



~ 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, intercede for us my Lord; lead and guide us in the way to go. Take care of everything and if we need to know anything tell us. Keep each person and bless them and protect them. Refresh in each person Your will for them and plans, rekindle the flame of Your passion in each one, I ask it in Jesus' name. Amen....

Worship Music

[Love is in the air.....activities for kids to for Valentine's Day](#)

[Spirit Song-Maranatha](#)

[Family Prayer Song—
Maranatha](#)

[Thy Word-Maranatha](#)

Scripture

51 "You stubborn people, with uncircumcised hearts and ears! You are always resisting the Holy Spirit, like your ancestors did! Neh 9:16-17; Jer 6:10; 52 Which of the prophets did your ancestors not persecute? They killed those who foretold long ago the coming of the Righteous One, whose betrayers and murderers you have now become! 53 You received the law by decrees given by angels, but you did not obey it." Exod 19:3; Exod 24:3; John 7:19; Gal 3:19; Heb 2:2;

54 When they heard these things, they became furious and ground their teeth at him. 55 But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked intently toward heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 56 "Look!" he said. "I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" 57 But they covered their ears, shouting out with a loud voice, and rushed at him with one intent. 58 When they had driven him out of the city, they began to stone him, and the witnesses laid their cloaks at the feet of a young man named Saul. 1 Kgs 21:13; Luke 4:29; Acts 22:20; 59 They continued to stone Stephen while he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!" Ps 31:5; Luke 23:46; 60 Then he fell to his knees and cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them!" When he had said this, he died. Matt 5:44; Luke 23:34; 1 Cor 4:12;

Acts 7: 51-60

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Of the seven that were appointed, two were great preachers. Stephen and Philip. Stephen had the honor of being the church's first martyr. Philip carried the Gospel to Samaria and western Judea. Stephen's particular sphere of labor seems to have been among the Greek Jews. At that time there were about 460 synagogues in Jerusalem, some of which were built by Jews from various countries for their own use. One of these synagogues included members from Cyrene, Alexandria, Cilicia, Asia, and Rome. (6:9) Since Tarsus was in Cilicia, Saul may have been in this very group. Some of these foreign born Jews, who had mopolitan outlook, felt themselves superior to the Jews of Palestine, but they hired false witnesses and brought him before the council. Stephen must have been a very brilliant man and God was there, helping with miracles (6:8).

Stephen stood before the same council that had crucified Jesus and that had just recently attempted to stop the apostles' speaking in the name of Jesus (4:18); the same Annas and Caiaphas were there (4:6). Stephen's address before the council was mainly a recital of Old Testament history, climaxing in a stinging rebuke for their murder of Jesus (vv. 51-53). As he spoke, his face shone as the face of an angel (6:15). They rushed at him like wild beasts, As the stones began to fly, he looked steadfastly up into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, as if heaven were reaching its hand across the divide to welcome him home. He died as Christ had died, without a trace of resentment toward his contemptible murders, saying; " Lord, do not hold this sin against them." (v. 60).

Saul was a young man (v. 58). Here is one of the turning points of history. Saul, young as he was, appears already to have been a member of the Sanhedrin (26:10). He may have been present at one or both of the Sanhedrin meetings in which they tried to stop the apostles from preaching Christ (4:1-22; 5:17-40), and he may have witnessed Peter's bold defiant refusal.

In all his life he had never seen a death like that of Stephen. Though its immediate effect was to start Saul on his rampage of persecuting the disciples, it may well be that Stephen's dying words went straight to the mark and lodged deep in Saul's mind and heart, quietly working there to make him ready and receptive for the great vision on the road to Damascus (26:14). Through the power and grace of God, Saul of Tarsus was the one man who, more than any other, established Christianity in the main centers of the then known world and altered the course of history. (Halley's Bible Handbook; 2000; pages 731-732; history, notes, commentary)

(v 8), The twelve patriarchs were the beginning of the twelve tribes of the nation of Israel.

(vv. 9-10), Though it appeared that Joseph was forsaken by God because of all the trials he had to endure, God was with him working things out for his good. At first he was rejected by his brothers, later they bowed before him.

(v 17), The promise is that the children of Israel would leave Egypt to return to the land God had promised to them. (vv. 26-28), Stephen pointed out that even Moses was rejected by the children of Israel and was cast out from them when he first visited them. The Jews later had a great reverence for Moses, and recognized him as God's appointed leader. God sees and hears when we suffer and He will come to our aid. The church in the wilderness was the tabernacle. The "lively oracles" are the living Word of God. The people turned away from Moses again. (v. 45) Jesus is a reference to Joshua from the Old Testament (Jesus is the Greek word for Joshua) The true circumcision is of the heart, not of the flesh alone. Even as their fathers did not recognize Joseph and Moses the first time around so also they failed to recognize Jesus at His first coming. The prophets of the Old Testament were speaking of Jesus. The Jews wouldn't receive the words of the prophets, and persecuted them (John 5:39; Hebrews 10:7), The Jews believed they were properly following the law of God. Saul was later renamed Paul. (New Testament Study Guide; 2005; Chuck Smith; page 58)

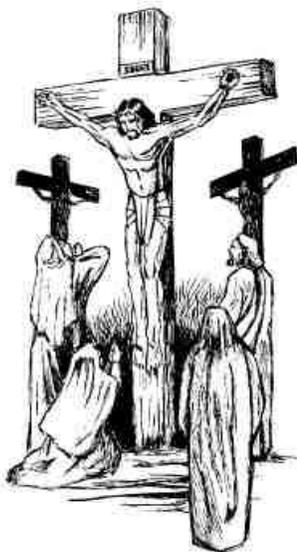
" The average, modern Christian is not Christ like. He is quick to defend his flaws, his weaknesses and defeats in fiery, red-faced indignation!" (Tozer Speaks; 2010)

