



~ 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 ask You to help me become consistent in prayer. I admit that other things have distracted me from being in Your Presence, but I ask You to forgive me for this and to give me the strength to say no to those things that keep pulling me away from time in prayer. Thank You for helping me to make this a high priority in my life. I know that with Your help, I can learn to discipline myself to pray. Thank You for helping me get started on the right path today. Fill me with whom to pray for and how, and when I do not know what to pray I ask that the Holy Spirit floods me with utterance in prayer. Fill me each day also with whom to bless and how, fill me with whom to encourage and let the words You want said come forth from my mouth. I ask my prayer in Jesus' name. Amen.

Scripture

Genesis 47:1-31(AMP)

1 THEN JOSEPH came and told Pharaoh, My father and my brothers, with their flocks and their herds and all that they own, have come from the land of Canaan, and they are in the land of Goshen. 2 And from among his brothers he took five men and presented them to Pharaoh. 3 And Pharaoh said to his brothers, What is your occupation? And they said to Pharaoh, Your servants are shepherds, both we and our fathers before us. 4 Moreover, they said to Pharaoh, We have come to sojourn in the land, for your servants have no pasture for our flocks, for the famine is very severe in Canaan. So now, we pray you, let your servants dwell in the land of Goshen. 5 And Pharaoh spoke to Joseph, saying, Your father and your brothers have come to you. 6 The land of Egypt is before you; make your father and your brothers dwell in the best of the land. Let them live in the land of Goshen. And if you know of any men of ability among them, put them in charge of my cattle. 7 Then Joseph brought in Jacob his father and presented him before Pharaoh; and Jacob blessed Pharaoh. 8 And Pharaoh asked Jacob, How old are you? 9 Jacob said to Pharaoh, The days of the years of my pilgrimage are 130 years; few and evil have the days of the years of my life been, and they have not attained to those of the life of my fathers in their pilgrimage. 10 And Jacob blessed Pharaoh and went out from his presence. 11 Joseph settled his father and brethren and gave them a possession in Egypt in the best of the land, in the land of Rameses (Goshen), as Pharaoh commanded. 12 And Joseph supplied his father and his brethren and all his father's household with food, according to [the needs of] their families. 13 [In the course of time] there was no food in all the land, for the famine was distressingly severe, so that the land of Egypt and all the land of Canaan hung in doubt and wavered by reason of the hunger (destitution, starvation) of the famine. 14 And Joseph gathered up all the money that was found in the land of Egypt and in the land of Canaan [in payment] for the grain which they bought, and Joseph brought the money into Pharaoh's house. 15 And when the money was exhausted in the land of Egypt and in the land of Canaan, all the Egyptians came to Joseph and said, Give us food! Why should we die before your very eyes? For we have no money left. 16 Joseph said, Give up your livestock, and I will give you food in exchange for [them] if your money is gone. 17 So they brought their livestock to Joseph, and [he] gave them food in exchange for the horses, flocks, cattle of the herds, and the donkeys; and he supplied them with food in exchange for all their livestock that year. 18 When that year was ended, they came to [Joseph] the second year and said to him, We will not hide from my lord [the fact] that our money is spent; my lord also has our herds of livestock; there is nothing left in the sight of my lord but our bodies and our lands. 19 Why should we perish before your eyes, both we and our land? Buy us and our land in exchange for food, and we and our land will be servants to Pharaoh. And give us seed [to plant], that we may live and not die, and that the land may not be desolate. 20 And Joseph bought all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh; for the Egyptians sold every man his field because of the overwhelming severity of the famine upon them. The land became Pharaoh's, 21 And as for the people, he removed them to cities and practically made slaves of them [at their own request], from one end of the borders of Egypt to the other. 22 Only the priests' land he did not buy, for the priests had a fixed pension from Pharaoh and lived on the amount Pharaoh gave them. So they did not sell their land. 23 Then Joseph said to the people, Behold, I have today bought you and your land for Pharaoh. Now here is seed for you, and you shall sow the land. 24 At [harvest time when you reap] the increase, you shall give one-fifth of it to Pharaoh, and four-fifths shall be your own to use for seed for the field and as food for you and those of your households and for your little ones. 25 And they said, You have saved our lives! Let us find favor in the sight of my lord; and we will be Pharaoh's servants. 27 And Israel dwelt in the land of Egypt, in the country of Goshen; and they gained possessions there and grew and multiplied exceedingly. 28 And Jacob lived in the land of Egypt

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seventeen years; so Jacob reached the age of 147 years. 29 When the time drew near that Israel must die, he called his son Joseph and said to him, If now I have found favor in your sight, put your hand under my thigh and [promise to] deal loyally and faithfully with me. Do not bury me, I beg of you, in Egypt,
 30 But let me lie with my fathers; you shall carry me out of Egypt and bury me in their burying place. And [Joseph] said, I will do as you have directed. 31 Then Jacob said, Swear to me [that you will do it]. And he swore to him. And Israel bowed himself upon the head of the bed.

