



# ~ 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, give us Your will for us this day, and bless and keep us and shine Your face upon us. Protect all and their families and I ask give them peace, in Jesus' name. Amen....

## Worship Music

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

[Here With Me-Mercy Me](#)

[All Of Creation-Mercy Me](#)

[This Life—Mercy Me](#)

## Scripture

26 Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go south on the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a desert road.) 27 So he got up and went. There he met an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship, John 12:20; 28 and was returning home, sitting in his chariot, reading the prophet Isaiah. 29 Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." 30 So Philip ran up to it and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. He asked him, "Do you understand what you're reading?" 31 The man replied, "How in the world can I, unless someone guides me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. 32 Now the passage of scripture the man was reading was this:

*"He was led like a sheep to slaughter, and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth. Isa 53:7;*

*33 In humiliation justice was taken from him.*

*Who can describe his posterity?*

*For his life was taken away from the earth."*

34 Then the eunuch said to Philip, "Please tell me, who is the prophet saying this about – himself or someone else?" 35 So Philip started speaking, and beginning with this scripture proclaimed the good news about Jesus to him. Luke 24:45; 36 Now as they were going along the road, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "Look, there is water! What is to stop me from being baptized?" Acts 10:47; 37 [[EMPTY]] 38 So he ordered the chariot to stop, and both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. 39 Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him any more, but went on his way rejoicing. 40 Philip, however, found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through the area, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

**Acts 8 : 26-40**

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This was the first persecution of the church, which was by now perhaps a year or two old. The persecution lasted probably a few months. Saul later to be called Paul was a leader in the persecution. He had two relatives who were already Christians (Romans 16:7). But the persecution, triggered by the stoning of Stephen, was furious and severe. Saul's consent to Stephen's death implies that he was voting for the stoning as a member of the Sanhedrin. As a member of the Sanhedrin he had to be married, but the Bible doesn't mention his wife. Saul, breathing out murderous threats (9:1), laid waste the church, dragging men and women into prison (8:3), beating those who believed (22:19-20), putting many to death (26:10-11), and wreaking havoc in the church (Galatians 1:13). This persecution resulted in the dispersion of the church. In Jerusalem the church had become a formidable and irrepressible movement. Jesus' last command to the disciples was to proclaim the Gospel to all the world (Matthew 28:19; Acts 1:8). Now, in the providence of God, this persecution started the missionary work of the church. The people had listened to the apostles long enough to have learned the whole story of Jesus and His death and resurrection. Wherever they went, they carried the message. The apostles, however, who were at this point popular and powerful, remained temporarily in Jerusalem to care for the church. Later they would also travel about, preaching the Gospel.

Philip, like Stephen, had been faithful in waiting on tables and now God used him for bigger things. God sent Philip to preach the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, even into Samaria, whose people were despised by the Jews. The people of Samaria believed Philip and were baptized. Even Simon, a sorcerer who was famous for his magic and who claimed to be the personification of the divine power, himself believed and was baptized. The people of Samaria as well as Simon must have clearly seen a distinction between Philip's miracles by the power of the Holy Spirit and the false magic that Simon had practiced (vv. 6-7, 13).

Great joy always comes with revival. The Holy Spirit was indwelling the believers but hadn't yet come upon them. Philip's ministry was evangelism but probably didn't include the ministry of the Holy Spirit. This was the first time that someone (Simon) tried to buy position and power in the Church, but the Church was still pure enough to resist this temptation.

As the people of Samaria came to believe the Gospel, Philip baptized them into the name of the Lord Jesus (vv. 12,16). It is interesting to note, that they did not receive the Holy Spirit until Peter and John prayed and laid hands on them that they might receive the Spirit (v. 15). Could it be true for the church today, as it was for the people of Samaria, that while its members have been saved and baptized, they lack the power of God in their lives because they have not yet received the Holy Spirit? Remember Jesus' last words before His ascension: "Wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about, for John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit"(1:4-5) and then "you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you" (1:8).

Philip could have waited for God to explain why he was to leave Samaria in the midst of a great revival and go out to the desert, but he simply obeyed God and took the first step. The relation between Israel and Ethiopia dates back to the Queen of Sheba's visit with King Solomon. The eunuch was searching for spiritual answers. God saw his heart and sent Philip to help him. God will always meet the need of a searching heart. God directed Philip southward, to the treasurer of Ethiopia, to send the Gospel on its way into the heart of Africa. This was the second step Philip was directed to take. (vv. 32-35) The passage from Isaiah 53:7-8, was a prophecy about Jesus Christ (John 5:39; Hebrews 10:7) It appears that the baptism of the Eunuch was a full immersion into the water, symbolizing the burial of the "old man." When the Eunuch came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord [suddenly] caught away Philip; and the eunuch saw him no more, and he went on his way rejoicing. But Philip was found at Azotus, and passing on he preached the good news (Gospel) to all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

Do you always understand what you read in the Bible? Know that there is not any shame in asking for help to understand the Word; it is actually wise to do so. Ask the Holy Spirit, your Teacher, to help you understand, and also ask God to place trusted people around you who can help you personally apply God's Word in your life.

