



~ Thought For The Day ~

~gathering from the 4 winds~

“come just as you are”

Refresh, Restore, Rebuild = Healing



Vol. 18 Issue 345

Jan. 24, 2012

Worship Music

[I Still Believe-
Crystal Lewis](#)

[Beauty For Ashes-
Praise Hymn Tracks](#)

[For Such A Time As
This-Crystal Lewis](#)

[I Will Go-Crystal Lewis](#)

[Seasons Change-
Crystal Lewis](#)

[More-Crystal Lewis](#)

Radio Stations

[KWVE ...Calvary Chapel](#)

[KLOV](#)

Bible Study Sites

[Chuck Smith
Through The Bible](#)

[Bob Coy/Teachings](#)

[Mike MacIntosh](#)

[Jon Courson](#)

[Biblos.com](#)

[Billy Graham](#)

[Charles Stanley](#)

[David Wilkerson](#)

[Greg Laurie](#)

[Virtue for Women-
Cathe Laurie](#)

Prayer

Lord, Your Word says nothing is impossible to those who believe, so I am releasing my faith in Your promises. I fully believe that what You did for those faithful believers, You will also do for me. Lord help me to have victory over the challenges I face in life. I know that many have faced the same battles I'm facing and victoriously won their fight. Help me in my battle, and fill me with how to be triumphant ,for where You guide You provide, just as the past saints were triumphant in their battles, help me to overcome. Lord I ask, that through You that my battles are won, I ask that I have victory that I, over come through You in me. Lead me and guide me in all Your ways, so that I walk in You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Scripture

Exodus 10: 1-29 (AMP)

1 THE LORD said to Moses, Go to Pharaoh, for I have made his heart hard, and his servants' hearts, that I might show these My signs [of divine power] before him, 2 And that you may recount in the ears of your son and of your grandson what I have done in derision of the Egyptians and what things I have [repeatedly] done there—My signs [of divine power] done among them—that you may recognize and know that I am the Lord. 3 So Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh, and said to him, Thus says the Lord, the God of the Hebrews, How long will you refuse to humble yourself before Me? Let My people go, that they may serve Me. 4 For if you refuse to let My people go, behold, tomorrow I will bring locusts into your country. 5 And they shall cover the land so that one cannot see the ground; and they shall eat the remainder of what escaped and is left to you from the hail, and they shall eat every tree of yours that grows in the field; 6 The locusts shall fill your houses and those of all your servants and of all the Egyptians, as neither your fathers nor your fathers' fathers have seen from their birth until this day. Then Moses departed from Pharaoh. 7 And Pharaoh's servants said to him, How long shall this man be a snare to us? Let the men go, that they may serve the Lord their God; do you not yet understand and know that Egypt is destroyed? 8 So Moses and Aaron were brought again to Pharaoh; and he said to them, Go, serve the Lord your God; but just who are to go? 9 And Moses said, We will go with our young and our old, with our sons and our daughters, with our flocks and our herds [all of us and all we have], for we must hold a feast to the Lord. 10 Pharaoh said to them, Let the Lord be with you, if I ever let you go with your little ones! See, you have some evil purpose in mind. 11 Not so! You that are men, [without your families] go and serve the Lord, for that is what you want. And [Moses and Aaron] were driven from Pharaoh's presence. 12 Then the Lord said to Moses, Stretch out your hand over the land of Egypt for the locusts, that they may come up on the land of Egypt and eat all the vegetation of the land, all that the hail has left. 13 And Moses stretched forth his rod over the land of Egypt, and the Lord brought an east wind upon the land all that day and all that night; when it was morning, the east wind brought the locusts. 14 And the locusts came up over all the land of Egypt and settled down on the whole country of Egypt, a very dreadful mass of them; never before were there such locusts as these, nor will there ever be again. 15 For they covered the whole land, so that the ground was darkened, and they ate every bit of vegetation of the land and all the fruit of the trees which the hail had left; there remained not a green thing of the trees or the plants of the field in all the land of Egypt. 16 Then Pharaoh sent for Moses and Aaron in haste. He said, I have sinned against the Lord your God and you. 17 Now therefore forgive my sin, I pray you, only this once, and entreat the Lord your God only that He may remove from me this [plague of] death. 18 Then Moses left Pharaoh and entreated the Lord. 19 And the Lord turned a violent west wind, which lifted the locusts and drove them into the Red Sea; not one locust remained in all the country of Egypt. 20 But the Lord made Pharaoh's heart more strong and obstinate, and he would not let the Israelites go. 21 And the Lord said to Moses, Stretch out your hand toward the heavens, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, a darkness which may be felt. 22 So Moses stretched out his hand toward the sky, and for three days a thick darkness was all over the land of Egypt. 23 The Egyptians could not see one another, nor did anyone rise from his place for three days; but all the Israelites had natural light in their dwellings. 24 And Pharaoh called to Moses, and said, Go, serve the Lord; let your little ones also go with you; it is only your flocks and your herds that must not go. 25 But Moses said, You must give into our hand also sacrifices and burnt offerings, that we may sacrifice to the Lord our God. 26 Our livestock also shall go with us; there shall not a hoof be left behind; for of them must we take to serve the Lord our God, and we know not with what we must serve the Lord until we arrive there. 27 But the Lord made Pharaoh's heart stronger and more stubborn, and he would not let

