



~ Thought For The Day ~

~gathering from the 4 winds~

“come just as you are”

Refresh, Restore, Rebuild = Healing



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Worship Music

[It Wasn't Easy-CeCe Winans](#)

[Comforter-CeCe Winans](#)

[Beautiful To Me-Don Francisco](#)

[He's Alive-Don Francisco](#)

[This Blood-Carman](#)

[Amazing Grace](#)

Prayer

Lord, I know that Your Spirit has the very answer I need for any situation I may confront in life. When He speaks to my heart, it places a razor-sharp sword in my hands that I can use against my spiritual enemies. Help me keep a sensitive ear to the Holy Spirit so I can recognize those moments when He is trying to give me a "rhema" (the Word) that will put the devil on the run, always in Your name and power and authority, Jesus, we know it is never us. Teach us in which way to go. Warn us when there is a need for us to know and exactly what to do. Give us peace. Protect and keep us, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Scripture

Exodus 21: 1-36 (AMP)

1 NOW THESE are the ordinances you [Moses] shall set before [the Israelites]. 2 If you buy a Hebrew servant [as the result of debt or theft], he shall serve six years, and in the seventh he shall go out free, paying nothing. 3 If he came [to you] by himself, he shall go out by himself; if he came married, then his wife shall go out with him. 4 If his master has given him a wife and she has borne him sons or daughters, the wife and her children shall be her master's, and he shall go out [of your service] alone. 5 But if the servant shall plainly say, I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go free, 6 Then his master shall bring him to God [the judges as His agents]; he shall bring him to the door or doorpost and shall pierce his ear with an awl; and he shall serve him for life. 7 If a man sells his daughter to be a maidservant or bondwoman, she shall not go out [in six years] as menservants do. 8 If she does not please her master who has not espoused her to himself, he shall let her be redeemed. To sell her to a foreign people he shall have no power, for he has dealt faithlessly with her. 9 And if he espouses her to his son, he shall deal with her as with a daughter. 10 If he marries again, her food, clothing, and privilege as a wife shall he not diminish. 11 And if he does not do these three things for her, then shall she go out free, without payment of money. 12 Whoever strikes a man so that he dies shall surely be put to death. 13 But if he did not lie in wait for him, but God allowed him to fall into his hand, then I will appoint you a place to which he may flee [for protection until duly tried]. 14 But if a man comes willfully upon another to slay him craftily, you shall take him from My altar [to which he may have fled for protection], that he may die. 15 Whoever strikes his father or his mother shall surely be put to death. 16 Whoever kidnaps a man, whether he sells him or is found with him in his possession, shall surely be put to death. 17 Whoever curses his father or his mother shall surely be put to death. 18 If men quarrel and one strikes another with a stone or with his fist and he does not die but keeps his bed, 19 If he rises again and walks about leaning upon his staff, then he that struck him shall be clear, except he must pay for the loss of his time and shall cause him to be thoroughly healed. 20 And if a man strikes his servant or his maid with a rod and he [or she] dies under his hand, he shall surely be punished. 21 But if the servant lives on for a day or two, the offender shall not be punished, for he [has injured] his own property. 22 If men contend with each other, and a pregnant woman [interfering] is hurt so that she has a miscarriage, yet no further damage follows, [the one who hurt her] shall surely be punished with a fine [paid] to the woman's husband, as much as the judges determine. 23 But if any damage follows, then you shall give life for life, 24 Eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, 25 Burn for burn, wound for wound, and lash for lash. 26 And if a man hits the eye of his servant or the eye of his maid so that it is destroyed, he shall let him go free for his eye's sake. 27 And if he knocks out his manservant's tooth or his maidservant's tooth, he shall let him go free for his tooth's sake. 28 If an ox gores a man or a woman to death, then the ox shall surely be stoned, and its flesh shall not be eaten; but the owner of the ox shall be clear. 29 But if the ox has tried to gore before, and its owner has been warned but has not kept it closed in and it kills a man or a woman, the ox shall be stoned and its owner also put to death. 30 If a ransom is put on [the man's] life, then he shall give for the redemption of his life whatever is laid upon him. 31 If the [man's ox] has gored another's son or daughter, he shall be dealt with according to this same rule. 32 If the ox gores a manservant or a maidservant, the owner shall give to their master thirty shekels of silver, and the ox shall be stoned. 33 If a man leaves a pit open or digs a pit and does not cover it and an ox or a donkey falls into it, 34 The owner of the pit shall make it good; he shall give money to the animal's owner, but the dead beast shall be his. 35 If one man's ox hurts another's so that it dies, they shall sell the live ox and divide the price of it; the dead ox also they shall divide between them. 36 Or if it is known that the ox has gored in the past, and its owner has not kept it closed in, he shall surely pay ox for ox, and the dead beast shall be his.

