



# ~ Thought For The Day ~

~gathering from the 4 winds~

“come just as you are”

**Refresh, Restore, Rebuild = Healing**



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## Prayer

Lord, I thank You that my redemption is a done deal! It's not something I'm trying to get; it's something You've already purchased and accomplished in my life. Help me renew every area of my mind so I can enjoy the liberty You purchased for me. Give me a desire to experience Your freedom in every sphere of my life and a determination to reject any form of bondage that tries to hang on to me, in Jesus' name. Amen

Sparkling Gems from the Greek.

## Scripture

Exodus 35: 1- 35 (AMP)

1 MOSES GATHERED all the congregation of the Israelites together and said to them, These are the things which the Lord has commanded that you do: 2 Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day shall be to you a holy day, a Sabbath of rest to the Lord; whoever works [on that day] shall be put to death. 3 You shall kindle no fire in all your dwellings on the Sabbath day. 4 And Moses said to all the congregation of the Israelites, This is what the Lord commanded: 5 Take from among you an offering to the Lord. Whoever is of a willing and generous heart, let him bring the Lord's offering: gold, silver, and bronze; 6 Blue, purple, and scarlet [stuff], fine linen; goats' hair; 7 And rams' skins tanned red, and skins of dolphins or porpoises; and acacia wood; 8 And oil for the light; and spices for anointing oil and for fragrant incense; 9 And onyx stones and other stones to be set for the ephod and the breastplate. 10 And let every able and wisehearted man among you come and make all that the Lord has commanded: 11 The tabernacle, its tent and its covering, its hooks, its boards, its bars, its pillars, and its sockets or bases; 12 The ark and its poles, with the mercy seat, and the veil of the screen; 13 The table and its poles and all its utensils, and the showbread (the bread of the Presence); 14 The lampstand also for the light, and its utensils and its lamps, and the oil for the light; 15 And the incense altar and its poles, the anointing oil and the fragrant incense, the hanging or screen for the door at the entrance of the tabernacle; 16 The altar of burnt offering, with its bronze grating, its poles and all its utensils, the laver and its base; 17 The court's hangings, its pillars and their sockets or bases, and the hanging or screen for the gate of the court; 18 The pegs of the tabernacle and of the court, and their cords, 19 The finely wrought garments for ministering in the Holy Place, the holy garments for Aaron the [high] priest and for his sons to minister as priests. 20 Then all the congregation of the Israelites left Moses' presence. 21 And they came, each one whose heart stirred him up and whose spirit made him willing, and brought the Lord's offering to be used for the [new] Tent of Meeting, for all its service, and the holy garments. 22 They came, both men and women, all who were willing hearted, and brought brooches, earrings or nose rings, signet rings, and armlets or necklaces, all jewels of gold, everyone bringing an offering of gold to the Lord. 23 And everyone with whom was found blue or purple or scarlet [stuff], or fine linen, or goats' hair, or rams' skins made red [in tanning], or dolphin or porpoise skins brought them. 24 Everyone who could make an offering of silver or bronze brought it as the Lord's offering, and every man with whom was found any acacia wood for any work of the service brought it. 25 All the women who had ability and were wise hearted spun with their hands and brought what they had spun of blue and purple and scarlet [stuff] and fine linen; 26 And all the women who had ability and whose hearts stirred them up in wisdom spun the goats' hair. 27 The leaders brought onyx stones and stones to be set for the ephod and for the breastplate, 28 And spice, and oil for the light and for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense. 29 The Israelites brought a freewill offering to the Lord, all men and women whose hearts made them willing and moved them to bring anything for any of the work which the Lord had commanded by Moses to be done. 30 And Moses said to the Israelites, See, the Lord called by name Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah; 31 And He has filled him with the Spirit of God, with ability and wisdom, with intelligence and understanding, and with knowledge and all craftsmanship, 32 To devise artistic designs, to work in gold, silver, and bronze, 33 In cutting of stones for setting, and in carving of wood, for work in every skilled craft. 34 And God has put in Bezalel's heart that he may teach, both he and Aholiab son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan.

35 He has filled them with wisdom of heart and ability to do all manner of craftsmanship, of the engraver, of the skillful workman, of the embroiderer in blue, purple, and scarlet [stuff] and in fine linen, and of the weaver, even of those who do or design any skilled work.

