



~ Thought For The Day ~

~gathering from the 4 winds~

“come just as you are”

Refresh, Restore, Rebuild = Healing



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Prayer

Lord, as I take a stand of faith in response to that word I have received from You for my life, I realize that Satan may try to use negative thoughts to war against my mind. Thank You for alerting me to the fact that the devil may even try to use people and circumstances to thwart Your plan for my life. But I also thank You that Satan cannot stop Your plan from coming to pass! With Your Spirit illuminating my mind, I know I will be able to discern the attacks of the enemy and successfully resist each and every attack, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Scripture

Exodus 12: 1-51 (AMP)

1 THE LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, 2 This month shall be to you the beginning of months, the first month of the year to you. 3 Tell all the congregation of Israel, On the tenth day of this month they shall take every man a lamb or kid, according to [the size of] the family of which he is the father, a lamb or kid for each house. 4 And if the household is too small to consume the lamb, let him and his next door neighbor take it according to the number of persons, every man according to what each can eat shall make your count for the lamb. 5 Your lamb or kid shall be without blemish, a male of the first year; you shall take it from the sheep or the goats. 6 And you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month; and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall [each] kill [his] lamb in the evening. 7 They shall take of the blood and put it on the two side posts and on the lintel [above the door space] of the houses in which they shall eat [the Passover lamb]. 8 They shall eat the flesh that night roasted; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it. 9 Eat not of it raw nor boiled at all with water, but roasted—its head, its legs, and its inner parts. 10 You shall let nothing of the meat remain until the morning; and the bones and unedible bits which remain of it until morning you shall burn with fire. 11 And you shall eat it thus: [as fully prepared for a journey] your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it in haste. It is the Lord's Passover. 12 For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment [proving their helplessness]. I am the Lord. 13 The blood shall be for a token or sign to you upon [the doorposts of] the houses where you are, [that] when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall be upon you to destroy you when I smite the land of Egypt. 14 And this day shall be to you for a memorial. You shall keep it as a feast to the Lord throughout your generations, keep it as an ordinance forever. 15 [In celebration of the Passover in future years] seven days shall you eat unleavened bread; even the first day you shall put away leaven [symbolic of corruption] out of your houses; for whoever eats leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel. 16 On the first day you shall hold a solemn and holy assembly, and on the seventh day there shall be a solemn and holy assembly; no kind of work shall be done in them, save [preparation of] that which every person must eat—that only may be done by you. 17 And you shall observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread, for on this very day have I brought your hosts out of the land of Egypt; therefore shall you observe this day throughout your generations as an ordinance forever. 18 In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at evening, you shall eat unleavened bread [and continue] until the twenty-first day of the month at evening. 19 Seven days no leaven [symbolic of corruption] shall be found in your houses; whoever eats what is leavened shall be excluded from the congregation of Israel, whether a stranger or native-born. 20 You shall eat nothing leavened; in all your dwellings you shall eat unleavened bread [during that week]. 21 Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel, and said to them, Go forth, select and take a lamb according to your families and kill the Passover [lamb]. 22 And you shall take a bunch of hyssop, dip it in the blood in the basin, and touch the lintel above the door and the two side posts with the blood; and none of you shall go out of his house until morning. 23 For the Lord will pass through to slay the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood upon the lintel and the two side posts, the Lord will pass over the door and will not allow the destroyer to come into your houses to slay you. 24 You shall observe this rite for an ordinance to you and to your sons forever. 25 When you come to the land which the Lord will give you, as He has promised, you shall keep this service. 26 When your children shall say to you, What do you mean by this service? 27 You shall say, It is the sacrifice of the Lord's Passover, for He

passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt when He slew the Egyptians but spared our houses. And the people bowed their heads and worshiped. 28 The Israelites went and, as the Lord had commanded Moses and Aaron, so they did. 29 At midnight the Lord slew every firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the prisoner in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of the livestock. 30 Pharaoh rose up in the night, he, all his servants, and all the Egyptians; and there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was not a house where there was not one dead. 31 He called for Moses and Aaron by night, and said, Rise up, get out from among my people, both you and the Israelites; and go, serve the Lord, as you said. 32 Also take your flocks and your herds, as you have said, and be gone! And [ask your God to] bless me also. 33 The Egyptians were urgent with the people to depart, that they might send them out of the land in haste; for they said, We are all dead men. 34 The people took their dough before it was leavened, their kneading bowls being bound up in their clothes on their shoulders. 35 The Israelites did according to the word of Moses; and they [urgently] asked of the Egyptians jewels of silver and of gold, and clothing. 36 The Lord gave the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they gave them what they asked. And they stripped the Egyptians [of those things]. 37 The Israelites journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about 600,000 men on foot, besides women and children. 38 And a mixed multitude went also with them, and very much livestock, both flocks and herds. 39 They baked unleavened cakes of the dough which they brought from Egypt; it was not leavened because they were driven from Egypt and could not delay, nor had they prepared for themselves any food. 40 Now the time the Israelites dwelt in Egypt was 430 years. 41 At the end of the 430 years, even that very day, all the hosts of the Lord went out of Egypt. 42 It was a night of watching unto the Lord and to be much observed for bringing them out of Egypt; this same night of watching unto the Lord is to be observed by all the Israelites throughout their generations. 43 The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, This is the ordinance of the Passover: No foreigner shall eat of it; 44 But every man's servant who is bought for money, when you have circumcised him, then may he eat of it. 45 A foreigner or hired servant shall not eat of it. 46 In one house shall it be eaten [by one company]; you shall not carry any of the flesh outside the house; neither shall you break a bone of it. 47 All the congregation of Israel shall keep it. 48 When a stranger sojourning with you wishes to keep the Passover to the Lord, let all his males be circumcised, and then let him come near and keep it; and he shall be as one that is born in the land. But no uncircumcised person shall eat of it. 49 There shall be one law for the native-born and for the stranger or foreigner who sojourns among you. 50 Thus did all the Israelites; as the Lord commanded Moses and Aaron, so did they. 51 And on that very day the Lord brought the Israelites out of the land of Egypt by their hosts.

