



~ Thought For The Day ~

~gathering from the 4 winds~

“come just as you are”

Refresh, Restore, Rebuild = Healing



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Prayer

Lord, today I want to be used by You to encourage someone! I ask You to lead me to those You want me to encourage. Show me what to say, how much to say, and when to say it. Teach me to recognize the needs in other people and not to focus only on my own needs. Refresh in me Your compassion and mercy, give me a heightened discernment to know the people's needs, in Jesus' name I ask it. Amen.

Scripture

Exodus 4: 1-31 (AMP)

1 AND MOSES answered, But behold, they will not believe me or listen to and obey my voice; for they will say, The Lord has not appeared to you. 2 And the Lord said to him, What is that in your hand? And he said, A rod. 3 And He said, Cast it on the ground. And he did so and it became a serpent [the symbol of royal and divine power worn on the crown of the Pharaohs]; and Moses fled from before it. 4 And the Lord said to Moses, Put forth your hand and take it by the tail. And he stretched out his hand and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand, 5 [This you shall do, said the Lord] that the elders may believe that the Lord, the God of their fathers, of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, has indeed appeared to you. 6 The Lord said also to him, Put your hand into your bosom. He put his hand into his bosom, and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous, as white as snow. 7 [God] said, Put your hand into your bosom again. So he put his hand back into his bosom, and when he took it out, behold, it was restored as the rest of his flesh. 8 [Then God said] If they will not believe you or heed the voice or the testimony of the first sign, they may believe the voice or the witness of the second sign. 9 But if they will also not believe these two signs or heed your voice, you shall take some water of the river [Nile] and pour it upon the dry land; and the water which you take out of the river [Nile] shall become blood on the dry land. 10 And Moses said to the Lord, O Lord, I am not eloquent or a man of words, neither before nor since You have spoken to Your servant; for I am slow of speech and have a heavy and awkward tongue. 11 And the Lord said to him, Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes the dumb, or the deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? Is it not I, the Lord? 12 Now therefore go, and I will be with your mouth and will teach you what you shall say. 13 And he said, Oh, my Lord, I pray You, send by the hand of [some other] whom You will [send]. 14 Then the anger of the Lord blazed against Moses; He said, Is there not Aaron your brother, the Levite? I know he can speak well. Also, he is coming out to meet you, and when he sees you, he will be overjoyed. 15 You must speak to him and put the words in his mouth; and I will be with your mouth and with his mouth and will teach you what you shall do. 16 He shall speak for you to the people, acting as a mouthpiece for you, and you shall be as God to him. 17 And you shall take this rod in your hand with which you shall work the signs [that prove I sent you]. 18 And Moses went away and, returning to Jethro his father-in-law, said to him, Let me go back, I pray you, to my relatives in Egypt to see whether they are still alive. And Jethro said to Moses, Go in peace. 19 The Lord said to Moses in Midian, Go back to Egypt; for all the men who were seeking your life [for killing the Egyptian] are dead. 20 And Moses took his wife and his sons and set them on donkeys, and he returned to the land of Egypt; and Moses took the rod of God in his hand. 21 And the Lord said to Moses, When you return into Egypt, see that you do before Pharaoh all those miracles and wonders which I have put in your hand; but I will make him stubborn and harden his heart, so that he will not let the people go. 22 And you shall say to Pharaoh, Thus says the Lord, Israel is My son, even My firstborn. 23 And I say to you, Let My son go, that he may serve Me; and if you refuse to let him go, behold, I will slay your son, your firstborn. 24 Along the way at a [resting-] place, the Lord met [Moses] and sought to kill him [made him acutely and almost fatally ill]. 25 [Now apparently he had failed to circumcise one of his sons, his wife being opposed to it; but seeing his life in such danger] Zipporah took a flint knife and cut off the foreskin of her son and cast it to touch [Moses'] feet, and said, Surely a husband of blood you are to me! 26 When He let [Moses] alone [to recover], Zipporah said, A husband of blood are you because of the circumcision. 27 The Lord said to Aaron, Go into the wilderness to meet Moses. And he went, and met him in the mountain of God [Horeb, or Sinai] and kissed him. 28 Moses told Aaron all the words of the Lord with which He had sent him, and all the signs with which He had charged him. 29 Moses and Aaron went and gathered together [in Egypt] all the elders of the Israelites. 30 Aaron spoke all the words which the Lord

