



~ Thought For The Day ~

~gathering from the 4 winds~

“come just as you are”

Refresh, Restore, Rebuild = Healing



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Prayer

Lord, I ask You to help me be sensitive to the influences I allow in my home and life. I realize that You have given me the responsibility to watch over my life and that I need to be careful about the information and images I allow to pass into my spirit and mind. Please help me recognize the influences that are acceptable and those that are not. When I am quickened in my spirit that what I am watching, reading, or hearing is unprofitable, give me the strength of will to turn it off, lay it down, or walk away from it, in Jesus' name.

Amen

Scripture

Genesis 33:1-20 (AMP)

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1 AND JACOB raised his eyes and looked, and behold, Esau was coming and with him 400 men. So he divided the children to Leah and to Rachel and to the two maids. 2 And he put the maids and their children in front, Leah and her children after them, and Rachel and Joseph last of all. 3 Then Jacob went over [the stream] before them and bowed himself to the ground seven times, until he came near to his brother. 4 But Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him and fell on his neck and kissed him, and they wept. 5 [Esau] looked up and saw the women and the children and said, Who are these with you? And [Jacob] replied, They are the children whom God has graciously given your servant. 6 Then the maids came near, they and their children, and they bowed themselves. 7 And Leah also with her children came near, and they bowed themselves. After them Joseph and Rachel came near, and they bowed themselves. 8 Esau said, What do you mean by all this company which I met? And he said, These are that I might find favor in the sight of my lord. 9 And Esau said, I have plenty, my brother; keep what you have for yourself. 10 But Jacob replied, No, I beg of you, if now I have found favor in your sight, receive my gift that I am presenting; for truly to see your face is to me as if I had seen the face of God, and you have received me favorably. 11 Accept, I beg of you, my blessing and gift that I have brought to you; for God has dealt graciously with me and I have everything. And he kept urging him and he accepted it. 12 Then [Esau] said, Let us get started on our journey, and I will go before you. 13 But Jacob replied, You know, my lord, that the children are tender and delicate and need gentle care, and the flocks and herds with young are of concern to me; for if the men should overdrive them for a single day, the whole of the flocks would die. 14 Let my lord, I pray you, pass over before his servant; and I will lead on slowly, governed by [consideration for] the livestock that set the pace before me and the endurance of the children, until I come to my lord in Seir. 15 Then Esau said, Let me now leave with you some of the people who are with me. But [Jacob] said, What need is there for it? Let me find favor in the sight of my lord. 16 So Esau turned back that day on his way to Seir. 17 But Jacob journeyed to Succoth and built himself a house and made booths or places of shelter for his livestock; so the name of the place is called Succoth [booths]. 18 When Jacob came from Padan-aram, he arrived safely and in peace at the town of Shechem, in the land of Canaan, and pitched his tents before the [enclosed] town. 19 Then he bought the piece of land on which he had encamped from the sons of Hamor, Shechem's father, for a hundred pieces of money. 20 There he erected an altar and called it El-Elohe-Israel [God, the God of Israel].

Worship Music

[I Believe-Lenny LeBlanc](#)

[Love Came Down-Lenny LeBlanc](#)

[No Not One-Lenny LeBlanc](#)

[Only Love-Lenny LeBlanc](#)

[Here In Your Presence-Don Moen](#)

Radio Stations

[KWVE ...Calvary Chapel](#)

[KLOV](#)

Bible Study Sites

[Chuck Smith Through The Bible](#)

[Bob Coy/Teachings](#)

[Mike MacIntosh](#)

[Jon Courson](#)

[Biblos.com](#)

[Billy Graham](#)

[Charles Stanley](#)

[David Wilkerson](#)

[Greg Laurie](#)

[Virtue for Women-Cathe Laurie](#)

Genesis 31–33. Jacob's Return to Canaan

Jacob had left Canaan 20 years before, alone and empty-handed. (At this point, Isaac was still living; Abraham had been dead for about 100 years.) Now, he was returning, a tribal prince, rich in flocks, herds, and servants. God had kept His promise to Jacob (28:15). Laban's parting words to Jacob (31:49) contain the beautiful Mizpah benediction, "The Lord watch between me and thee, when we are absent one from another" (kjv).

Angels, on Jacob's departure from Canaan, had wished him Godspeed (28:12). Now, on his return, angels welcome him home (32:1). Jacob was now entering his inheritance in the Promised Land of Canaan. God had been with him thus far. Jacob remembered that Esau had vowed to kill him (27:41), and he prayed for God's continued protection.

Jacob sent a peace party ahead to his brother Esau with many gifts. The men returned with news that Esau was coming to meet Jacob. Jacob was still afraid. He felt he needed God more than ever (32:24–30).

That night God appeared to Jacob in the form of a man. Jacob had the upper hand in wrestling with "the man" all night, but God showed Jacob that He was more powerful by disabling Jacob's hip socket with His touch. Jacob refused to stop wrestling until "the man" blessed him. In this way Jacob finally acknowledged that he needed God's blessing. As Jacob acknowledged God, so God acknowledged Jacob by changing his name to "Israel," meaning "He struggles with God."

After Jacob's encounter with God, he saw Esau coming with his men. He soon realized that Esau came to him in peace. Their meeting was one of reconciliation. They separated again in peace, and Jacob entered Canaan.