them go. 28 And Pharaoh said to Moses, Get away from me! See that you never enter my presence again, for the day you see my face again you shall die! 29 And Moses said, You have spoken truly; I will never see your face again.

Exodus 10. Plagues of Locusts, Darkness

Locusts were one of the worst of the plagues. They came in vast clouds and would eat every green thing. At night they would cover the ground in layers to a depth of four or five inches. When mashed, the smell would be unbearable. The mere threat of a locust plague caused Pharaoh's officials to beg him to yield (v. 7).

The plague of darkness was a direct blow at Ra, or Re, Egypt's sun god. There was midnight darkness over Egypt for three days, but lig Locust.

"[The locusts] covered all the ground until it was black. They devoured all that was left after the hail—everything growing in the fields and the fruit on the trees. Nothing green remained on tree or plant in all the land of Egypt." This description in Exodus 10:5 is not an exaggeration. A swarm of locusts can indeed darken the sun and strip an entire area of anything green in a very short time. ht where Israelites dwelt. Pharaoh yielded—but again changed his mind.

(Halley's Bible Handbook; Henry Halley; 2000; Zondervan; Bible History and Commentaries; page 141-142)

Locusts and Darkness: VV 1-2 The Lord's been doing these things up to this point to let Pharaoh know who He is. But here's and interesting twist: God wanted Moses and Aaron to know that He was Lord, that they might rehearse these things to their children. VV 10-11 Pharaoh is offering another compromise. " Look, you can go, but let your children stay. It's going to be tough out there in the wilderness and all. Don't subject your children to that." How many times Satan says, "hey, you don't want to rob your kids from fun. If you want to make your commitment to the Lord and you want to live a life of dedication to God, that's all right for you if you're going to do it. But don't put that kind of a trip on your kids. You don't want them to be thought of as weird or whatever. So let them go ahead and do the things with the other kids so that they're not thought of as different. Go, but don't take your children with you." VV 16-17 The confession of sin, and asking them to pray for him. Again, an insincere confession of sin. V 24 The last compromise that he suggests , " Go serve God, but don't take your possessions; let your flocks and herds remain. Give yourself, but don't give your possessions to God." V 26 In other words, " We don't know what the Lord our God will ask us to give to Him. We don't know what sacrifice He's going to require in the future, so we've got to take everything in order that we might be prepared for whatever God might call upon us to sacrifice unto Him.

(Old Testament Study Guide; The Word For Today, Chuck Smith; 2005; Commentaries; page 28)

You Are Never Alone!

Hebrews 12:1

At times you may have wondered, Has anyone else ever experienced the kinds of problems I'm experiencing right now, or am I out here all alone?

