



~ 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 want to thank You in advance for bringing me the team members I need to fulfill the vision You have put in my heart. I don't want to run this race by myself. I realize that even though I can do part of my assigned task alone, the greatest results can only be achieved with a team. Help me adjust my thinking so that I can think like a team member. Lead my team and me into a true sense of unity so that maximum power can be released through us to a world that desperately needs Jesus, to Your glory and honor, that Your Kingdom is furthered that many are led to You saved and redeemed. Lord led us and guide us, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Scripture

Genesis 42:1-38(AMP)

1 NOW WHEN Jacob learned that there was grain in Egypt, he said to his sons, Why do you look at one another? 2 For, he said, I have heard that there is grain in Egypt; get down there and buy [grain] for us, that we may live and not die. 3 So ten of Joseph's brethren went to buy grain in Egypt. 4 But Benjamin, Joseph's [full] brother, Jacob did not send with his brothers; for he said, Lest perhaps some harm or injury should befall him. 5 So the sons of Israel came to buy grain among those who came, for there was hunger and general lack of food in the land of Canaan. 6 Now Joseph was the governor over the land, and he it was who sold to all the people of the land; and Joseph's [half] brothers came and bowed themselves down before him with their faces to the ground. 7 Joseph saw his brethren and he recognized them, but he treated them as if he were a stranger to them and spoke roughly to them. He said, Where do you come from? And they replied, From the land of Canaan to buy food. 8 Joseph knew his brethren, but they did not know him. 9 And Joseph remembered the dreams he had dreamed about them and said to them, You are spies and with unfriendly purpose you have come to observe [secretly] the nakedness of the land. 10 But they said to him, No, my lord, but your servants have come [only] to buy food. 11 We are all one man's sons; we are true men; your servants are not spies. 12 And he said to them, No, but you have come to see the nakedness of the land. 13 But they said, Your servants are twelve brothers, the sons of one man in the land of Canaan; the youngest is today with our father, and one is not. 14 And Joseph said to them, It is as I said to you, You are spies. 15 You shall be proved by this test: by the life of Pharaoh, you shall not go away from here unless your youngest brother comes here. 16 Send one of you and let him bring your brother, and you will be kept in prison, that your words may be proved whether there is any truth in you; or else by the life of Pharaoh you certainly are spies. 17 Then he put them all in custody for three days. 18 And Joseph said to them on the third day, Do this and live! I reverence and fear God. 19 If you are true men, let one of your brothers be bound in your prison, but [the rest of] you go and carry grain for those weakened with hunger in your households. 20 But bring your youngest brother to me, so your words will be verified and you shall live. And they did so. 21 And they said one to another, We are truly guilty about our brother, for we saw the distress and anguish of his soul when he begged us [to let him go], and we would not hear. So this distress and difficulty has come upon us. 22 Reuben answered them, Did I not tell you, Do not sin against the boy, and you would not hear? Therefore, behold, his blood is required [of us]. 23 But they did not know that Joseph understood them, for he spoke to them through an interpreter. 24 And he turned away from them and wept; then he returned to them and talked with them, and took from them Simeon and bound him before their eyes. 25 Then [privately] Joseph commanded that their sacks be filled with grain, every man's money be restored to his sack, and provisions be given to them for the journey. And this was done for them. 26 They loaded their donkeys with grain and left. 27 And as one of them opened his sack to give his donkey fodder at the lodging place, he caught sight of his money; for behold, it was in his sack's mouth. 28 And he said to his brothers, My money is restored! Here it is in my sack! And their hearts failed them and they were afraid and turned trembling one to another, saying, What is this that God has done to us? 29 When they came to Jacob their father in Canaan, they told him all that had befallen them, saying, 30 The man who is the lord of the land spoke roughly to us and took us for spies of the country. 31 And we said to him, We are true men, not spies. 32 We are twelve brothers with the same father; one is no more, and the youngest is today with our father in the land of Canaan. 33 And the man, the lord of the country, said to us, By this test I will know whether or not you are honest men: leave one of your brothers here with me and take grain for your famishing households and be gone.

