



~ 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 know that You have been calling out to me, beckoning me to spend time with You. But I've been so busy that I haven't made time in my schedule to come to You. Today I am making the choice to put everything else aside and to make my time with You the top priority in my day. I need Your strength; I need Your fellowship; I need Your tender touch; and I need to hear Your voice. Spirit of God, my schedule is very full, and I need special strength to make it through this busy time. So I am coming to You today to be refreshed so I can carry on. Lord I ask that You keep each person in the coming new year and bless them with abundance, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Scripture

Genesis 45:1-28(AMP)

1 THEN JOSEPH could not restrain himself [any longer] before all those who stood by him, and he called out, Cause every man to go out from me! So no one stood there with Joseph while he made himself known to his brothers. 2 And he wept and sobbed aloud, and the Egyptians [who had just left him] heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard about it. 3 And Joseph said to his brothers, I am Joseph! Is my father still alive? And his brothers could not reply, for they were distressingly disturbed and dismayed at [the startling realization that they were in] his presence. 4 And Joseph said to his brothers, Come near to me, I pray you. And they did so. And he said, I am Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt! 5 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. 9 Hurry and go up to my father and tell him, Your son Joseph says this to you: God has put me in charge of all Egypt. Come down to me; do not delay. 10 You will live in the land of Goshen, and you will be close to me—you and your children and your grandchildren, your flocks, your herds, and all you have. 11 And there I will sustain and provide for you, so that you and your household and all that are yours may not come to poverty and want, for there are yet five [more] years of [the scarcity, hunger, and starvation of] famine. 12 Now notice! Your own eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin can see that I am talking to you personally [in your language and not through an interpreter]. 13 And you shall tell my father of all my glory in Egypt and of all that you have seen; and you shall hurry and bring my father down here. 14 And he fell on his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept on his neck. 15 Moreover, he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers conversed with him. 16 When the report was heard in Pharaoh's house that Joseph's brothers had come, it pleased Pharaoh and his servants well. 17 And Pharaoh said to Joseph, Tell your brothers this: Load your animals and return to the land of Canaan, 18 And get your father and your households and come to me. And I will give you the best in the land of Egypt and you will live on the fat of the land. 19 You therefore command them, saying, You do this: take wagons from the land of Egypt for your little ones and for your wives, and bring your father and come. 20 Also do not look with regret or concern upon your goods, for the best of all the land of Egypt is yours. 21 And the sons of Israel did so; and Joseph gave them wagons, as the order of Pharaoh permitted, and gave them provisions for the journey. 22 To each of them he gave changes of raiment, but to Benjamin he gave 300 pieces of silver and five changes of raiment. 23 And to his father he sent as follows: ten donkeys loaded with the good things of Egypt, and ten she-donkeys laden with grain, bread, and nourishing food and provision for his father [to supply all who were with him] on the way. 24 So he sent his brothers away, and they departed, and he said to them, See that you do not disagree (get excited, quarrel) along the road. 25 So they went up out of Egypt and came into the land of Canaan to Jacob their father, 26 And they said to him, Joseph is still alive! And he is governor over all the land of Egypt! And Jacob's heart began to stop beating and [he almost] fainted, for he did not believe them. 27 But when they told him all the words of Joseph which he had said to them, and when he saw the wagons which Joseph had sent to carry him, the spirit of Jacob their father revived [and warmth and life returned]. 28 And Israel said, It is enough! Joseph my son is still alive. I will go and see him before I die.

Worship Music

[My Jesus, Pure Bride-Leeland](#)

[Awakened To Love-Julie Meyer & Dana Candler](#)

[Roar Of The Lion Of Judah-MiYah](#)

[Behind The Veil-MiYah](#)

[Words I Pray-MiYah](#)

[Drink For Free-Dominic Balli](#)

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 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)

Spiritual Rest**Matthew 11:28**

I am convinced that one reason the devil has access to people's emotions is that they keep flying through life without taking time to get renewed in the Presence of the Lord. They ignore their need to sit, to rest, and to wait upon the Lord. As a result, their perception of things around them gets blurred. Doing too much at too fast of a pace has worn them down, causing them to lose their focus and affecting their ability to see things the way they really are.

I know exactly what it's like to move at such a fast pace—to get the adrenaline flowing and then keep it flowing like a river for days at a time. When you're moving that fast, it's difficult to stop when you finally try to sit down and rest because your adrenaline is still racing. You may be sitting down physically, but you're still running emotionally!

There's a big problem with moving so fast. The demands of our schedule—job, family, church, friendships, and so forth—start piling up, each overlaying the other as we race from place to place. When this happens, we start becoming ineffective in every area of life. We're just trying to do too much, too fast. Eventually our busyness leads to a breakdown of everything. The body suffers. The mind suffers. The work suffers because we're too tired to perform at 100 percent and therefore can't do our job to our full potential. This then results in our having to battle feelings of condemnation for not doing a better job!

Let's face it—it's extremely difficult to do everything simultaneously. You may be able to swing it for a while, but in time, you'll start missing important details, forgetting what you said, missing appointments, messing up in your finances, and even getting emotional over unemotional issues because you've pushed yourself beyond your limit. If this is you, slow down and set aside some time to spend with the Lord.

I have to admit that sometimes I also fall into the trap of doing too many things too fast. At times, I feel like a locomotive that is racing down the track! It's not that I want to move so fast, but to get it all done correctly, I have to keep moving and stay on schedule. If I delay in one area, it throws everything else off schedule and creates a schedule crisis for many others in the ministry. For everyone else to do their jobs effectively, it means I must stay on schedule and keep on track every day of my life.

