility ( 5:1–7 ) is discernible in this section, all the more remarkable because humility was not Peter's most notable trait in the Gospels.

(Halley's Bible Handbook; Henry Halley; 2000; Zondervan; history of Bible and commentaries; page 876)

### Persecutions;

VV1-4 People speak evil of Christians because we don't follow the same empty pursuits as the world. V8 "Charity" means love. V11 We should minister so that the glory goes to Jesus Christ, not to ourselves. VV12-13 As soon as a trial comes, we begin to question why we have to suffer. Instead, we should rejoice, not at the trial, but because we're partakers in Christ's suffering and will also share in His glory. V14 Matthew 5:10-12. V18 We often forget that it's a miracle that God chose to give the gift of salvation to sinful mankind. V19 1 Peter 2:23. (New Testament Study Guide; The Word For Today; 2005; Chuck Smith; commentaries; page 173)

First Peter 4:1, 2 helps us know how to face suffering. "Suffering" and "sacrifice" are not always popular words among Christians, but they are biblical words. Spiritual maturity or "Christ likeness" cannot be obtained without dying to self, which simply means saying yes to God and no to our flesh when our will and God's will are in opposition.

One of the most amazing things I have ever learned—a lesson that still thrills my soul—is that love is actually spiritual warfare. This truth makes spiritual warfare fun, because loving people is very enjoyable. I have learned that instead of looking like I am "oppressed and under something" all the time, I can actually look happy. I have found that I can be *on* the attack instead of *under* the attack. First Peter 4:8 teaches us to have "intense and unflinching love for one another." The King James Version translates this verse to say that we are to have "fervent love" for one another. The verb form of the Greek word that is translated *fervent* means, "to be hot, to boil." Our love walk needs to be hot, on fire, and boiling over; not tepid, cold, or barely noticeable. I once heard someone say that even a fly is smart enough to know not to land on a hot stove. If we are hot enough with love, Satan cannot stay around us for long. We might say we will be "too hot to handle!" Have you ever let something cook in the microwave for too long and found yourself unable to remove it from the oven because it was too hot to handle? That is the way I want to be. I want the love of God in my heart to be so red-hot that Satan dreads to see me get out of bed in the morning! Let your love be red-hot. Let it be fervent toward God and toward other people, and as you do, you will not only live in obedience to the Word, you will also be too hot and on fire with God's love for the enemy to handle.

First Peter 4:14 states that the Spirit of God and the Spirit of glory is resting upon us when we are reproached for the name of Christ. Just imagine: We think it is awful when people mistreat us because we are Christians, but God sees it in an entirely different light. God never expects us to suffer for Him without His help. Therefore, we can firmly believe that any time we are reproached or mistreated because of our faith in Christ, God gives us an extra measure of His Spirit to counterbalance the attack.

The Holy Spirit often acts as a shock absorber. Automobiles have shock absorbers to soften the blow of unexpected potholes in the road. The road of life is full of potholes, but God softens the blow and actually comforts us in all of our difficult times.

People who are not serving God and trusting Him to meet their needs sometimes look and act as if they are much older than they actually are. Their faces show the strain of the years they have lived without the Holy Spirit's help and protection. Their attitudes are sour, due to years of adversity. They often become bitter because they have deemed life unfair. They do not realize that their lives would be different if they had served God and leaned on His Spirit to guide and protect them.

Many times in my life I was reproached for the name of Christ, but now I know that the Spirit of glory was always upon me. Right in the middle of attack and adversity, God kept making my life better and better. He loves to take a mess and make something glorious out of it.

If you ask Him, He will take your mess and turn it into your ministry. When the Spirit of glory is upon you and within you, you can help others who face the same kinds of things God has helped you overcome. Your burden can become your blessing, and your weakness can become your weapon.

### Jeremiah 29:11-14 (AMP)

<sup>11</sup> For I know the thoughts *and* plans that I have for you, says the Lord, thoughts *and* plans for welfare *and* peace and not for evil, to give you hope in your final outcome.

<sup>12</sup> Then you will call upon Me, and you will come and pray to Me, and I will hear *and* heed you.

<sup>13</sup> Then you will seek Me, inquire for, *and* require Me [as a vital necessity] and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.

<sup>14</sup> I will be found by you, says the Lord, and I will release you from captivity and gather you from all the nations and all the places to which I have driven you, says the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I caused you to be carried away captive.

(Amplified Bible; The Everyday Life; 2005; Joyce Meyers; Scripture, commentaries, pages 2081-2084)

(Word Search 9; Bible Software; 2005; Bibles, dictionary, concordance, sermons, scripture)

**Psa 119:105**

**Thy word [is] a lamp unto  
my feet, and a light unto my path.**



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