



~ 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 give me Your heart for brothers and sisters who are living in sin. Forgive me for the times I have been insensitive to the dangerous nature of sin. Help me to be passionate and fervent in prayer for them and to keep praying for them until their deliverance is complete and they are fully restored. Help me consider the way I would want others to pray for me if I were in the same situation, and open a door for me to speak to them, and always that it is done in love, in Jesus' name. Amen....

Scripture

Exodus 9: 1-35 (AMP)

1 THEN THE Lord said to Moses, Go to Pharaoh and tell him, Thus says the Lord God of the Hebrews: Let My people go, that they may serve Me. 2 If you refuse to let them go and still hold them, 3 Behold, the hand of the Lord [will fall] upon your livestock which are out in the field, upon the horses, the donkeys, the camels, the herds and the flocks; there shall be a very severe plague. 4 But the Lord shall make a distinction between the livestock of Israel and the livestock of Egypt, and nothing shall die of all that belongs to the Israelites. 5 And the Lord set a time, saying, Tomorrow the Lord will do this thing in the land. 6 And the Lord did that the next day, and all [kinds of] the livestock of Egypt died; but of the livestock of the Israelites not one died. 7 Pharaoh sent to find out, and behold, there was not one of the cattle of the Israelites dead. But the heart of Pharaoh was hardened [his mind was set] and he did not let the people go. 8 The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, Take handfuls of ashes or soot from the brick kiln and let Moses sprinkle them toward the heavens in the sight of Pharaoh. 9 And it shall become small dust over all the land of Egypt, and become boils breaking out in sores on man and beast in all the land [occupied by the Egyptians]. 10 So they took ashes or soot of the kiln and stood before Pharaoh; and Moses threw them toward the sky, and it became boils erupting in sores on man and beast. 11 And the magicians could not stand before Moses because of their boils; for the boils were on the magicians and all the Egyptians. 12 But the Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh, making it strong and obstinate, and he did not listen to them or heed them, just as the Lord had told Moses. 13 Then the Lord said to Moses, Rise up early in the morning and stand before Pharaoh and say to him, Thus says the Lord, the God of the Hebrews, Let My people go, that they may serve Me. 14 For this time I will send all My plagues upon your heart and upon your servants and your people, that you may recognize and know that there is none like Me in all the earth. 15 For by now I could have put forth My hand and have struck you and your people with pestilence, and you would have been cut off from the earth. 16 But for this very purpose have I let you live, that I might show you My power, and that My name may be declared throughout all the earth. 17 Since you are still exalting yourself [in haughty defiance] against My people by not letting them go, 18 Behold, tomorrow about this time I will cause it to rain a very heavy and dreadful fall of hail, such as has not been in Egypt from its founding until now. 19 Send therefore now and gather your cattle in hastily, and all that you have in the field; for every man and beast that is in the field and is not brought home shall be struck by the hail and shall die. 20 Then he who feared the word of the Lord among the servants of Pharaoh made his servants and his livestock flee into the houses and shelters. 21 And he who ignored the word of the Lord left his servants and his livestock in the field. 22 The Lord said to Moses, Stretch forth your hand toward the heavens, that there may be hail in all the land of Egypt, upon man and beast, and upon all the vegetation of the field, throughout the land of Egypt. 23 Then Moses stretched forth his rod toward the heavens, and the Lord sent thunder and hail, and fire [lightning] ran down to and along the ground, and the Lord rained hail upon the land of Egypt. 24 So there was hail and fire flashing continually in the midst of the weighty hail, such as had not been in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation. 25 The hail struck down throughout all the land of Egypt everything that was in the field, both man and beast; and the hail beat down all the vegetation of the field and shattered every tree of the field. 26 Only in the land of Goshen, where the Israelites were, was there no hail. 27 And Pharaoh sent for Moses and Aaron, and said to them, I have sinned this time; the Lord is in the right and I and my people are in the wrong. 28 Entreat the Lord, for there has been enough of these mighty thunderings and hail [these voices of God]; I will let you go; you shall stay here no longer. 29 Moses said to him, As soon as I leave the city, I will stretch out my hands to the Lord; the thunder shall cease, neither shall there be any more hail, that you may know that the earth is the Lord's.

30 But as for you and your servants, I know that you do not yet [reverently] fear the Lord God. 31 The flax and the barley were smitten and ruined, for the barley was in the ear and the flax in bloom. 32 But the wheat and spelt [another wheat] were not smitten, for they ripen late and were not grown up yet. 33 So Moses left the city and Pharaoh, and stretched forth his hands to the Lord; and the thunder and hail ceased, and rain was no longer poured upon the earth. 34 But when Pharaoh saw that the rain, the hail, and the thunder had ceased, he sinned yet more, and toughened and stiffened his hard heart, he and his servants. 35 So Pharaoh's heart was strong and obstinate; he would not let the Israelites go, just as the Lord had said by Moses.