(Halley's Bible Handbook; Henry Halley; 2000; Zondervan; Bible History & Commentaries; pages 122)

The Reunion: V 4 Perhaps it was when Esau saw Jacob limping that he decided to be reconciled with him> The moment Esau had planned for vengeance became a moment of beauty as the two brothers wept and embraced. VV 12-18 Jacob had not become fully Israel (God-governed) yet, because when Esau offered to accompany him to Seir, Jacob told him he would follow Esau there. However, when Esau left, Jacob went in the opposite direction to Shechem. VV 19-20 God had told Jacob to go back to the land of his father and to his family, but Jacob disobeyed and went to Shechem and the Lord allowed him to have serious problems there. V 20 Elelohe Israel" means God, the God of Israel.

(Old Testament Study Guide; The Word For Today; Chuck Smith; 2005; commentaries; page 17)

Abhor That Which Is Evil**Romans 12:9**

Today I want to talk to you about some of the detrimental things you have been tolerating in your personal life. First, let's look at the illustration of television as an example of what you must do to keep evil out of your life.

Our family rarely watches television or movies, but when we do, we are very careful about what we allow to be broadcast into our home. Denise and I know it is part of our God-given responsibility as parents to keep evil from gaining access, for God designed the home to be a godly sanctuary for the family. Because we don't want evil to affect our family, Denise and I carefully guard what is viewed on the television in our home. Some may say that our approach is narrow, but the apostle Paul clearly instructed all believers to "... abhor that which is evil..." (Romans 12:9).

The word "abhor" is the Greek word *apostugeo*, which is a compound of the words *apo* and *stugeo*. The word *apo* means away, and the word *stugeo* means to hate. It describes an intense dislike, an aversion, or a repugnance to something. When the words *apo* and *stugeo* are compounded together, the new word conveys the notion of a person who hates something so extremely that he literally backs away from it in disgust. Thus, the King James Version translates it as the word "abhor" to reflect the feelings of a person who is so repulsed by something that he shuns and avoids it at all costs.

This means God expects your tolerance level for sin and evil to be very low. In fact, you should have such a repugnance for evil that you actively and continually guard against it from ever invading your life or your family. But when we speak of evil, exactly what do we mean? Since Paul is the one who told us to "... abhor that which is evil..." let's look at this word "evil" in the Greek text to see what he was talking about.

The word "evil" is the word *poneros*, and it conveys the notion of anything that is full of destruction, disaster, harm, or danger. It includes not only that which is dangerous to the physical body, but also that which is dangerous to the spirit or mind. So Paul is urgently telling us that we should have no tolerance at all for anything that would endanger our bodies or that would do any kind of damage to our minds or spirits.

As human beings, we are usually careful to take care of ourselves physically. However, Paul is telling us that we need to take care of our spirits and minds just as diligently as we watch over the natural care of our human bodies.

You see, if your spirit and mind are invaded by information or images that are evil, the entrance of those images into your mind and spirit can wreak havoc in your life for years to come. Your mind is like a movie screen—and what you allow into your mind lives in your imagination for a very long time.

So instead of watching, reading, or listening to a lot of evil garbage that will clog up your mind for years, why not take a safer and smarter route? In other words, don't allow that garbage to enter your mind in the first place!

What are you to do instead? Paul says you need to "... cleave to that which is good." The word "cleave" is the Greek word kollao, which is the old Greek word that means to glue or to cement something together. This word denotes a permanent connection. It is the picture of two things that have been glued or cemented together, so tightly joined and bonded that they are now permanently connected and cannot be separated.

Let me illustrate the strength of the word kollao. A form of this word is used in Ephesians 5:31, where Paul teaches that a man should leave his father and mother and "be joined" unto his wife. Just as it takes work for a man and wife to cleave to each other and to become one in mind and heart, it will take effort on your part to be joined unto that which is "good." That word "good" is the Greek word agathos, the Greek word that describes anything that is good, beneficial, or profitable for you.

So when you take these Greek word meanings into consideration, Romans 12:9 could be interpreted to mean:

"You need to abhor and be disgusted with anything that would bring evil and harm to your physical, mental, or spiritual life. Instead of giving place to those destructive things, why don't you put your whole self forward to become more joined with that which is good and profitable for you?"

As you've read this Sparkling Gem today, has God's Spirit been speaking to you about the things you've been tolerating in your life for which you should have no tolerance? If the answer is yes, it's time for you to get into the Presence of God and ask Him to forgive you for permitting wrong influences in your life or home. Then make a concrete, firm decision to remove those wrong influences, and deliberately turn your attention toward the things that will bring you closer to the Lord.

There are so many good things you could be watching, reading, and listening to. So make the quality decision to shun all that is evil as you cleave to that which is good!

QUESTIONS FOR YOU TO CONSIDER

What are you allowing in your thought life that you know is unhealthy for you? Has the Spirit of God been telling you to remove that evil influence before it affects your spiritual life and your mental health?

Are your children taking into their minds and spirits certain television programs or certain types of music and literature that are unhealthy for them? If yes, what are you going to do about it? Will you continue to tolerate and allow these evil influences until they eventually produce destructive fruit in the lives of your children? Or will you take the initiative to remove every evil influence in order to protect them?

What good things can you cleave to in order to bring a strong positive influence into the sanctuary of your home?

Sparkling Gems from the Greek.

To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:

A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;

A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;

A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;

A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.

Eccles. 3:1-8

**(Word 9 Bible Software: Bible Software, multiple translations, dictionary, atlas, sermons of the past saints, concordance, 2005)
(The Everyday Life Bible; Amplified, 2005, Joyce Meyers, Scripture, Commentaries, page 57-59)**