Exodus 35–40. The Tabernacle Built;.. The tabernacle, or Tent of Meeting, was a portable sanctuary that served as a place of worship for the Israelites from the time of the wilderness wanderings until the building of the temple by Solomon. It was where God dwelt with the Israelites. The actual structure was only 15 feet tall—less than the height of a two-story house. But in the desert it was the highest structure in the camp of the Israelites and rose above the sea of tents as the constant reminder of God's presence at the center of the nation. **The Courtyard** ;...The enclosure ("courtyard") in which the tabernacle itself stood was 50 x 25 yards, or slightly less than a fourth the size of a football field (100 x 53-1/3 yards). The walls were made of brass posts with silver hooks, over which linen curtains were hung. The entrance, which was on the east, was 10 yards wide and had colorful curtains of blue and scarlet linen. **The bronze altar**. The first thing one saw when entering the courtyard was a large bronze altar, the altar of burnt offering, where the animals (or portions of the animals) brought to the tabernacle by the Israelites were burnt. The altar was 7½ feet square and 4½ feet high. It was hollow, made of wood with brass overlay, and with grating inside, halfway up from the bottom. The wood was laid on top of the grate, and the animals on top of the wood. In the hollow area below the grate, ashes and other remains were collected, while it also provided access for oxygen from below to keep the fire burning. **The fire in the altar** was to be kept burning day and night ( Leviticus 6:9 ); it was kindled by fire from the Lord Himself ( Leviticus 9:24 ). The smell associated with the tabernacle was not the sweet smell of incense, but the smell of fire and death—a continual reminder that human beings have no access to God except as sinners redeemed and set free by another's death: in the Old Testament the death of animals, in the New Testament the death of Christ. **The bronze basin**. The second item in the courtyard, closer to the tabernacle itself, was a bronze basin for washing. Aaron and all priests had to wash their hands and feet in the water before bringing a sacrifice to the altar and before entering the tabernacle. It symbolized cleansing from sin and may have foreshadowed Christian baptism. It represented the need for purification before approaching the Lord. New Testament Christians have been purified and cleansed by the shed blood of Jesus. **The Tabernacle**;...The tabernacle itself consisted of two rooms. The first room, the Holy Place, was 15 feet high and wide and 30 feet long. The second room, the Most Holy Place, was exactly half as large: it was a cube measuring 15 x 15 x 15 feet. **A tent covered the tabernacle**, consisting of three layers of coverings. The first was made of goat's hair cloth. Over it was a covering of red leather made of ram's skins. The final covering was badger skin (or possibly seal or porpoise skin). There was a clear progression in the arrangement of the courtyard and the tabernacle. Israelites could bring their sacrifices to the altar in the courtyard, but beyond the altar only the priests could go and enter the Holy Place (after washing their hands and feet). But no one could enter the Most Holy Place, the place of God's Presence, except the high priest and only once a year, on the Great Day of Atonement (see Leviticus 16 ). **The Holy Place**;...The first thing that must have struck the priests entering the Holy Place was how different it smelled. The acrid smells from the altar of burnt offering were left behind, and the sweet smell of incense filled this room. **The incense altar**. The incense altar was small, only 3 feet high and 18 inches square. Incense was burned on the altar, morning and evening ( Exodus 30:8 ). Its smoke rising into the sky symbolized prayer—daily, regular prayer (see also Revelation 8:3–5 ). **The lampstand**. There were no windows in the tabernacle, but the coverings may have let in some light, since the lampstand was to be lit at twilight and to be kept burning from evening until morning ( Exodus 27:21 ; 30:7–8 ). Made of pure gold, it was 5 feet high and 3½ feet across the top. The shape of the lampstand, with its seven lamps, is still a common symbol in Judaism today: the menorah. The lighted lamp symbolizes God's Word ( Psalm 105 ; Psalm 119 ; 2 Peter 1:19 ) or God's guidance ( 2 Samuel 22:29 ; Psalm 18:28 ). The lampstands of Solomon's temple were patterned after this lampstand (which may actually have been used in the temple). They were no doubt among the treasures taken to Babylon and afterward returned ( Ezekiel 1:7 ). The lampstand in Herod's temple, in Jesus' day, may have been one of these lampstands. It was taken to Rome when the temple was destroyed in a.d. 70 and is represented on the Arch of Titus. Tradition says that the lampstand was later "respectfully deposited in the Christian church at Jerusalem" in a.d. 533, but nothing further is known of it. **The table**. Finally, there was a table, 27 inches high, 18 inches wide, and 3 feet long. On this table 12 loaves of bread were placed, one for each of the 12 tribes of Israel. The loaves were replaced every week. They represented Israel's gratitude for God's provisions. **The Most Holy Place** ;...The Most Holy Place was the place of the presence of God. It was separated from the Holy Place by what must have been a superbly beautiful curtain , in blue, purple, and scarlet, embroidered with cherubim. **Solomon's temple**, and later Herod's temple, were patterned after the tabernacle, and the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place were still separated by a curtain, even though the structure itself was made of stone and wood. The curtain of the temple was torn from top to bottom when Christ died ( Matthew 27:51 ), signifying that, at that moment, the door to God's presence was open to all. **Only one item stood in the Most Holy Place**: the ark of the covenant. It was a chest made of acacia wood and overlaid with pure gold. It measured 45 x 27 x 27 inches. The lid of the ark, made of solid gold, was called the "atonement cover" ( kǝv , mercy seat). At each end of the cover stood a cherub, made of one piece with the atonement cover. The cherubim faced each other, their wings spread out, and looked down toward the atonement cover. We can only speculate exactly how they may have looked. **Inside the ark were four items**: the two stone tablets on which Moses had received the Ten Commandments, a pot of manna, and Aaron' staff ( Numbers 17:1–11 ). These were a continual reminder of what was most important: God's covenant with His people (the two tablets), His gracious material provisions (the manna), and His provision of a way to Him through the priesthood, and specifically through the high priest (the staff; see also Hebrews 8 ). **The ark of the covenant** was probably lost in the Babylonian captivity. In Revelation 11:19 , John saw the ark "in the temple." But that was in a vision, certainly not meaning that the actual, material ark was there; for in heaven there will be "no temple" ( Revelation 21:22 ).