In moments when I feel overwhelmed, I hear Jesus speak to my spirit and say, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). Notice that Jesus begins this verse, "Come unto me...." This is from the Greek word *deute*, and it is a greeting that literally means, "Come—come now! I am inviting you to come!" In Greek, it has the feeling of an exclamation, which lets us know that Jesus joyfully welcomes us to come to Him.

Jesus then says, "Come unto me, all ye that labour...." This implies that Jesus' invitation to come to Him is a special invitation directed to those who "labour." The word "labour" in Greek is from the word *kopiao*, which describes a person who has become completely exhausted due to nonstop, continuous work. This is obviously a person who has a lot of responsibility and is doing his best to do it all in a professional and excellent fashion. In order to do everything that is on his plate, this person is required to work hard all the time. That's why Jesus beckons this person to come to Him!

And Jesus doesn't beckon only the hard worker; He also calls out to those who are "heavy laden." These words are from the word *phortidzo*, depicting a person who is carrying a very heavy load on his back. Perhaps this load is his job, his family, his financial situation, or some personal burden. Regardless of what it is, Jesus pleads for the "heavy laden" person to come to Him!

To anyone who responds to this invitation and comes to Jesus, He promises that He will give them "rest." The word "rest" is the Greek word *anapauo*, the word that means to refresh, to rejuvenate, to reinvigorate, or to revitalize. You see, the Lord wants to refresh us so we can keep doing what He has called us to do. He wants us to be refilled so we can remain effective.

The only way we can remain continually effective is by making sure we spend time with the Lord. But in order to truly enter His Presence so we can hear the voice of the Holy Spirit, we must first quiet ourselves by getting away from the commotion of life and finding a quiet place to worship, pray, and read the Word. That's the only way we can quiet our soul enough to be able to hear God's voice speaking to our inner man. To think that we are going to run into the Lord's Presence and get everything we need in the space of five minutes just isn't realistic. We must schedule time to be alone with God.

Don't just run in and run out of the Lord's Presence. Plan to settle down and stay there long enough to get everything you need to carry on! Once you've stopped long enough to really rest in His Presence, you're finally in a position where you can start receiving from Him. Don't move too fast. Don't leave until you receive the refreshing you need. Just hang around in God's Presence as long as you possibly can! Tarry there awhile, and let the Holy Spirit give you peace, joy, strength, and direction.

Learn to rest in God's Presence. You see, there is a quiet place in Him, a place of refreshing, where you will find comfort, peace, and protection—every time. This is why Jesus said, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Notice

that Jesus doesn't say He will come to you. He says that you must choose to go to Him! But if you will make the deliberate choice to wait upon the Lord, Jesus promises that you will find this promised rest!

This is your key to remaining steadfast and strong enough to keep on schedule and to stay on track with everything you need to do. And I promise you—if you will wait long enough in His Presence, He will speak to your heart to let you know if all your activities are ordained of Him or if there are some obligations or activities you need to eliminate.

Spending time with the Lord is not an option—it is the answer! So come into the Presence of God and allow Him to refresh you. As you do, the Holy Spirit will release His resurrection power and you will be quickened in your physical body. You will be strengthened, refreshed, recharged, and supernaturally empowered by God so you can get back out there with a fresh perspective and new energy to finish what you have started!

QUESTIONS FOR YOU TO CONSIDER

When do you regularly spend time with the Lord? Is your time with Him more important to you than all the other things that you're scheduled to accomplish? If your time with Him really is that important, is there a reason you haven't planned it into your schedule?

When you spend time with the Lord, how long do you usually stay in His Presence? What do you do when you are there with Him? Do you read your Bible, pray, sing songs of worship?

How can you rework your schedule to make sure your time with God is the top priority? Why don't you look at your calendar and see what you can move around in order to accommodate your time with Jesus?

The only way we can remain continually effective is by making sure we spend time with the Lord. But in order to truly enter His Presence so we can hear the voice of the Holy Spirit, we must first quiet ourselves by getting away from the commotion of life and finding a quiet place to worship, pray, and read the Word. That's the only way we can quiet our soul enough to be able to hear God's voice speaking to our inner man. To think that we are going to run into the Lord's Presence and get everything we need in the space of five minutes just isn't realistic. We must schedule time to be alone with God.

Sparkling Gems from the Greek.

Jerem. 20:9 — If I say, I will not make mention of [the Lord] or speak any more in His name, in my mind and heart it is as if there were a burning fire shut up in my bones. And I am weary of enduring and holding it in; I cannot [contain it any longer].

Mt 18:15 — If your brother wrongs you, go and show him his fault, between you and him privately. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother.

Acts 10:41 — Not by all the people but to us who were chosen (designated) beforehand by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead.

1Corin. 13:5 — It is not conceited (arrogant and inflated with pride); it is not rude (unmannerly) and does not act unbecomingly. Love (God's love in us) does not insist on its own rights or its own way, for it is not self-seeking; it is not touchy or fretful or resentful; it takes no account of the evil done to it [it pays no attention to a suffered wrong].

Note.....that though Joseph had tragedy in his life, as he stated it was part of God's plan, he went a head of his family the way was prepared so that they would live and not perish....he also forgave his brothers...and blessed them. He rejoiced in what God had done.

Romans 8:28-29 (AMP)

28 We are assured and know that [God being a partner in their labor] all things work together and are [fitting into a plan] for good to and for those who love God and are called according to [His] design and purpose.

29 For those whom He foreknew [of whom He was aware and loved beforehand], He also destined from the beginning [foreordaining them] to be molded into the image of His Son [and share inwardly His likeness], that He might become the firstborn among many brethren.

2 Corinthians 9:8 (AMP)

8 And God is able to make all grace (every favor and earthly blessing) come to you in abundance, so that you may always and under all circumstances and whatever the need be self-sufficient [possessing enough to require no aid or support and furnished in abundance for every good work and charitable donation].

(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 77-78)