The Passover; VV 1-2 God is going to bring them into a new relationship with Himself and they're going to start counting their life from this point. V 7 Notice the blood was to be stricken on the side posts and on the upper doorposts—not on the threshold. The blood of this lamb is actually symbolic of the blood of Jesus Christ, which is never to be trampled under foot (Hebrews 10:29-30). VV 8-11 They were to stuff themselves when they ate this lamb. They're going to make their flight and are going to need all of the reserve, strength, and energy that they can store up. So they're to eat the whole thing. V 12 God is declaring that the purpose of these plagues has been that He might execute His judgment against all of the gods of Egypt. VV 13=14 The blood was protective—a seal for that house, a token. When God saw the blood on the door posts. He would pass over that house and the firstborn would not die. However, whatever house did not have the blood over the doorposts and on the sideposts of the house the firstborn in that house would be slain. The only protection and the only salvation was through the blood; no other hope, no other way, no other salvation except through the blood applied by faith. God is saying that to us today, as far as life and death is concerned. When He sees the blood of Jesus Christ applied to your heart, He passes over you. You've passed from death unto life. " Whosoever liveth and believeth in Me." Jesus said; "shall never die" (John 11:26). No longer does the Feast of Passover carry you back to Egypt. This feast now carries you back to the cross of Jesus Christ. And as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you show the Lord's death—not the death of the lamb in Egypt, but the death of the Lamb of God. V 15 Leaven is yeast. It is decomposition, the breaking down of substance. Any sin tolerated or allowed has a way of just expanding until it takes over and controls your life. So leaven is to be excluded; they were to eat the unleavened bread, a memorial. In the Passover meal; there are three wafers of unleavened bread in a little napkin. The middle wafer is broken, hidden, and then the children have to find it. Jesus said; " I am the bread of life" (John 6:35). " This [bread] is My body" (Mark 14:22). And even as He was in the grave for three days, hidden, when discovered, there is great rejoicing! V 22 As long as you were in the house where the blood was applied, you were safe. If you went out of the house then you were no longer safe. The only place of safety is in Jesus Christ. He said, " Abide in Me, and let My words abide in you. And if any man abide not in Me, he is cut off like a branch, and withers and dies, and men gather them and throw them into the fire. Abide in Me" (John 15: 4-7). V 25 " Service" is celebration, feast, or festival. VV 26-27 The purpose of the feast was a memorial, a reminder of what God had done, but it was also to create a question in the mind of the children. God deliberately creates questions in their minds to give you an opportunity to teach them the things of God, to make them conscious and aware of the presence of God. V 38 A mixed multitude is always a weakening element among the people of God. This mixed multitude got them into trouble later on. " The mixed multitude began to lust after the things of Egypt, began to complain unto Moses" (Numbers 11:4). Whenever God is doing a marvelous work and gathering His people, and there's a real excitement over the things of God—a genuine revival of the Spirit—there are always those who just come along for the ride who haven't made a true commitment. They are part of a mixed multitude. V 40 God had prophesied this to Abraham in Genesis that they would be in the land for four hundred years. VV 42-45 No stranger is to eat of the Passover. Paul the apostle also warned against unbelievers partaking of communion. " For he that eateth unworthily eateth and drinketh damnation to his own body" (1 Corinthians 11:29). V 46 They weren't to break the bones of the lamb. Jesus, of course, was to be the sacrificial lamb. And that is why His legs weren't broken to hasten His death, unlike the other prisoners. Because He was sacrificial lamb, not a bone of Him could be broken. V 48 If a person wanted to proselytize into the Jewish faith, there were three things that were necessary: (1) baptism; (2) circumcision; (3) the partaking of Passover. Until you had gone through these three things, you were not considered a Jew. (Old Testament Study Guide; The Word For Today; 2005; Chuck Smith; Commentaries; pages 28-30)

God instructed the Israelites to use the blood of a lamb as a token or a sign that they were not to be harmed under the Old Covenant. Notice that the Lord said to them, "When I see the blood, I will pass over you" (Exodus 12:13). In order for the people to be

protected from the angel of death, God had to see the blood, and He could not see it if they did not put it on the side posts and tops of their doorframes. You and I live under the New Covenant, which is far better than the Old Covenant because the applied blood of Jesus is permanent (see Hebrews 9:12-26). How do we "put" the blood on our lives and homes? We do it by believing in Jesus Christ as we simply say in faith, "I believe the blood of Jesus is on my life and my home, cleansing and protecting me." We can apply the blood in any practical situation we face. Start applying the blood by faith over yourself and that which belongs to you—your children, your car, your home, your body. Are you battling with wounded emotions? Then cover your emotions with the blood of Jesus so you will not continue to be devastated by people who do not seem to know how to give you what you feel you need from them. Are you sick? Release your faith for the blood of Jesus to cover and protect your body. The life is in the blood; it cleanses us from all sin and protects us from things that will harm us. Ask that your needs, obligations are met, and that you are blessed with your daily bread.

Pray with me: "Father, I come to You in Jesus' name, and I apply the blood of Jesus to my life, to all that belongs to me, and to everything You have given me to steward. I put the blood of Jesus on my mind, my body, my emotions, and my will. I put the blood on my family, my coworkers, and my friends. Thank You for protecting me with Your blood. Amen." The Everyday Life Bible.