Did you or do you witness to difficult people? Just remember we can not force anyone to come to God, He draws them and places people in their pathway to give them teaching as needed sometimes it is little by little. I know with my husband, that as a child he had been to church a few times; yet he chose a believer for a wife, which actually neither of us understood at the time, as I was a fairly new believer, and I fell away through marriage, submitting to my husband, I not having much knowledge in the Lord though I was obeying God, in reality we are to submit in a God ordered way; not in abuse. If the leader the husband is against God and trying to force you to do wrong things, than it is not God. Since the husband has failed to lead/guide you in a Godly way, than

God becomes your husbandman to guide and lead you in the right way. Still on my husband, the unevenly yoked scripture about being married to a believer....how do you know wife....in other words that they might come to God....today I see the steps....a neighbor invited me to go to church, I had no car, so she took us, than later the bus came that way and I rode on the bus with the kids when the neighbor did not take us, until I got a car. Than my love walk got closer to God. It was than I started picking up the Bible and reading here and there....I experienced the Holy Spirit baptism in my home....I moved and had a even closer love walk with Jesus. I had been watching TV broadcasts on faith morning and evening so I would leave the TV on to hear and do chores and leave it on, my husband would hear it at first he turned it to another channel....than he started listening if he knew I was in the other room.....than the pastor came over and they became friends, we counseled with him, than when we separated again, and later found out he had cancer, I prayed for him to be saved, a pastor showed up in the hospital room and said; "I heard you might need some help." This was a couple hours after I prayed. I asked whom called you? A friend of yours who is a believer...and I had not called him....the pastor whom came was a street preacher, the most difficult kind to be, but he had, had the same life style and life as my husband, so he believed every word he said when he talked about Jesus and lead him in the salvation prayer....We got the diagnosis of cancer on Feb. 14....and he passed away March 21.....see God lined everything up, to be in the exact place at the exact time it was to be...So if you are witnessing and discouraged because you see no progress with the person....you may just be the person to just be giving a portion to it ,a seed, than another will come along and add more as the Lord directs until all is accomplished to be the right place and right time.....God is seldom early, but never late, always just in time.....sometimes we are a silent witness, people watching us and they see how we live and it helps lead them to Jesus, because they see it working so they want what we have.....the point to this is.....you never know, I didn't.....so keep praying....

(Halley's Bible Handbook; 2000; historical facts and commentaries; pages 733-734)

(New Testament Study Guide; Chuck Smith; 2005; commentaries Acts 8; page 59)

(King James Bible and Amplified Bible)

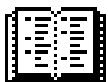
### Isaiah 58

1 "Shout loudly! Don't be quiet!  
Yell as loud as a trumpet!  
Confront my people with their rebellious deeds;<sup>1</sup>  
confront Jacob's family with their sin!<sup>2</sup>

2 They seek me day after day;  
they want to know my requirements,<sup>1</sup>  
like a nation that does what is right  
and does not reject the law of their God.  
They ask me for just decrees;  
they want to be near God.

### **Psa 119:105**

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



*Chapel Flock; "Thought For The Day"*

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**3** They lament,<sup>1</sup> 'Why don't you notice when we fast?  
Why don't you pay attention when we humble ourselves?'  
Look, at the same time you fast, you satisfy your selfish desires,<sup>2</sup>  
you oppress your workers.<sup>3</sup>

**4** Look, your fasting is accompanied by arguments, brawls,  
and fistfights.

Do not fast as you do today,  
trying to make your voice heard in heaven.

**5** Is this really the kind of fasting I want?  
Do I want a day when people merely humble themselves,  
bowing their heads like a reed  
and stretching out on sackcloth and ashes?

Is this really what you call a fast,  
a day that is pleasing to the LORD? Zech 7:5;

**6** No, this is the kind of fast I want.

I want you to remove the sinful chains,  
to tear away the ropes of the burdensome yoke,  
to set free the oppressed,  
and to break every burdensome yoke.

**7** I want you to share your food with the hungry  
and to provide shelter for homeless, oppressed people.

When you see someone naked, clothe him!

Don't turn your back on your own flesh and blood! Ezek 18:7; Ezek 18:16; Matt 25:35;

**8** Then your light will shine like the sunrise;

your restoration will quickly arrive;

your godly behavior will go before you,  
and the LORD's splendor will be your rear guard.

**9** Then you will call out, and the LORD will respond;

you will cry out, and he will reply, 'Here I am.'

You must remove the burdensome yoke from among you  
and stop pointing fingers and speaking sinfully.

**10** You must actively help the hungry  
and feed the oppressed.

Then your light will dispel the darkness,  
and your darkness will be transformed into noonday.

**11** The LORD will continually lead you;

he will feed you even in parched regions.

He will give you renewed strength,  
and you will be like a well-watered garden,  
like a spring that continually produces water.

**12** Your perpetual ruins will be rebuilt;

you will reestablish the ancient foundations.

You will be called, 'The one who repairs broken walls,  
the one who makes the streets inhabitable again.'

**13** You must observe the Sabbath

rather than doing anything you please on my holy day.

You must look forward to the Sabbath

and treat the LORD's holy day with respect.

You must treat it with respect by refraining from your normal activities,  
and by refraining from your selfish pursuits and from making business deals.

**14** Then you will find joy in your relationship to the LORD,

and I will give you great prosperity,

and cause crops to grow on the land I gave to your ancestor Jacob."

Know for certain that the LORD has spoken.