Exodus 9. Plague on Livestock; Boils; Hail

The plague on Egypt's livestock was a terrible blow at Egyptian gods. The bull was a chief god. Again there is a distinction between Egyptians and Israelites: the Egyptians' livestock died in vast numbers, but not one of those belonging to Israelites. "All" in v. 6 refers to the livestock of the Egyptians that were left in the fields. Moses gave them until the next day (v. 5) so that God-fearing Egyptians had time to move their livestock out of danger. Verses 19–21 refer to livestock that survived. The boils, the sixth plague, came on both man and beast, and even on the magicians, from ashes which Moses sprinkled into the air.

Before the seventh plague came and hail fell, a merciful warning was again extended to God-fearing Egyptians to drive their cattle to cover. Again there is a distinction between Egyptians and Israelites: no hail fell in Goshen.

By this time the people of Egypt had become convinced (10:7). The sudden appearance and disappearance of the plagues, at the word of Moses, on such a vast scale, were accepted as evident miracles from God. But Pharaoh hesitated because of the immense economic impact the loss of his slave labor would have—Israelite labor had contributed greatly to Egypt's rise to power.

It is not known how long a period the 10 plagues covered. Pharaoh, no doubt, would have killed Moses had he dared. But with each new plague, Moses' prestige went up and up (11:3).

(Halley's Bible Handbook; Henry Halley; 2000; Zondervan; Bible History & Commentaries; page 141)

Livestock Disease, Boils, and Hail: V 1 The sixth demand. V 3 " Grievous murrain " is a type of boil. V 6 Only the Egyptian's cattle died; however, this verse doesn't necessarily mean that their entire stock was wiped out. V 8 This is another plague that comes on the pharaoh unannounced. V 13 The seventh demand. V 16 This verse speaks of the sovereignty of God. Even though God is sovereign, we are also responsible for our actions. VV 27-28 We have now a confession of sin, but it was insincere. With a confession of sin there must be a real repentance, a turning away from sin in order that there be forgiveness. Confession in and of itself is not enough. (Old Testament Study Guide; The Word For Today; 2005; Chuck Smith; Commentaries; pages 27-28)

A Time To Forcefully Speak the Truth in Love

Jude 1:23

What does the Bible say about how we should respond to believers who continue to practice sin? If you are personally aware of individuals like this, what steps or action should you take to rescue him or her?

What attitude does God expect you to have regarding these people's sin?

What kind of action does God expect you to take to see them delivered?

What approach should you take regarding the sin they are living in?

What is the proper outlook for you to have concerning their situation?

The answer to these questions is found in Jude 1:23. In this verse, Jude compellingly tells us, "And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire...."

First of all, Jude tells us to "save [them] with fear." This word "fear" is the Greek word phobos. It suggests a fear or a strong dose of respect for something that is life-threatening, dangerous, or alarming. Because Jude uses this key Greek word, it tells us what kind of attitude we should have regarding sin. Sin is dangerous, alarming, and even life-threatening to a person's spiritual life. Therefore, sin must not be tolerated, nor should the effects of sin be watered down. In short, we should have no stomach for sin.

Next, Jude 1:23 tells us what action we must take when we find a fellow believer who is getting caught up in sin. This verse tells us that we must act fast to "pull them out of the fire." The word "pull" comes from the Greek word harpadzo. This is an extremely strong and aggressive word that presents the picture of snatching someone out of a dangerous situation. In fact, it would be better translated to seize. The word harpadzo is the very word used in Colossians 1:13 when Paul writes, "Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear son." That word "delivered" is also from the Greek word harpadzo. In Colossians 1:13, this word portrays that moment when Jesus Christ broke Satan's power over our lives and snatched us out of the kingdom of darkness. One Greek expositor says the word harpadzo in Colossians 1:13 carries this idea: "He grabbed us by the back of our necks and snatched us out of danger, just in the nick of time...." This Greek word harpadzo contains passion, fervency, urgency, and action. Because these words are used in Jude 1:23, it could be translated: "Because of the alarmingly dangerous state

that some believers are in, I urge you to take immediate and fast-acting measures to see them delivered and rescued. And if they don't quickly respond, don't stop! You need to keep up your sense of urgency until you are convinced that they are rescued and snatched out of the fires of destruction. If you must, go all the way to grab them by the back of their necks and jerk them out of those flames...." (sometimes also though, you just have to let them go, and let God, it is pearls before swine, you deliver the message if they throw you out, than nothing you say will change it.....than you give it to God let Him work, you may have been sent to plant a seed in them, and than God will send someone else to add to it....this does not mean you are condoning their sin, you have delivered the message, NO where does it say you have to agree with them, but still we are to love our neighbor as our self and pray for them.)

