



~ 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, thank You Lord for the journey, thank You for all the people that You have brought into my life, that their life and stories live on in my heart, and their memory has become part of me. Lord I would not have missed these people for anything, it is a gift from You the friendships with people from all walks of life. Pebbles along my life walk, thank You for the gift of being able to see them for whom they are and celebrating each one of their lives.....and ah, the memories Lord. Thank You for mentoring me and teaching me what You want me to know. I love You, my Lord. In Jesus' name. Amen....

Scripture

6 And it came to pass, that, as I made my journey, and was come near to Damascus about noon, suddenly there shone from heaven a great light round about me. Acts 9:3; 1Cor 15:8; 2Cor 12:2; 7 And I fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to me, Saul, Saul, why persecute you me? 8 And I answered, Who are you, Lord? And he said to me, I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you persecute. 9 And they that were with me saw indeed the light, and were afraid; but they heard not the voice of him that spoke to me. Dan 10:7; 10 And I said, What shall I do, LORD? And the Lord said to me, Arise, and go into Damascus; and there it shall be told you of all things which are appointed for you to do. 11 And when I could not see for the glory of that light, being led by the hand of them that were with me, I came into Damascus.

Acts 22 : 6-11

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Paul, with the consent of the soldiers, made a speech to the mob, in which he told the story of Christ's appearance to him on the way to Damascus.

(v.19) Paul speaking; and I said, Lord, they themselves well know that throughout all the synagogues I cast into prison and flogged those who believed on (adhered to and trusted in and relied on) You. (v. 20) and when the blood of Your witness (martyr) Stephen was shed. I also was personally standing by and consenting and approving and guarding the garments of those who slew him. (21) and the Lord said to me. Go, for I will send you far away unto the Gentiles (nations). They listened until he mentioned the Word Gentiles, at which the mob broke loose again.(this refers to Paul's visit to Jerusalem three years after his conversion and after his stay in Damascus.)

(v.24) The commandant ordered that Paul be brought into the barracks and that he be examined by scourging in order that [the commandant] might learn why the people cried out thus against him. (v 25) But when they had stretched him out with the thongs (leather straps) Paul asked the centurion who was standing by. Is it legal for you to flog a man who is a Roman citizen and uncondemned [without a trial]?..When the centurion heard this he went to the commandant and said to him. What are you about to do? This man is a Roman citizen. The commandant came and said to [Paul]. Tell me, are you a Roman citizen? And he said..Yes indeed. The commandant then told Paul how he acquired his citizenship and Paul told him...I was born [Roman]. Instantly those who were about to examine and flog him withdrew from him; and the commandant also was frightened, for he realized that [Paul] was a Roman citizen and he had put him in chains. (the Romans solved many crimes when they questioned the prisoners during a beating (scourging).) (The Roman citizens were well protected y Roman law. No one wanted to be found guilty of violating the rights of a Roman citizen. Roman citizens were not even to be bound except under certain conditions.)

The next day the Roman commander brought Paul before the Sanhedrin to try to figure out why Paul was being accused by the Jewish crowds, a question that as a non Jew must have genuinely perplexed him. It was the same Sanhedrin that had crucified Jesus; the same Sanhedrin of which Paul had once been a member; the same Sanhedrin that had stoned Stephen and had made repeated efforts to crush the church. Paul instigated a great uproar (23:9), the cause which was undoubtedly incomprehensible to the Roman commander, who ordered the soldiers to take Paul back to the barracks.

This is a good example of God using the foolish to confound the wise. When ever someone says something to me about Church or being a believer but the Church would fall down, or you just don't know what I have done...I think yes, but God already knows He saw all of it, still He says come to Me, the choice is yours.....and He says I love you.....I knew you before you were formed in the womb.....think about that....He knows our beginning and He knows the end result.....Why did He not stop what I did or you did? Because He gave us free will, He draws us, but we have to receive it.....He does not force anyone....

(Amplified Bible; 2005; JMM; pages 1785-1786; Scripture)

"Bob" (a witness)

For many years I worked in home health care in the state of Arkansas. I have many fond memories of my patients and they were always encouraging me to write, so here is a testimony about Bob.

Bob was a homeless man, and Bob is not his real name, he lived on the streets for many years not in Arkansas but another state. He was rough and tough from the many years on the streets, he could make a fist and use it and often probably did as a weapon. He had many experiences and shared most of them with me. Most of his life was violent, and he never said why he lived in the streets. He liked to drink, cuss, lose his temper the whole bit and attitude. He did not want to be clean and had not slept in a home or bed for a long while.

Well, Bob became very ill, terminally ill, and the state called his sister in Arkansas and asked her to take him in or he would have to go to a nursing home. Bob was in his late 50's. The home health agency was always giving me the characters, the challenging ones, I enjoyed everyone of them, each and every patient.

The first meeting was interesting, he did not want any females touching him or taking care of him. After a few choice words of his we finally reached a middle ground and agreement. I just always stated here is what we are going to do today, and this is how we will do it, he grunted and complained but he always said he had me his match in me. In other words he did not want his sister to have to do it so he settled on me. After a couple of months he softened somewhat and started sharing his life story, he never even shared that with his sister. I just listened and I always said I understood. He said how could you understand? I stated Bob; " I have been there just not as bad as your life was." He was always saying I wonder who will remember me when I am gone? One day I told him; " Bob I will and your sister" and he always popped up with yeah right. He showed me a hobby he started with a saw, he made door stops in animal and cartoon shapes, and I stated; " bob you really are talented" and he always said; " yeah right."

One day I asked him. Bob do you believe there is a heaven and he said no, because I am going to hell or all I have done. I said Bob the good Lord forgives and he said not for this and I asked for what and he said that he had got in a fight in a bar or street and killed a man. I just stood still for a long while and than I said Bob have you ever felt evil around you and he said yeah so what and I said if you have felt the evil than you know also that God exists also. One cannot exist without the other until Jesus comes back, they are at war with each other to win us one direction or another. I explained how Jesus forgives everything that is why, He died for us. Bob said well what do I have to do. I said first you have to feel Him and let Him come into your heart and you have to be completely honest with what you tell Him. So Bob said what do I have to do and I said it is easy, you just pray from your heart and say; " Jesus Christ forgive me for my sins for I have many and have fallen short of the glory of God. Jesus come into my life and heart forgive me for my sins." Amen.

Well he prayed and he asked. Bob than started having nightmares about his past, he asked me if He has forgiven me why am I having these awful dreams all of a sudden and I stated; " Bob He is just telling you what He is forgiving you for." The week before he passed away he asked me will you really remember me? I said yes of course. He wanted to know why and I said because I like you Bob. Why on earth do you like me he asked and I said I just do Bob and I always will remember you and Jesus loves you to. Well after that week Bob got worse and the family called me in the middle of the night and I went and sat with him, he was very restless but he calmed down when I came in and his sister said you always could get him to do things we couldn't get him to do and than she stated I think he liked you and I said yes, I know even though he would not admit it. It has been almost thirteen years since Bob died, and yes, I still remember you Bob you were the first person I led to Jesus Christ. Amen.

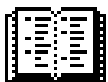
(note that it has been 20 years since I met Bob, and yes, I kept my promise and I remember him. I had just come back to the Lord, when I met Bob..."God, truly does use the foolish to confound the wise.")

How do you do it, people ask, get along with the difficult patients? I reply it is all God, and I really did walk a mile in their shoes. Always remember a man or woman's home, is their castle, their home know matter what kind of castle, home or street. Treat them like they are part of one big loving family.....a hand up with your hand out.

Spirit Walker

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