



~ Thought For The Day ~

~gathering from the 4 winds~

“come just as you are”

Refresh, Restore, Rebuild = Healing



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Worship Music

[How He Loves Us-David Crowder](#)

[Never Let Go-David Crowder](#)

[Heaven Came Down-David Crowder](#)

[There Will Be A Day-Jeremy Camp](#)

[Healing Hand Of God-Jeremy Camp](#)

[Blessings-Laura Story](#)

Prayer

Lord, I ask You to help me see myself and other Christian brothers and sisters as soldiers in the army of God. Help me develop an attitude of determination that refuses to surrender to hardship or to throw in the towel in the face of difficulty. At the same time that this attitude is being developed inside me, use me to help fortify the same determined attitude in other Christian soldiers who face hostile forces that have come to steal their victory and joy, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Scripture

Exodus 8: 1-32 (AMP)

1 THEN THE Lord said to Moses, Go to Pharaoh and say to him, Thus says the Lord, Let My people go, that they may serve Me. 2 And if you refuse to let them go, behold, I will smite your entire land with frogs; 3 And the river shall swarm with frogs which shall go up and come into your house, into your bedchamber and on your bed, and into the houses of your servants and upon your people, and into your ovens, your kneading bowls, and your dough. 4 And the frogs shall come up on you and on your people and all your servants. 5 And the Lord said to Moses, Say to Aaron, Stretch out your hand with your rod over the rivers, the streams and canals, and over the pools, and cause frogs to come up on the land of Egypt. 6 So Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt, and the frogs came up and covered the land. 7 But the magicians did the same thing with their enchantments and secret arts, and brought up [more] frogs upon the land of Egypt. 8 Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron, and said, Entreat the Lord, that He may take away the frogs from me and my people; and I will let the people go that they may sacrifice to the Lord. 9 Moses said to Pharaoh, Glory over me in this: dictate when I shall pray [to the Lord] for you, your servants, and your people, that the frogs may be destroyed from you and your houses and remain only in the river. 10 And [Pharaoh] said, Tomorrow. [Moses] said, Let it be as you say, that you may know that there is no one like the Lord our God. 11 And the frogs shall depart from you and your houses and from your servants and your people; they shall remain in the river only. 12 So Moses and Aaron went out from Pharaoh, and Moses cried to the Lord [as he had agreed with Pharaoh] concerning the frogs which He had brought against him. 13 And the Lord did according to the word of Moses, and the frogs died out of the houses, out of the courtyards and villages, and out of the fields. 14 [The people] gathered them together in heaps, and the land was loathsome and stank. 15 But when Pharaoh saw that there was temporary relief, he made his heart stubborn and hard and would not listen or heed them, just as the Lord had said. 16 Then the Lord said to Moses, Say to Aaron, Stretch out your rod and strike the dust of the ground, that it may become biting gnats or mosquitoes throughout all the land of Egypt. 17 And they did so; Aaron stretched out his hand with his rod and struck the dust of the earth, and there came biting gnats or mosquitoes on man and beast; all the dust of the land became biting gnats or mosquitoes throughout all the land of Egypt. 18 The magicians tried by their enchantments and secret arts to bring forth gnats or mosquitoes, but they could not; and there were gnats or mosquitoes on man and beast. 19 Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, This is the finger of God! But Pharaoh's heart was hardened and strong and he would not listen to them, just as the Lord had said. 20 Then the Lord said to Moses, Rise up early in the morning and stand before Pharaoh as he comes forth to the water; and say to him, Thus says the Lord, Let My people go, that they may serve Me. 21 Else, if you will not let My people go, behold, I will send swarms [of bloodsucking gadflies] upon you, your servants, and your people, and into your houses; and the houses of the Egyptians shall be full of swarms [of bloodsucking gadflies], and also the ground on which they stand. 22 But on that day I will sever and set apart the land of Goshen in which My people dwell, that no swarms [of gadflies] shall be there, so that you may know that I am the Lord in the midst of the earth. 23 And I will put a division and a sign of deliverance between My people and your people. By tomorrow shall this sign be in evidence. 24 And the Lord did so; and there came heavy and oppressive swarms [of bloodsucking gadflies] into the house of Pharaoh and his servants' houses; and in all of Egypt the land was corrupted and ruined by reason of the great invasion [of gadflies]. 25 And Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron, and said, Go, sacrifice to your God [here] in the land [of Egypt]. 26 And Moses said, It is not suitable or right to do that; for the animals the Egyptians hold sacred and will not permit to be slain are those which we are accustomed to sacrifice to the Lord our God; if we did this before the eyes of the Egyptians, would they not stone us?