Worship Music

[Day After Christmas- Matthew West](#)

[Sometimes Christmas Makes Me Cry- Matthew West](#)

[Remind Me Who I Am- Jason Gray](#)

[My Hope-David Crowder](#)

[Battle-Chris August](#)

Radio Stations

[KWVE ...Calvary Chapel](#)

[KLOV](#)

Bible Study Sites

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[Bob Coy/Teachings](#)

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[Billy Graham](#)

[Charles Stanley](#)

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[Greg Laurie](#)

[Virtue for Women- Cathe Laurie](#)

34 Bring your youngest brother to me; then I will know that you are not spies, but that you are honest men. And I will deliver to you your brother [whom I have kept bound in prison], and you may do business in the land. **35** When they emptied their sacks, behold, every man's parcel of money was in his sack! When both they and their father saw the bundles of money, they were afraid. **36** And Jacob their father said to them, You have bereaved me! Joseph is not, and Simeon is not, and you would take Benjamin from me. All these things are against me! **37** And Reuben said to his father, Slay my two sons if I do not bring [Benjamin] back to you. Deliver him into my keeping, and I will bring him back to you. **38** But [Jacob] said, My son shall not go down with you, for his brother is dead and he alone is left [of his mother's children]; if harm or accident should befall him on the journey you are to take, you would bring my hoary head down to Sheol (the place of the dead) with grief.

Genesis 42–45. Joseph Makes Himself Known

This has been called one of the most beautiful stories in all literature. The most touching incident in the story is when Judah, who many years before had been the ringleader in selling Joseph into slavery (37:26), now offers to become hostage for Benjamin (44:18–34).(Halley's Bible Handbook; Henry Halley; 2000; Zondervan; Bible History & Commentaries; page 128)

The Power of Teamwork

1 Corinthians 12:12

Although it may be possible to run a church, business, or organization single-handedly, it is certainly not the most efficient or effective method of operation. Nevertheless, countless people have tried to do so with minimal success. Inevitably, however, these same people eventually get so tired that they just can't run the whole show anymore. After a while, even the most stalwart become weary of carrying never-ending responsibility alone.

Doing things alone is a course of action that guarantees your venture will never be large. You may do a top-quality job that touches a very small market, but your lack of a team limits your ability to touch very many people at one time. You can run the operation single-handedly on a small scale, but you won't be able to build a larger church, business, or organization without the manpower needed to touch and serve many people. The philosophy of doing it all single-handedly limits the growth of any organization—not to mention the fact that it can physically wear you out and make you old at an early age!

In First Corinthians 12:12, the apostle Paul compared the Church to the human body, with different parts that are equipped to perform different functions. He says, "For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ."

Paul uses the word "many" to describe the various parts of the body. This word is translated from the Greek word *polus*, which describes a huge quantity. But the word *polus* not only accentuates the fact that there are many members; it also presents the idea that there is great variety among the members.

I like how The Message Bible says it:

You can easily enough see how this kind of thing works by looking no further than your own body. Your body has many parts—limbs, organs, cells—but no matter how many parts you can name, you're still one body. It is exactly the same with Christ. By means of his one Spirit, we all said goodbye to our partial and piecemeal lives. We each used to independently call our own shots, but then we entered into a large and integrated life in which he has the final say in everything.

As believers, we must say goodbye to our old, independent way of thinking and learn how to be integrated into a greater whole. We need each other, for without each other's input and gifts, we are incomplete.

When God's people come together as a team to achieve a common goal, their unified effort brings divine power and world-transforming moves of God to the earth! Doctrine, culture, language, and creeds will never bring unity to the Church. But when we become single-focused, working together as a team to win the world to Jesus Christ, that is when genuine unity will come to the Church. And unity is such a powerful force!

For some, unity is a vague, dream-like wish for a day when Christians sweetly smile at each other and sing in harmony; disagreements are resolved and eliminated; and we all say, think, and do the same identical things. But the Bible never promises that a day will come when we all agree about everything! This is a false concept of unity. It's a fantasy that will never be reached on this earth.

