



~ Thought For The Day ~

~gathering from the 4 winds~

“come just as you are”

Refresh, Restore, Rebuild = Healing



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Worship Music

[American Dream-Dominic Balli](#)

[Again & Again-Dominic Balli](#)

[Refuge-Dominic Balli](#)

[All We Need Is Love-Dominic Balli](#)

[Warrior-Dominic Balli](#)

[Lead Me To The Cross-Fireproof](#)

Prayer

Lord, I know that You're on my side and that You want to help me. So today I'm asking You to help me lay aside the attitudes, negative thought patterns, and bad habits that keep pulling me back down into miserable defeat. I'm exhausted from trying to live for You while dragging along these old weights behind me at the same time. I need to drop them and leave them behind! So today I am asking You to help me make the big break. Help me make this the day I permanently drop all the unnecessary weights that hinder me and walk away from them forever, in Jesus' name. Amen

Scripture

Exodus 33: 1-23 (AMP)

1 THE LORD said to Moses, Depart, go up from here, you and the people whom you have brought from the land of Egypt, to the land which I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, To your descendants I will give it. 2 I will send an Angel before you, and I will drive out the Canaanite, Amorite, Hittite, Perizzite, Hivite, and Jebusite. 3 Go up to a land flowing with milk and honey; but I will not go up among you, for you are a stiff-necked people, lest I destroy you on the way. 4 When the people heard these evil tidings, they mourned and no man put on his ornaments. 5 For the Lord had said to Moses, Say to the Israelites, You are a stiff-necked people! If I should come among you for one moment, I would consume and destroy you. Now therefore [penitently] leave off your ornaments, that I may know what to do with you. 6 And the Israelites left off all their ornaments, from Mount Horeb onward. 7 Now Moses used to take [his own] tent and pitch it outside the camp, far off from the camp, and he called it the tent of meeting [of God with His own people]. And everyone who sought the Lord went out to [that temporary] tent of meeting which was outside the camp. 8 When Moses went out to the tent of meeting, all the people rose and stood, every man at his tent door, and looked after Moses until he had gone into the tent. 9 When Moses entered the tent, the pillar of cloud would descend and stand at the door of the tent, and the Lord would talk with Moses. 10 And all the people saw the pillar of cloud stand at the tent door, and all the people rose up and worshiped, every man at his tent door. 11 And the Lord spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. Moses returned to the camp, but his minister Joshua son of Nun, a young man, did not depart from the [temporary prayer] tent. 12 Moses said to the Lord, See, You say to me, Bring up this people, but You have not let me know whom You will send with me. Yet You said, I know you by name and you have also found favor in My sight. 13 Now therefore, I pray You, if I have found favor in Your sight, show me now Your way, that I may know You [progressively become more deeply and intimately acquainted with You, perceiving and recognizing and understanding more strongly and clearly] and that I may find favor in Your sight. And [Lord, do] consider that this nation is Your people. 14 And the Lord said, My Presence shall go with you, and I will give you rest. 15 And Moses said to the Lord, If Your Presence does not go with me, do not carry us up from here! 16 For by what shall it be known that I and Your people have found favor in Your sight? Is it not in Your going with us so that we are distinguished, I and Your people, from all the other people upon the face of the earth? 17 And the Lord said to Moses, I will do this thing also that you have asked, for you have found favor, loving-kindness, and mercy in My sight and I know you personally and by name. 18 And Moses said, I beseech You, show me Your glory. 19 And God said, I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim My name, THE LORD, before you; for I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy and loving-kindness on whom I will show mercy and loving-kindness. 20 But, He said, You can not see My face, for no man shall see Me and live. 21 And the Lord said, Behold, there is a place beside Me, and you shall stand upon the rock, 22 And while My glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft of the rock and cover you with My hand until I have passed by. 23 Then I will take away My hand and you shall see My back; but My face shall not be seen.

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Exodus 32–33. The Golden Calf

The bull, the principal god of Egypt called Apis, later also would become the god of the Ten Tribes (1 Kings 12:28). This pitiful apostasy, so soon after God had thundered from the mountain, "You shall have no other gods before me," and after the marvelous miracles in Egypt, indicates the depths to which the Israelites had sunk in Egyptian idolatry. It was a crisis, calling for immediate discipline, and the punishment was swift and severe. Moses' willingness to be "blotted out of God's book" for the people's sake shows the grandeur of his character (Exodus 32:31–32).