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Exodus 8:27-32 (AMP) ..27 We will go a three days' journey into the wilderness and sacrifice to the Lord our God, as He will command us. 28 So Pharaoh said, I will let you go, that you may sacrifice to the Lord your God in the wilderness; only you shall not go very far away. Entreat [your God] for me. 29 Moses said, I go out from you, and I will entreat the Lord that the swarms [of bloodsucking gadflies] may depart from Pharaoh, his servants, and his people tomorrow; only let not Pharaoh deal deceitfully any more in not letting the people go to sacrifice to the Lord. 30 So Moses went out from Pharaoh and entreated the Lord. 31 And the Lord did as Moses had spoken: He removed the swarms [of attacking gadflies] from Pharaoh, from his servants, and his people; there remained not one. 32 But Pharaoh hardened his heart and made it stubborn this time also, nor would he let the people go.

Exodus 8. Plagues of Frogs, Gnats, and Flies

The frog represented Heqt, the Egyptian god of resurrection. At Moses' command, frogs swarmed out of the Nile and filled houses. The magicians again imitated the miracle, but this time Pharaoh was convinced and promised to let Israel go. But he quickly changed his mind.

The third plague was gnats. Moses hit the dust, and it became gnats (mosquitoes) on both man and beast. The magicians tried to imitate this miracle, but failed—in fact, they were convinced that it was of God. They ceased their efforts to oppose Moses and advised Pharaoh to give in.

The fourth plague consisted of swarms of flies that covered the people and filled the houses of the Egyptians. But there were no flies on the Israelites.

Still Pharaoh hardened his heart (vv. 15 , 32). God's purpose was to make Pharaoh repent. But when a man sets himself against God, even God's mercies result in further hardening. (perfect examples of false prophets....the wolves in sheep's clothing....they will act as angels of light, sometimes....always test the spirits....)
(Halley's Bible Handbook; Henry Halley; 2000; Zondervan; Bible History and Commentaries; page 139-141)

Plagues Of Frogs, Lice, and Flies: VV 1-2 The Egyptians worshiped the snakes; and thus, when his rod turned into a serpent, they couldn't kill it. They also worshiped the Nile River as one of their gods because of its life sustaining forces. When it turned to blood, God is striking out at another one of their gods. They also worshiped frogs, and they couldn't kill them because they were held to be sacred. V 9 In other words, "Tell me when you want the frogs gone, so that when it comes to pass, you will know that God did it." V 13-14 He didn't send them back to the river, He just let them die. V 15 " Hardened " in the Hebrew is kabad. He stiffened or heaved his heart. V 16 It's either lice or mosquitoes. V 18 The magicians weren't able to duplicate this plague because life was being created. This was their limit. VV 21-23 From this point on, God is going to make a distinction between the Egyptians and the children of Israel. The plagues are going to come upon the Egyptians, but the children of Israel are going to be spared. V 25 Here Pharaoh is offering the first of the compromises. Satan often offers us compromises. VV 26-27 Because the Egyptians held certain animals to be sacred. Moses knew that if they sacrificed in the land, the Egyptians would be angered and they would be stoned. V 28 The second compromise. (Old Testament Study Guide; The Word For Today; 2005; Chuck Smith; Commentaries; page 27)

Comrades In the Lord Jesus Christ

1 Thessalonians 5:27

Throughout Paul's writings in the New Testament, he uses the word "brethren" when he writes to the churches. This word comes from the Greek word adelphos, which is one of the oldest words in the New Testament. In the King James Version, it is usually translated as the word "brethren." However, it actually has a much deeper meaning than this.

In its very oldest sense, the word adelphos ("brother") was used by physicians in the medical world to describe two people who were born from the same womb. So when the early Greeks addressed each other as "brethren," they meant to convey the idea: "You and I are brothers! We came out of the same womb of humanity. We have the same feelings; we have similar emotions; and we deal with the same problems in life. In every respect, we are truly brothers!"

In part, this was Paul's thinking when he addressed his readers as "brethren." By using this terminology, he brought himself right down to the level of his readers to identify with their position in life and with their personal struggles and victories. They were truly brothers—born from the womb of God, related by the blood of Jesus Christ, and members of the same spiritual family.

But the word "brethren" also had another very significant meaning during New Testament times, a meaning that it doesn't have in our world today. It was used during the time of Alexander the Great to describe faithful soldiers. These fighting men were true brothers, comrades, and partners who were united to fight the same fight, handle the same weapons, and win the same wars!

From time to time, Alexander the Great would hold huge public ceremonies where he would give awards to soldiers who had gone the extra mile in battle. When the most coveted awards were given, Alexander the Great would beckon the most faithful soldiers on stage to stand next to him. Before an audience of adoring soldiers, Alexander would embrace each faithful soldier and publicly declare, "Alexander the Great is proud to be the brother of this soldier!"