Radio Stations

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Bible Study Sites

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[Mike MacIntosh](#)

[Jon Courson](#)

[Biblos.com](#)

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[Virtue for Women-Cathe Laurie](#)

Exodus 21–24. The Book of the Covenant

After the Ten Commandments, this was the first installment of the Law for the Hebrew nation. These laws were written in a book. Then the covenant that pledged to obey the Law was sealed with blood (24:4 , 7–8).

The laws cover every aspect of daily life, from kindness toward widows and orphans to the death penalty for murder to hospitality toward strangers. Although many of the specific, individual laws no longer apply to us, the principles behind them most certainly do. Fairness, justice, and mercy are the foundation of Israel's Law—which becomes very clear when we compare them with the laws of the nations around Israel.

Do not cook a young goat in its mother's milk (23:19): A number of explanations have been suggested for this unusual command; it may be a warning against adopting a pagan, Canaanite ritual. (Halley's Bible Handbook; Henry Halley; 2000; Zondervan; Bible History & Commentaries; pages 148-149)

Laws about Servants and Injuries; V 1 These guidelines were to be followed by the judges in Israel in the matters that were brought before them. V 4 The slave had no rights at all, no rights of possession. V 6 The word "judges" here is the Hebrew word *elohiym*, which is the word for gods. The judges were called gods because they brought His judgment upon man and enforced it. *Elohiym* is not a term used exclusively for the God who created the heavens and the earth. V 7-8 Men bought their wives and they became like a servant, or like a slave practically (this is speaking of a maidservant or bond woman if they married them, other wise most marriages were arranged at birth or to merge two families with high status or land or wealth or for position, the marriages were arranged for the males and females by the parents) (yes, most women were treated as property and had NO rights, unless upper class or wealthy). If you took a wife, you paid the dowry. A dowry was alimony in advance. If the husband didn't like her, then she could be redeemed. She didn't have to stay, but he didn't have any right to sell her to a strange nation. She had the right of her dowry and could live off of the dowry. V 10 In other words, he paid her alimony in advance. VV 12-13 If you were guilty of murder, you were to receive capital punishment. But if it was accidental then God was going to appoint a place where you could flee and be safe. You could flee to a city of refuge and remain safe from the avenger. V 14 If it was premeditated murder, then even if you flee to the altar of God, they can kill you. VV 20-21 If he lingers before he dies then you won't be punished—actually you've lost your own money; he belongs to you. This indicates what little right the maids and servants had. V 22 If the woman has a miscarriage. VV 23-25 This was to put a limitation. An eye for an eye, not two eyes for an eye. The purpose of the law was so that it wouldn't exceed, but they had begun to interpret it as an obligation. Jesus said, " I say unto you if a man smites you on one cheek, turn the other" (Matthew 5:39). Don't seek retribution or to get even. Christ was showing that the law was intended to curb man's spirit, and to curb the spirit of retaliation. V 29 If you've been told that your ox is goring people and you do nothing to corral or to restrain it, then you are responsible for what your ox did. V 30 So you could buy your way out of that one.

(Old Testament Study Guide; The Word For Today; 2005; Chuck Smith; Commentaries; page 35)

The Holy Spirit Wants To Place A Razor-Sharp Sword in Your Hands**Ephesians 6:17**

How would you like God to give you a weapon that can rip to shreds the devil's strategies against you? Well, that's exactly what He has done! Ephesians 6:17 declares that God has given you "... the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God"!

I want you to look at the word "sword" in this verse. It is the Greek word *machaira*—a word that exacted fear in the minds of those who heard it! You see, this wasn't just a sword, but a weapon of murder that caused the victim horrid pain as he lay bleeding to death.

Just for your knowledge, there were various types of swords used by the Roman army during New Testament times. For instance, there was a huge double-handed sword—a sword so massive that it could only be utilized with the use of two hands. This sword could not be used in real combat because it was too huge. Instead, it was used during sword practice sessions because it helped develop stronger muscles as soldiers swung it against a post that represented an enemy.