had spoken to Moses, and did the signs in the sight of the people. 31 And the people believed; and when they heard that the Lord had visited the Israelites, and that He had looked [in compassion] upon their affliction, they bowed their heads and worshiped.

Exodus 3—4. The Burning Bush

After a life of brooding over the sufferings of his people and the age-old promises of God, the call to deliver Israel came at last, directly from God, when Moses was 80 years old. But Moses was no longer self-confident, as he had been in his younger years. He was reluctant to go and made all kinds of excuses. But in the end he went, assured of divine help and armed with the power to work miracles. (Halley's Bible Handbook; Henry Halley; 2000; Zondervan; Bible History & Commentaries; page 138)

Moses' Response To God's Call: V 2 A rod is a walking stick. V 11 God has declared that in certain cases He has created certain physical infirmities. If I only believe what I can understand, that doesn't take faith. That only takes intellect. Believing what I can't understand is that step of faith which honors. God "Without faith it is impossible to please Him" (Hebrews 11:6). V 14-15 That wasn't God's direct will; it was permissive. Aaron became a stumbling block. God will lift you to the highest level that you will allow Him. V 16 In other words, "You'll be the go between. I'll speak to you and give you My words, and you give My words to Aaron." So now you've got a step-between. Who made the golden calf out there in the wilderness? Aaron brought a snare upon Israel. Moses is insisting that God come down to his level rather than he arise to God's level. V 20 "Sons" here is plural, so it doesn't tell us when the other son was born. V 21 "Harden" in Hebrew literally means strengthen. "I will make strong his heart." As we read of Moses' dealings with Pharaoh in chapter 8, we read, "Pharaoh hardened his heart." The word "hardened" there is a different Hebrew word, in other words, Pharaoh set his heat and God strengthened him in that set. VV 24-25 God had commanded that the Hebrew children should be circumcised on the eighth day as a mark of the covenant relationship of these people with God. They were to be walking after the Spirit, not after the flesh, thus the cutting away of the flesh. It was symbolic action by which these people were identified as God's people. V 26 Moses was going to lead God's people out of the land, and he had not even fulfilled that covenant mark in his own sons. Because of Moses' failure, God was just impressing on him that He meant business. (Old Testament Study Guide; The Word For Today; Chuck Smith; 2005; Commentaries; pages 24-25)

Preparing the Troops For Battle!

Hebrews 10:25

The word "exhorting" is a powerful little word! It's the Greek word *parakaleo*, a compound of the words *para* and *kaleo*. *Para* means alongside and *kaleo* means to call, to beckon, or to speak to someone. When these two words are compounded together, it depicts someone who is right alongside of a person, urging him, beseeching him, begging him to make some kind of correct decision.

In the ancient Greek world, this word was often used by military leaders before they sent their troops into battle. Rather than hide from the painful reality of war, the leaders would summon their troops together and speak straightforwardly with them about the potential dangers of the battlefield. The leaders would also tell their troops about the glories of winning a major victory.

Rather than ignore the clear-cut dangers of battle, these officers came right alongside their troops and urged, exhorted, beseeched, begged, and pleaded with them to stand tall; throw their shoulders back; look the enemy straight on, eyeball to eyeball; and face their battles bravely.

Walking by faith and doing the will of God sometimes places us in the midst of spiritual battles. Sometimes these battles aren't won quickly.