" Most Christians are not joyful persons because they are not holy persons, and they are not holy persons because they are not filled with the Holy Spirit, and they are not filled with the Holy Spirit because they are not separated persons. The Spirit cannot fill whom He cannot separate, and whom He cannot fill. He cannot make holy, and whom He cannot make holy, He cannot make happy! There you have it my postulate that te modern Christian, even though he has accepted Christ and has been orn again, is not a joyful person because he is not a holy person." (Tozer Speaks; 2010)

Amazing isn't it? The first Christians were persecuted and it is spoken of in the Bible and even Tozer spoke of it during his era and it continues, Jesus said we would be persecuted for His name sake. The people in the temples fought against even their own, and today that is also being done in the churches and has been many years. Rejection is part of our love walk, and everyone will be rejected some time or other. It simply means they are not rejecting you, but they are rejecting Jesus. When ever I experience rejection I always remember Isaiah 53.....Jesus was rejected first, He went through it first, He went before us first.....and made a way for us.....I always stop and think about that to, He never even knew us, or met us, we had not been born yet, and still He went up on the cross for us, He was beaten for us, spit on, whipped, nail driven hands and feet, and a spear in His side.....

"What is a uncircumcised heart? To circumcise is to cut off. When a person has an uncircumcised heart and something wicked comes into it, he does not cut it off, instead, he lets the evil stay there. But a person who has a circumcised heart will immediately cut off any wrong attitude that comes into his mind and heart. The devil is going to come at us with wrong heart attitudes at every opportunity, but taking his bait never helps us, It only hinders our growth and development, if we want to have circumcised hearts, we must immediately get rid of anger, hatred, jealousy, envy, and any other kind of wrong attitude when it first comes into our minds. If we let that wrong thing stay in our hearts, we are not being what God has called us to be. We are living our lives before Him with uncircumcised hearts. A victorious believer maintains a circumcised heart by saying not to anything that will keep him or her from being a person whose heart is right before God." (Amplified Bible, Joyce Meyers, 2005, notes and commentary)

Study the Bible daily, we are to meditate on it, we are to hear it and read it, study. We are to fellowship with other believers, we are to pray.....with today it is extremely important in these times, everything that is going on around us; we need to continue to pray, fellowship, uphold each other, and encourage each other.....be blessed....."have a SON blessed day"



Mary Had a Little Lamb

Mary had a little lamb,
His fleece was white as snow.
And everywhere that Mary went,
The Lamb was sure to go.
He followed her to school each day,
Twasn't even in the rule.
He made the children laugh and play.
To have a Lamb at school.
And then the rules all changed one day,
Illegal it became;
To bring the Lamb of God to school,
Or even speak his Name.
Everyday got worse and worse,
And days turned into years.
Instead of hearing children laugh,
We heard gun shots and tears.
What must we do to stop the crime,
That's in our schools today?
Let's let the Lamb come back to school,
And teach our kids to pray!

IF YOU AGREE, PLEASE PASS IT ON!

Psa 119:105

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



Chapel Flock; "Thought For The Day"

Spirit Walker Ministry; PO Box 161102; Wichita, Kansas 67216

Telephone Number; 316-243-1438

Psalm 139

1 For the music director, a psalm of David.
O LORD, you examine me² and know.

2 You know when I sit down and when I get up;
even from far away you understand my motives.

3 You carefully observe me when I travel or when I lie down to rest;¹
you are aware of everything I do.²

4 Certainly my tongue does not frame a word
without you, O LORD, being thoroughly aware of it. **5** You squeeze me in from behind and in front;
you place your hand on me.

6 Your knowledge is beyond my comprehension;
it is so far beyond me, I am unable to fathom it.

7 Where can I go to escape your spirit?
Where can I flee to escape your presence?

8 If I were to ascend to heaven, you would be there.
If I were to sprawl out in Sheol, there you would be. Job 26:6; Amos 9:2-4; Heb 4:13;

9 If I were to fly away on the wings of the dawn,
and settle down on the other side of the sea,

10 even there your hand would guide me,
your right hand would grab hold of me.

11 If I were to say, "Certainly the darkness will cover me,
and the light will turn to night all around me,"

12 even the darkness is not too dark for you to see,
and the night is as bright as day;
darkness and light are the same to you.

13 Certainly you made my mind and heart;
you wove me together in my mother's womb.

14 I will give you thanks because your deeds are awesome and amazing.
You knew me thoroughly;

15 my bones were not hidden from you,
when I was made in secret
and sewed together in the depths of the earth. Job 10:8; Job 10:10; Eccl 11:5;

16 Your eyes saw me when I was inside the womb.
All the days ordained for me
were recorded in your scroll
before one of them came into existence.

17 How difficult it is for me to fathom your thoughts about me, O God!
How vast is their sum total!

18 If I tried to count them,
they would outnumber the grains of sand.
Even if I finished counting them,
I would still have to contend with you.

19 If only you would kill the wicked, O God!
Get a way from me, you violent men!

20 They rebel against you and act deceitfully;
your enemies lie.

21 O LORD, do I not hate those who hate you,
and despise those who oppose you?

22 I absolutely hate them,
they have become my enemies!

23 Examine me, and probe my thoughts!
Test me, and know my concerns! Job 31:6; Ps 26:2;

24 See if there is any idolatrous tendency in me,
and lead me in the reliable ancient path!