Genesis 46–47. Jacob and His Family Settle in Egypt

God had planned that Israel should be nurtured for a while in Egypt, which was the most advanced civilization of that day. As Jacob left Canaan, God gave him assurance that his descendants would return (46:3–4).
 (Halley's Bible Handbook; Henry Halley; 2000; Zondervan; Bible History and Commentaries; page 128)

The Famine Worsens; VV 1-12 Jacob and his family had settled in the country and were cared for by Joseph. VV 13-17 The people spent all their money for food, so they had to sell their cattle to Joseph to buy food. VV 18-26 The next year the people sold their lands and themselves to buy food. Joseph set up a twenty percent tax to be paid into the pharaoh's store house from the produce of his farms. V 30 Jacob wanted to be buried in the land that God had promised to him.
 (Old Testament Study Guide; The Word For Today; 2005; Chuck Smith; Commentaries; page 20)

How Often Should We Pray?

Ephesians 6:18

How is your prayer life? Is prayer a central and significant part of your life, or is it something you only do when you are with other believers? Is prayer a daily discipline for you, or do you mainly pray when you get in trouble? Do you pray when you are home alone, or do you find that you only pray and worship the Lord when you come to church and are in the presence of other worshipping and praying people?

To pray regularly requires discipline. Unfortunately, most people are "on-again, off-again" when it comes to prayer. They are faithful for a while, but then they fall out of prayer because they are too tired to get up early, or they become distracted by other things.

But how often are we supposed to pray? Ephesians 6:18 gives us the answer! It says, "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints."

The word "always" is taken from the Greek phrase en panti kairo. The word en would be better translated at. The word panti means each and every. You could say that this word panti is an all-encompassing word that embraces everything, including the smallest and most minute of details. The last word in this Greek phrase is the word kairo, the Greek word for times or seasons. When all three of these words are used together in one phrase (en panti kairo) as in Ephesians 6:18, they could be more accurately translated at each and every occasion.

Ephesians 6:18 conveys this idea:

"Pray anytime there's an opportunity—no matter where you are or what you're doing. Use every occasion, every season, every possible moment to pray...."

This clearly tells us that prayer is not optional for the Christian who is serious about his or her spiritual life. According to this scripture, believers are to make prayer a top priority. Yet, unfortunately, prayer is largely disregarded by the average Christian today.

If prayer isn't a priority in your life right now, why not make it a priority starting today? You might say, "But I don't have time to pray." You have time to do whatever you really want to do. If it's truly in your heart to pray, you can find the time. And if your schedule is as busy as you think it is, take Ephesians 6:18 to heart. Grab any available time you can find, and make it your prayer time. Why not start this day out right? Make a quality decision to make prayer your first order of business!

QUESTIONS FOR YOU TO CONSIDER

Have you been "on-again, off-again" in your prayer life? What keeps distracting you from being consistent in your prayer life?

What type of event in your life consistently jolts you out of prayerlessness and into a time of praying?

What changes do you need to make in your life or environment to assure that your prayer life becomes disciplined and consistent ?

Sparkling Gems from the Greek.

Mark 11:24

Therefore I say to you, What things so ever you desire, when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you shall have them.

—AKJV

1 John 5:14-15

And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he hears us:—AKJV

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James 1:6

But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavers is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.—AKJV

James 1:5

If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that gives to all men liberally, and upbraides not; and it shall be given him.—AKJV

1 John 3:22

And whatever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.

—AKJV

Acts 12:5

Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church to God for him.—AKJV

James 5:16

Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that you may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.—AKJV

Matthew 6:9-13

After this manner therefore pray you: Our Father which are in heaven, Hallowed be your name.—AKJV

Acts 10:9

On the morrow, as they went on their journey, and drew near to the city, Peter went up on the housetop to pray about the sixth hour:

—AKJV

Acts 20:36

And when he had thus spoken, he kneeled down, and prayed with them all.—AKJV

(Word 9 Bible Software: Bible Software, multiple translations, dictionary, atlas, sermons of the past saints, concordance, 2005)
(The Everyday Life Bible; Amplified, 2005, Joyce Meyers, Scripture, Commentaries, page 80-82)