(Halley's Bible Handbook; Henry Halley; 2000; Zondervan; Bible History and Commentaries; pages 150-151)

The Place Of Meeting: VV 2-3 People read this as a harshness from God, being very hard on Moses and on the people. In reality, it's a sign of God's grace, as we read the reason why they were so stiff-necked. Because the people were so rebellious and so prone toward sin, God said He wasn't going to go up in the midst of them lest they be consumed for their sinfulness by His holiness. Rather than being a statement of judgment on God's part it was an outpouring of grace. V 4 They took their jewelry off and mourned before God. V 7 This is not the tabernacle that was to be built. This is prior to the actual building of the tabernacle. V 11 When Moses talked to God "face to face" it doesn't mean he was looking at God's face. Rather this indicates a complete and total communication between God and Moses. It was a dialogue rather than a monologue. No other man has had this experience of being on such a conversational basis with God. V 14 Moses recognized their absolute need; the presence of God, He knew what God would do—he wasn't sure what the angels could do. Knowing the power of the presence of God, he didn't want to accept any substitute. V 15 Moses did the wisest thing he stayed where he was until he had the promise of God's presence. You're foolish to venture anywhere apart from the presence of God. V 19 God is going to proclaim to Moses a name highly revered by th Jews—they didn't even attempt to pronounce it. The name of God became unpronounceable. There was probably nothing that was held in higher respect than the name of God. Yet God declared, " I will honor My Word above My name" (Psalm 138:2)> V 23 Sort of the afterglow, the hinder part, just that glow that is left from having passed by. (OT Study Guide; The Word For Today; 2005; Chuck Smith; Commentaries; page 40-41)



"Pearls before swine....."



It's Time for You To Lay Aside Every Unnecessary Weight**Hebrews 12:1**

What is it that keeps hindering you from living a life of obedience? Do you struggle with a particular sin, habit, attitude, or fear that keeps you from running your race of faith the way you ought? If so, you probably already know what it is, and I'd guess that you've already prayed, prayed, and prayed for victory in overcoming that problem because you really do want to please God.

Every now and then, we all tolerate things in our lives that make it difficult for us to please God. And when we know we're not pleasing God, we typically aren't happy with ourselves either. This is one reason that Hebrews 12:1 tells us to "... lay aside every weight...."

The words "lay aside" are taken from the Greek word *apotithimi*, a compound of the words *apo* and *tithimi*. As noted in the Sparkling Gem for January 6, the word *apo* means away and the word *tithimi* means to place or to lay something down. When these two words are compounded together, it gives a picture of someone who is laying something down while at the same time he is pushing it far away from himself. It means to lay something down and to push it far away and beyond reach. Thus, this word implies a deliberate decision to make a permanent change of attitude and behavior.

Removing wrong attitudes and actions from our lives will not occur accidentally. We must decide to change—to remove, to lay aside, and to put away attitudes and actions that don't please God and adversely affect our walk of faith.

Hebrews 12:1 refers to these incorrect attitudes and actions as "weights." The word "weight" is from the Greek word *ogkos*—a word that describes a burden or something so heavy and cumbersome that it impedes a runner from running his race as he should.

This word was particularly used in the athletic world to signify the actions of an athlete who would deliberately strip himself of excess weight before participating in a competition. This stripping process included the loss of excess flesh through dieting and exercise. Then on the day of the actual competition, he stripped off nearly all his clothes so no extra weight would slow him down. He had his eye on the prize, so he was determined to strip off all "weight" that might potentially keep him from being the best athlete he could be.

This sends a strong message to us! If we want to please God, satisfy ourselves, and do something significant with our lives, we have to choose to remove anything from our lives that would hinder those objectives.

The athlete of the ancient world didn't become "unweighted" by accident. He dropped all excess weight on purpose. He dieted; he exercised; and he shed every other unnecessary weight he could find to shed. This stripping process demanded his attention, his decision, and his devotion. It wasn't going to happen by accident, so he had to initiate the process of removal.

What if those athletes had tried to run their race with loads of extra weight? They certainly wouldn't have been able to run very far! This is exactly what sinful habits and attitudes do to your walk with the Lord. If you don't remove them, they will eventually weigh you down and knock you out of your race of faith!

The Holy Spirit is urging you and me to take a good look at our lives and then remove everything that weighs us down and keeps us from a life of obedience. We must be honest with ourselves and with God.

Do you have a habit or a wrong attitude that binds you? Are you plagued by a fear that weighs you down and keeps you from fulfilling your potential in Christ? Make a rock-solid, quality decision today to grab hold of those unnecessary burdens and remove, lay aside, and permanently put them away from your life.

Once you make that decision, you'll find yourself running your race of faith with much more ease as you press on to victory!

QUESTIONS FOR YOU TO CONSIDER

What is the first thing that comes to mind when you think of a "weight" that has been keeping you from running your race with grace and ease lately?

How can you strip yourself today of that "weight" so you can stay in the race to win God's prize for your life?

Write down three ways you can please God, satisfy yourself, and do something significant in your life this week.

Sparkling Gems from the Greek.

(AMP Bible; The Everyday Life Bible; Joyce Meyers; Scripture; Commentaries; Past Pastor Sermons; Dictionary; 2006; pgs 139-141)
(Word 9 Bible Software; 2010; Concordance, Dictionary, Scripture, Sermons of Saints past, Devotionals; S Gems From The Greek)