**Offerings For The Tabernacle; V 5** He has commanded to take an offering, but there was one requirement—you did it with a willing heart. Paul the apostle says when we give to God, it should never be by constraint, but “ as every man has purposed in his own heart so let him give, for God loves a cheerful (literally hilarious) giver” ( 2 Corinthians 9:7). God doesn't want anything from you that you grudgingly give to Him, whether it's money, time, or service. **VV 21-22** Notice the giving came from a person's heart being stirred. That is always the secret of true giving; God stirring your heart.

(Old Testament Study Guide; The Word For Today; 2005; Chuck Smith; commentaries; page 41-42)

The people who built the tabernacle of the Lord were stirred up about the things of God, and they gave with willing hearts. You may be thinking, I wish I could be excited about the Lord's work, but I just don't feel that way. I don't really know how to get myself stirred up. What can you do to be stirred up for God?

Stay around people who are excited about the things of God. Before long, you will be excited and stirred up too. If you associate with a person who is a visionary, you will soon get a vision. But if you stay around lifeless people who want to do nothing but complain, sit on the couch, eat doughnuts, and watch soap operas, then soon you will be doing the same things.

Decide to take action about the negative way you feel instead of just wishing things were different. Realize that if you want to have victory over your feelings strongly enough, you will do whatever it takes to get it. If you do not want the victory, no one can motivate you to want it. We need to stop feeling sorry for ourselves. We need to stop whining, "I wish I had this," or "I wish I didn't have that. I wish my parents loved me more. I wish I had more money. I wish my back didn't hurt. I wish... I wish... I wish..." I used to do that. For years I went around "wishing," until the Lord spoke to me and said, "You can be pitiful or you can be powerful, but you cannot be both. So take your pick."

Avoid passivity, procrastination, and laziness. A passive person waits to be moved by an outside force before he or she will take action. We are to be motivated and led by the Holy Spirit within us, not by things on the outside. The best way we can guard against the spirit of passivity is to do what we need to do now, and do it with all our might (see Ecclesiastes 9:10).

Stay on fire for God. Romans 12:11 encourages us, "Never lag in zeal and in earnest endeavor; be aglow and burning with the Spirit, serving the Lord." In order to always be aglow and burning, we have to stay on fire. I have discovered that the best way to fan the fire is to speak the Word of God in the form of prayer, praise, preaching, or confession. Those disciplines stir up the gift within, keep the fire burning, and prevent my spirit from sinking within me.

Remember, everything we do is to be done unto the Lord and for His glory. We should do it through Him, to Him, for Him, by Him, and with Him. And we should do it willingly, with our whole hearts stirred up within us.

Sometimes when we see a person as gifted as Bezalel, we try to emulate him instead of exercising our own gifts. We become so busy attempting to do somebody else's ministry that we never get around to doing our own! It is important for us to see that God has given each person different gifts to be used for the benefit of the whole body of Christ (see 1 Corinthians 12:4-30). Often we are not satisfied with what the Lord has given us to do because we are insecure and do not realize who we are in Christ. If God has not given you a ministry of standing in front of people and ministering to them, then do not try to minister that way. You will not be happy or successful if you try to minister with gifts you have not been given. Celebrate and embrace who you are. You will find the most wonderful fulfillment as you do your very best with the gifts God has given you.

#### Putting the Word to Work

The cloud that led the Israelites on their journey (see Exodus 40:36-38) symbolizes the leading of the Holy Spirit in our lives today. Are you following the "cloud" in your life, patiently waiting on God to lead you on the next phase of your journey and being quick to obey when He does?

(AMP Bible; The Everyday Life Bible; Joyce Meyers; Scripture; Commentaries; Past Pastor Sermons; Dictionary; 2006; pgs 145-148)  
(Word 9 Bible Software; 2010; Concordance, Dictionary, Scripture, Sermons of Saints past, Devotionals; S Gems From The Greek)