If you know someone who is discouraged because his fight isn't won yet, speak to that person truthfully and in a straightforward manner the way a commanding officer would speak to his troops. Remind the person of others who have stood the test of time and won their battles. And be sure to remind him of the sweetness of victory when the battle is over. He needs to hear a passionate, heartfelt word of exhortation from you!

The word "exhort" in Hebrews 10:25 could mean:

"When you're feeling down and out—like a failure who is falling behind everyone else—that isn't the time for you to stay away from other believers, as some are in the habit of doing. That is the very time that you need to come together for the sake of encouragement so you can face your battles more bravely...."

Do you know people who need some encouragement today? Instead of letting the day slip by before you know it, why not take the time right now to call those individuals and encourage them? If you can't call them, how about writing them a note that will help them focus on victory?

Think back to all those moments in your own life when someone came alongside of you to encourage you. Didn't it make a big difference in your life? Now it's your turn to return this blessing to someone else. So determine today to be a real comrade in the Lord to another Christian soldier. Make it your aim to speak words of encouragement to those around you today. If you see someone who is discouraged, or if you know someone who has been struggling in his or her faith, go out of your way to encourage the troops!

QUESTIONS FOR YOU TO CONSIDER

Have you been so focused on your own challenges that you've failed to recognize the needs of others who are around you?

Can you think of some people in your life who need encouragement and extra strength today?

Can you make a list of practical ways you can reach out to encourage these individuals and let them know you are thinking of them today? Sparkling Gems from the Greek.

Ps 25:4 — Show me Your ways, O Lord; teach me Your paths.

Ps 25:5 — Guide me in Your truth and faithfulness and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; for You [You only and altogether] do I wait [expectantly] all the day long.

Ps 32:9 — Be not like the horse or the mule, which lack understanding, which must have their mouths held firm with bit and bridle, or else they will not come with you.

Ps 143:10 — Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God; let Your good Spirit lead me into a level country and into the land of uprightness.

Isa 49:2 — And He has made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of His hand has He hid me and made me a polished arrow; in His quiver has He kept me close and concealed me.

Isa 50:4 — [The Servant of God says] The Lord God has given Me the tongue of a disciple and of one who is taught, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him who is weary. He wakens Me morning by morning, He wakens My ear to hear as a disciple [as one who is taught].

Jer 1:9 — Then the Lord put forth His hand and touched my mouth. And the Lord said to me, Behold, I have put My words in your mouth.

Mt 10:19 — But when they deliver you up, do not be anxious about how or what you are to speak; for what you are to say will be given you in that very hour and moment,

Mt 10:20 — For it is not you who are speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

Mk 13:11 — Now when they take you [to court] and put you under arrest, do not be anxious beforehand about what you are to say nor [even] meditate about it; but say whatever is given you in that hour and at the moment, for it is not you who will be speaking, but the Holy Spirit.

Lk 11:1 — THEN HE was praying in a certain place; and when He stopped, one of His disciples said to Him, Lord, teach us to pray, [just] as John taught his disciples. **Lk 12:11** — And when they bring you before the synagogues and the magistrates and the authorities, do not be anxious [beforehand] how you shall reply in defense or what you are to say. **Lk 12:12** — For the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour and moment what [you] ought to say. **Lk 21:14** — Resolve and settle it in your minds not to meditate and prepare beforehand how you are to make your defense and how you will answer. **Lk 21:15** — For I [Myself] will give you a mouth and such utterance and wisdom that all of your foes combined will be unable to stand against or refute.

Jn 14:26 — But the Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengtheners, Standby), the Holy Spirit, Whom the Father will send in My name [in My place, to represent Me and act on My behalf], He will teach you all things. And He will cause you to recall (will remind you of, bring to your remembrance) everything I have told you.

Eph 6:19 — And [pray] also for me, that [freedom of] utterance may be given me, that I may open my mouth to proclaim boldly the mystery of the good news (the Gospel),