A Fight Always Follows Illumination: Hebrews 10:32

Have you ever received a word from the Lord that gave you the exact direction you needed? If so, let me guess what happened next. Suddenly—BOOM! It seemed like all hell broke loose! The craziest circumstances erupted, seeming to directly challenge and assault that word you had just received from God! If I've just described what you've gone through or what you are going through right now, be encouraged! You must be right on track! A spiritual fight usually does occur when you've been specially illuminated to the plan God has for your life. In Hebrews 10:32, the Bible says, "But call to remembrance the former days, in which, after ye were illuminated, ye endured a great fight of afflictions...." Today I want us to look at three key words in this verse: "great," "fight," and "afflictions." These words describe what you and I might experience after the Lord has given us a word of instruction to illuminate us regarding His plan for our lives. First, let's look at the word "great." In Greek, it's the word mega, and it describes something very big. For instance, the word mega is where we get the word megaphone, an instrument for making a very big noise. This word mega is used by people when they speak of mega-bills, mega-problems, mega-work, and so on. By using this word, the writer of Hebrews tells us that spiritual conflicts accompanying a word of divine direction are normally not small—they're usually mega! They're BIG! The second word I want you to see is the word "fight." It comes from the Greek word athlesis and refers to a committed athlete. This undoubtedly tells you that when you receive a word from the Lord, it may throw you into one of the greatest challenges of your entire life! You'll feel like you've just entered the ring and are competing for the prize! Finally, we come to the third word, "afflictions." It is the Greek word pathema and usually refers to mental pressure or to suffering that affects the mind. This isn't talking about mental sickness; rather, it points to a war in your soul or an attack on your mind.

Hebrews 10:32 could thus be taken to mean:

"After you were illuminated, you endured a mega-sized ordeal that threw you into the biggest fight you ever faced in your life. But the most critical part of the struggle resulted from the unremitting assaults that literally battered your mind...." You can be sure that if you take a stance of faith in response to a word you received from God, every possible negative thought will come against your mind. Not only will the devil try to use people and circumstances to thwart the plan, but he will also affect your mind with all kinds of negative thoughts and accusations. He'll do everything he can to talk you out of doing what God has called you to do. Don't be surprised by this! You must remember that Jesus experienced this type of attack as He hung on the Cross. As He selflessly laid down His own life on the Cross, the soldiers and other criminals hurled their horrible, slanderous statements at Him. But Jesus pushed aside all the assaults that came against His soul and endured, committing His life and destiny into the Father's hands.

So if you have received a word from God for your life, let me ask you: Did you go through a mega-ordeal yourself after you were illuminated to God's plan? Did you feel you were thrown into a fight that came to challenge what God had told you? Did you find that the devil tried to assault your mind and emotions with lies, accusations, and fears? If you have been in this place I'm talking about—or if this is exactly where you are right now—then be encouraged! This is probably your clearest signal that you've received a real word from the Lord. You must be right on track, because the devil is terribly concerned about what will happen if you act on what God has revealed to you. Don't back down. Don't surrender to the enemy's vicious lies in your mind, his attacks against your body, his challenges to your finances, or his assaults on your relationships. Regardless of how much resistance he tries to bring against you, don't you dare back up on that word God gave you! If you hadn't received a true word from the Lord, there would be nothing for the devil to challenge! The fight you face is the greatest evidence you're right on track! Just hang on, and don't give up! You're clearly headed in the right direction!

QUESTIONS FOR YOU TO CONSIDER: What are some past instances when you received direction for your life that you knew was from God? Were you bombarded with negative thoughts and pressures that tried to make you doubt the direction God gave you? How did you react? In the future, how can you respond according to the Word when these negative thoughts and pressures come against God's direction for your life? Sparkling Gems from the Greek.

(AMP Bible; The Everyday Life Bible; Joyce Meyers; Scripture; Commentaries; Past Pastor Sermons; Dictionary; 2006; pgs 104-107) (Word 9 Bible Software; 2010; Concordance, Dictionary, Scripture, Sermons of Saints past, Maps, Devotionals; Sparkling Gems From The Greek)