There was also a long sword that was used for fighting in a battle, similar to the sword we are familiar with today. This sword was very effective in battle, but it more often wounded the enemy than it killed him. Because it was long, it was most often swung at an enemy from the side, thus scraping or cutting a gouge into the side or limbs of an adversary.

But the weapon referred to in Ephesians 6:17, coming from the Greek word *machaira*, was neither of these swords. This sword was an exceptionally brutal weapon. Although it could be up to nineteen inches in length, most often it was shorter and shaped like a dagger-type sword.

Just as a dagger is inserted into a victim at close range, this sword was used only in close combat. It was razor sharp on both sides of the blade. The tip of the sword often turned upward; sometimes it was even twisted, similar to a cork screw. Because this dagger-type sword was razor sharp, it could easily be thrust into the abdomen of an adversary. And if it had a cork-screw tip, the attacker could shred the insides of a victim by twisting the sword. All these characteristics made the *machaira* a very deadly and frightful weapon. This two-edged, dagger-type sword inflicted a wound far worse than any other sword that was available to the Roman soldier at that time. Although the other swords were deadly, this one was a terror to the imagination! By using the word *machaira*

in Ephesians 6:17, the apostle Paul is saying that God has given the Church of Jesus Christ a weapon that is frightful to the devil and his forces. Why is this weapon so horrific to the kingdom of darkness? Because it has the razor-sharp power to slash our demonic foes to shreds!

Because the word machaira denoted a sword that was dagger-shaped, it tells us that the "sword of the Spirit" is a weapon that is normally employed in closer combat. Let's take this one step further, so we can understand why this is so.

Notice that this verse calls it "the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." The term "word" is taken from the Greek word rhema, which describes something that is spoken clearly and vividly, in unmistakable terms and in undeniable language. In the New Testament, the word rhema carries the idea of a quickened word.

Here's an example of a rhema or a quickened word. You are praying about a situation when suddenly a Bible verse rises from within your heart. In that moment, you know that God has supernaturally made you aware of a verse you can stand on and claim for your situation. When this happens, it's as if the Holy Spirit has put a sword in your hand—a spiritual dagger—that you can insert into the heart of the enemy to bring about his defeat.

There are many examples of God giving someone this kind of quickened word in the Bible, but the best one is found in Luke 4, where Jesus is being tempted by the devil in the wilderness. Over and over again, the devil tempted and tested Jesus. But with each temptation, a scripture was quickened inside Jesus, and He would speak forth that scripture to the devil, brandishing it like a sword against His enemy. Each time Jesus used a verse that the Spirit had quickened to Him, the sword of the Word dealt a serious blow to the enemy—causing the devil to eventually flee in defeat.

Because of the words machaira and rhema, Ephesians 6:17 conveys this impression:

"The Spirit will place a razor-sharp sword at your disposal anytime the enemy gets too close. This sword's power will be available the very moment the Spirit quickens a specific word for a specific situation you are facing."

When you receive a rhema from the Lord, the Holy Spirit drops a word or scripture into your heart, causing it to come alive supernaturally and impart special power and authority to you through Jesus' (Jesus enabling us, and His protection). This quickened word is so powerful that it is like a sword has been placed in your hands! That's why Paul calls it "the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."

The next time you find yourself in close combat with the enemy, take the time to get quiet in your heart and listen. The Holy Spirit will reach up from within your spirit and quicken to you a scripture that has the exact power you need for the situation you find yourself in at that moment(it is Jesus' power not ours, always in Jesus' name, He does it we don't, there is only one Lord). In other words, the Holy Spirit will give you a rhema—a specific word for a specific time and a specific purpose.

When that happens, you have just received real "sword power" in the realm of the Spirit. It's time for you to insert, twist, and do damage to the devil. Then you can watch in jubilation as he hits the road and flees (in Jesus' name, power and authority, His blood covering)!

QUESTIONS FOR YOU TO CONSIDER

Can you think of times in your life when you needed a rhema (Word of God) for the situation you were facing?

Did you turn to the Holy Spirit in those situations to listen for a quickened word?

What steps can you take to help make the Scriptures more readily available in your life? How would that change the situation you are in now?

Sparkling Gems from the Greek.

(AMP Bible; The Everyday Life Bible; Joyce Meyers; Scripture; Commentaries; Past Pastor Sermons; Dictionary; 2006; pgs 121-122)
(Word 9 Bible Software; 2010; Concordance, Dictionary, Scripture, Sermons of Saints past, Devotionals; Sparkling Gems From The Greek)