Jude uses the word harpadzo to tell you that sometimes people are so deceived about what they're doing, they don't want to change. Even if you tell them that they are headed for trouble, they may not believe it! In these cases, your sweet words and tender pleading with them may not work. That means you may have to get forceful in the way you tell these people the truth. Your words must reach out and seize their hearts. (sometimes it is also a silent witness; the testimony of how we live and they see it, and than because of that they may ask questions; how do you do that.....or how can I get a life like that....I have had that happen a few times with people, that knew my past life, and my actions.....in one it took over 20 years to know, but that person did come to Jesus.)

Think back for a minute to Lot, the nephew of Abraham. Lot got so caught up in the sin of Sodom and Gomorrah that when the angels told him the two cities were about to be destroyed, he wanted to stay anyway! The angels had to take him by the hand and make him leave! They had to forcibly remove him from that situation; otherwise, he would have been destroyed. The angels literally dragged Lot out of the city against his will (Genesis 19:16).

Likewise, we must do everything within our power to snatch people from spiritually dangerous predicaments. Although they may not feel the heat of the fire at the moment or realize the seriousness of their spiritual condition, we must speak forcefully and truthfully to them in order to seize their hearts and set them free.

We're not in the business of kidnapping people or taking them out of situations against their will. But we are to pray for fellow believers who are caught in sin and don't realize the dangerous nature of their situation. We must also go to them and do all we can to "pull them out of the fires" of destruction they're about to release into their lives.

If you know someone who is drifting away from his relationship with the Lord, pray for a door to open that will allow you to speak the truth in love and pull him out of impending destruction. Just think about it—if you were the one about to make a major spiritual error, wouldn't you want your true friends to speak the truth in love to you? So believe God for an open door. He'll show you how and when to speak the truth.

QUESTIONS FOR YOU TO CONSIDER: Is there anyone in your life right now who comes to mind as someone who is in danger of being consumed in the "fire" of sin? Realizing the seriousness of sin and deception, how would you want someone to confront you if you were in that person's situation? In what ways could God use you to bring the truth in love to this person in order to set him or her free? Sparkling Gems from the Greek.

Pr 27:1 — DO NOT boast of [yourself and] tomorrow, for you know not what a day may bring forth.

Jas 4:14 — Yet you do not know [the least thing] about what may happen tomorrow. What is the nature of your life? You are [really] but a wisp of vapor (a puff of smoke, a mist) that is visible for a little while and then disappears [into thin air].

Ex 9:14 — For this time I will send all My plagues upon your heart and upon your servants and your people, that you may recognize and know that there is none like Me in all the earth. Ex 9:29 — Moses said to him, As soon as I leave the city, I will stretch out my hands to the Lord; the thunder shall cease, neither shall there be any more hail, that you may know that the earth is the Lord's. Ex 15:11 — Who is like You, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like You, glorious in holiness, awesome in splendor, doing wonders?

Dt 32:31 — For their rock is not like our Rock, even our enemies themselves judge this. Dt 33:26 — There is none like God, O Jeshurun [Israel], Who rides through the heavens to your help and in His majestic glory through the skies. 2Sa 7:22 — Therefore You are great, O Lord God; for none is like You, nor is there any God besides You, according to all [You have made] our ears to hear. 1Ch 17:20 — O Lord, there is none like You, nor is there any God beside You, according to all that our ears have heard.

Ps 9:16 — The Lord has made Himself known; He executes judgment; the wicked are snared in the work of their own hands. Higgaiion [meditation]. Selah [pause, and calmly think of that]! Ps 83:18 — That they may know that You, Whose name alone is the Lord, are the Most High over all the earth. Ps 86:8 — There is none like unto You among the gods, O Lord, neither are their works like unto Yours. Ps 89:6-8 — For who in the heavens can be compared to the Lord? Who among the mighty [heavenly beings] can be likened to the Lord, 7 A God greatly feared and revered in the council of the holy (angelic) ones, and to be feared and worshipfully revered above all those who are round about Him? 8 O Lord God of hosts, who is a mighty one like unto You, O Lord? And Your faithfulness is round about You [an essential part of You at all times].

(AMP Bible; The Everyday Life Bible; Joyce Meyers; Scripture; Commentaries; Past Pastor Sermons; Dictionary; 2006; pages 100-102) (Word 9 Bible Software; 2010; Concordance, Dictionary, Scripture, Sermons of Saints past, Maps, Devotionals; Sparkling Gems From The Greek)