No, you're not alone! Hebrews 11 records the remarkable feats of faith accomplished by various people in the Old Testament. These were people who had to fight and struggle as they waited for the object of their faith to manifest. Their walk of faith was a great, great challenge.

Because these Old Testament saints stayed with what God had told them to do and never gave up, they eventually saw His blessings begin to operate in their lives. Nevertheless, nearly all of them endured great, difficult hardships and challenges before their victory came.

To let us know that we're not alone in our own walk of faith, the writer of Hebrews says, "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us" (Hebrews 12:1).

Notice that it says, "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses...." The phrase "compassed about" is taken from the word peikeimenai, which is a compound of the words peri and keimai. The word peri means around or to be completely encircled by something. The second part of the word keimai means to lie down. When these two words are compounded into one word, they mean to lie around, as if something has been piled high and is lying all around you on every side. This is the portrayal of being completely encircled by something that is stacked high on every side!

Therefore, this verse carries the following idea:

"Wherefore seeing we have lying all around us on every side...."

"Wherefore seeing these biblical examples are piled up and lying all around us...."

The Bible is piled high with examples of people—people just like you— who stood in faith and endured difficulties in order to do the will of God. You are surrounded on every side with powerful examples of people who were challenged in their faith, yet who held fast to the Word of God. And as a result, these godly people saw God's promises come to pass in their lives!

You are not alone!

Look at Noah and the fight he endured.

Look at Abraham and the fight he endured.

Look at Sarah and the fight she endured.

Look at Jacob and the fight he endured.

Look at Joseph and the fight he endured.

Look at Moses and the fight he endured.

Look at Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and the prophets and the fight they all endured.

Take some time today to read some of these examples from the Old Testament—and then turn to the New Testament to see the many examples of faithful people who are also listed there. The Bible is packed full of examples of those who heard from God, who took His Word deep into their hearts, and who refused to stop until they saw the fulfillment of what God had promised them. Like you, they faced hardships and challenges. But no matter what obstacles stood in their way, they kept going and never stopped until God's plan for their lives was accomplished.

According to Hebrews 12:1, there are so many people who fit this description that they are literally lying all around you. And don't think you can only look to the Bible for these godly examples. If you look closely, you'll see that there are huge numbers of these "never-give-up" kind of people living on this earth right now as well. You are not alone in your walk of faith!

Don't let the devil tell you that you're the only one who has faced this kind of circumstance, because many have gone before you who have faced the same battles and won great victories. If you'll commit a few minutes of your time to read Hebrews 11, I believe you'll find that your battle isn't worse than the battles these saints fought and won. Reading these verses will encourage your heart!

Don't give up and throw in the towel! Hard times will pass, and you will see the Word of God bring you the victory you desire. When you're tempted to get discouraged, just remember the many examples piled up all around you of people who endured and later won their prize!

QUESTIONS FOR YOU TO CONSIDER

What are some of your past victories that you can encourage yourself with as you fight your current fight of faith?

In each of those past struggles, what helped you to stay in the fight until you won?

List some examples of people in your life and in the Bible who held fast to God's promises as they faced great difficulties until their victory was finally won. Sparkling Gems from the Greek.

Ex 4:21 — 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.

Ex 7:13 — But Pharaoh's heart was hardened and stubborn and he would not listen to them, just as the Lord had said.

Ex 7:14 — Then the Lord said to Moses, Pharaoh's heart is hard and stubborn; he refuses to let the people go.

Ex 9:27 — 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.

Ex 9:34 — 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.

Ex 9:35 — So Pharaoh's heart was strong and obstinate; he would not let the Israelites go, just as the Lord had said by Moses.

Ps 7:11 — God is a righteous Judge, yes, a God Who is indignant every day.

(AMP Bible; The Everyday Life Bible; Joyce Meyers; Scripture; Commentaries; Past Pastor Sermons; Dictionary; 2006; pgs 102-103)
(Word 9 Bible Software; 2010; Concordance, Dictionary, Scripture, Sermons of Saints past, Maps, Devotionals; Sparkling Gems From The Greek)