So what is unity? Unity occurs when people are united in action and in passion for a common cause. Their shared goal is so strong that it removes hostilities, puts away disagreements, and gives previously divided people a reason to take their place alongside each other. When this occurs, different gifts, talents, and anointings become connected together, and the result is an amazing river of divine power that achieves the supernatural and accomplishes the impossible.

I can tell you that in our own ministry organization, our leadership team is very gifted, very diverse, and from many different denominational and non-denominational and cultural backgrounds; yet we are extremely united as a ministry. But it is not our culture, language, or doctrine that unites us— it is our common goal to get the Gospel to as many people as we can by God's grace.

This single purpose pulls our whole diverse staff together in phenomenal unity, which is one of the reasons we have had such powerful results. We may be many in number and diverse in gifts and talents, but we are one in purpose.

It is simply a fact that phenomenal results are reaped when concentrated attention is given to building this kind of teamwork. People who become cemented together by a common goal produce unity. And when this kind of chemistry is at work among your team members in your church, ministry, business, or organization, that team becomes a mighty force that helps you reach the goals and visions God has placed in your heart.

So don't try to fulfill your dream or run your church, ministry, business, or organization single-handedly. If you do, you'll only serve to physically, mentally, and spiritually exhaust yourself. Why don't you instead allow God to bring other team members to you who can help you fulfill your task? Don't settle for accomplishing your goal single-handedly on a small scale. Develop the manpower to build a larger church, business, or organization with enough hands to touch and serve many people!

As other members join your team and begin to use their gifts and talents to press toward the common goal, you'll find that their help greatly enhances both your effectiveness and your ability to impact this world for God. So why don't you ask God today to bring you the individuals you need to help you fulfill your God-given assignment?

QUESTIONS FOR YOU TO CONSIDER

Have you ever tried to run everything single-handedly and discovered that this was a very difficult way to operate the business, ministry, or department over which the Lord has placed you?

When you look around, can you see the gifted, talented people whom God has brought to help you fulfill your God-given dream? Are you allowing them to use their gifts to their full potential? Are you giving them the freedom to use the ideas, insights, and abilities God has given to them? If not, why aren't you tapping into the treasures God has placed within these important people in your life?

What is the single most important goal for your church, ministry, business, or organization? Do you have unity on your team regarding that goal? Does everyone on the team know it is your primary objective so they can rally around it?

Sparkling Gems from the Greek.

Genesis 45:5-8 — But now, do not be distressed and disheartened or vexed and angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me ahead of you to preserve life. 6 For these two years the famine has been in the land, and there are still five years more in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. 7 God sent me before you to preserve for you a posterity and to continue a remnant on the earth, to save your lives by a great escape and save for you many survivors. 8 So now it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt.

Acts 3:13-15 — The God of Abraham and of Isaac and of Jacob, the God of our forefathers, has glorified His Servant and Son Jesus [doing Him this honor], Whom you indeed delivered up and denied and rejected and disowned in the presence of Pilate, when he had determined to let Him go. 14 But you denied and rejected and disowned the Pure and Holy, the Just and Blameless One, and demanded [the pardon of] a murderer to be granted to you. 15 But you killed the very Source (the Author) of life, Whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses.

Joseph Sees His Brothers: VV 6-7 It had been about twelve years since Joseph's brothers had sold him. He dressed and looked Egyptian and spoke to his brothers through an interpreter, so they did not recognize him. VV 21-22 Though twelve years had passed since the brothers had sold Joseph, they were still feeling guilty about the way they had treated him. Sin has a way of causing people to carry an increasing load of guilt that can negatively affect their lives. Jesus died to cleanse us from our sins and to obtain eternal forgiveness for us. VV 23-24 It was not easy for Joseph to be stern with his brothers. V 36 The cry of Jacob came from nearsightedness. He thought everything was going against him when actually God was moving in his life to give him his heart's desire. Sometimes we think God is not working in our lives when He is quietly doing miraculous things for us. V 38 Jacob was willing to let Simeon stay in prison in Egypt rather than let Benjamin go.

(Old Testament Study Guide; The Word For Today; Chuck Smith; 2005; Commentaries; page 19)

**(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 72-74)**