That word "brother" was this same Greek word adelphos, but in this instance, it referred to military men who were brothers in battle. This was the highest and greatest compliment that could be given to a soldier during the time of Alexander the Great.

Thus, to be a "brother" meant that a person was a true comrade. Through the thick and thin of battle, these soldiers stood together, achieving a special level of brotherhood known only by those who stay united together in the heat of the fray. This was also part of what Paul had in mind when he wrote to the Early Church.

When Paul called his fellow Christians "brothers," he was telling them:

"In addition to being blood brothers, we are all in a similar fight, slugging it out against the same enemy—and this common fight makes us real comrades...."

I'm sure that Paul's readers were probably struggling in their personal lives, just as we do today, but they hadn't given up the fight. They were still on the front lines, slugging it out and plodding along, one step at a time. They were the kind of believers who are worth knowing and worthy to be called brothers because they possessed an ongoing commitment to stay faithful in the battle and committed to the cause.

No matter how well or how badly these believers were doing in the midst of their fight, at least they were still fighting! Others had given up, but they had not. As long as they remained faithful to the fight and refused to relinquish their stand of faith, Paul viewed them as exceptionally fine soldiers—the kind of soldiers anyone would be happy to associate with!

The word "brother" emphatically declares that it's not really how well you fight in life that counts. What really counts is that you keep on fighting! So don't give up on yourself, and don't give up on those believers around you who seem to be struggling. As long as they keep on trying—as long as they stay in the battle—they're worthy of your friendship! You should be proud to be associated with people of such a spiritual caliber!

QUESTIONS FOR YOU TO CONSIDER

Can you name five people who have been real "comrades" in your life?

In your mind, what qualifies a person to be a bona fide friend?

What practical things can you do to become a better friend to those you love, and how can you start this process today?

Sparkling Gems from the Greek.

Go.....Jer 1:17-19 — But you [Jeremiah], gird up your loins! Arise and tell them all that I command you. Do not be dismayed and break down at the sight of their faces, lest I confound you before them and permit you to be overcome. 18 For I, behold, I have made you this day a fortified city and an iron pillar and bronze walls against the whole land—against the [successive] kings of Judah, against its princes, against its priests, and against the people of the land [giving you divine strength which no hostile power can overcome]. 19 And they shall fight against you, but they shall not [finally] prevail against you, for I am with you, says the Lord, to deliver you.Jer 15:19-21 — Therefore thus says the Lord [to Jeremiah]: If you return [and give up this mistaken tone of distrust and despair], then I will give you again a settled place of quiet and safety, and you will be My minister; and if you separate the precious from the vile [cleansing your own heart from unworthy and unwarranted suspicions concerning God's faithfulness], you shall be My mouthpiece. [But do not yield to them.] Let them return to you—not you to [the people]. 20 And I will make you to this people a fortified, bronze wall; they will fight against you, but they will not prevail over you, for I am with you to save and deliver you, says the Lord. 21 And I will deliver you out of the hands of the wicked, and I will redeem you out of the palms of the terrible and ruthless tyrants.

Eze 2:6 — And you, son of man, be not afraid of them, neither be afraid of their words; though briars and thorns are all around you and you dwell and sit among scorpions, be not afraid of their words nor be dismayed at their looks, for they are a rebellious house.

..Eze 2:7 — And you shall speak My words to them whether they will hear or refuse to hear, for they are most rebellious.

Let my....Ex 3:12 — God said, I will surely be with you; and this shall be the sign to you that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain [Horeb, or Sinai]. ...Ex 3:18 — And [the elders] shall believe and obey your voice; and you shall go, you and the elders of Israel, to the king of Egypt and you shall say to him, The Lord, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us; and now let us go, we beseech you, three days' journey into the wilderness, that we may sacrifice to the Lord our God. ..Ex 5:1 — AFTERWARD MOSES and Aaron went in and told Pharaoh, Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, Let My people go, that they may hold a feast to Me in the wilderness. ...Ex 7:16 — And say to him, The Lord, the God of the Hebrews has sent me to you, saying, Let My people go, that they may serve Me in the wilderness; and behold, heretofore you have not listened.

(AMP Bible; The Everyday Life Bible; Joyce Meyers; Scripture; Commentaries; Past Pastor Sermons; Dictionary; 2006; pages 98-100) (Word 9 Bible Software; 2010; Concordance, Dictionary, Scripture, Sermons of Saints past, Maps, Devotionals; Sparkling Gems From The Greek)