



~ Thought For The Day ~

~gathering from the 4 winds~

"come just as you are"

Refresh, Restore, Rebuild = Healing

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Vol. 31 Issue 594

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Worship Music

[Forgiveness-
Matthew West](#)

[Strong Enough-
Matthew West](#)

[When God Has Another
Plan-Greenies](#)

Prayer

Lord, help me see sin the way You see it so that I have no stomach for it in my life. I know that as long as I view sin only as a mistake or a weakness, I will be tempted to tolerate it. So I ask You to teach me to see sin exactly the way You do so my desire for change will grow. Holy Spirit, help me see the truth and know the proper steps I need to take in order to make those needed changes. Convict me when conviction is necessary. Discipline when it is necessary, and change in me what You want changed. I ask it in Jesus' name. Amen....

Sparkling Gems from the Greek.

Video's / New Information/ Prayer Requests

Matthew 24:36 (AMP)

36 But of that [exact] day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

[" Direction Without Doubt"](#)

Charles Stanley

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1 IN THE eighteenth year of King Jeroboam son of Nebat, Abijam began to reign over Judah. 2 He reigned three years in Jerusalem. His mother was Maacah (Micaiah) daughter [granddaughter] of Abishalom (Absalom). 3 He walked in all the sins of his father [Rehoboam] before him; and his heart was not blameless with the Lord his God, as the heart of David his father [forefather]. 4 Nevertheless, for David's sake the Lord his God gave him a lamp in Jerusalem, setting up his son after him and establishing Jerusalem, 5 Because David did what was right in the eyes of the Lord and turned not aside from anything that He commanded him all the days of his life, except in the matter of Uriah the Hittite. 6 There was war between [Abijam's father] Rehoboam and Jeroboam all the days of [Rehoboam's] life. 7 The rest of the acts of Abijam, and all that he did, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah? And there was war between Abijam and Jeroboam. 8 Abijam slept with his fathers and they buried him in the City of David. Asa his son reigned in his stead. 9 In the twentieth year of Jeroboam king of Israel, Asa began to reign over Judah. 10 Forty-one years he reigned in Jerusalem. His mother was [also named] Maacah (Micaiah) daughter of Abishalom (Absalom). 11 And Asa did right in the eyes of the Lord, as did David his father [forefather]. 12 He put away the sodomites (male cult prostitutes) out of the land and removed all the idols that his fathers [Solomon, Rehoboam, and Abijam] had made or promoted. 13 Also Maacah his mother he removed from being queen mother, because she had an image made for [the goddess] Asherah. Asa destroyed her image, burning it by the brook Kidron. 14 But the high places were not removed. Yet Asa's heart was blameless with the Lord all his days. 15 He brought the things which his father had dedicated and the things which he himself had dedicated into the house of the Lord—silver, gold, and vessels. 16 There was war between Asa and Baasha king of Israel all their days. 17 Baasha king of Israel went up against Judah and built up Ramah, that he might allow no one to go out or come in to Asa king of Judah. 18 Then Asa took all the silver and gold left in the treasuries of the house of the Lord and of the king's house and delivered them into the hands of his servants. And King Asa sent them to Ben-hadad son of Tabrimmon, the son of Hezion, king of Syria, who dwelt at Damascus, saying, 19 Let there be a league between me and you, as was between my father and your father. Behold, I am sending you a present of silver and gold; go, break your league with Baasha king of Israel, that he may withdraw from me. 20 So Ben-hadad hearkened to king Asa and sent the commanders of his armies against the cities of Israel, and smote Ijon, Dan, Abel-beth-maacah, and all Chinneroth, with all the land of Naphtali. 21 When Baasha heard of it, he quit building up Ramah and dwelt in Tirzah. 22 Then King Asa made a proclamation to all Judah—none was exempted. They carried away the stones of Ramah and its timber with which Baasha had been building. And King Asa built up with them Geba of Benjamin, and also Mizpah. 23 The rest of all the acts of Asa, all his might, all that he did, and the cities which he built, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah? But in the time of his old age he was diseased in his feet. 24 Asa slept with his fathers and was buried with them in the city of David his father. Jehoshaphat his son reigned in his stead. 25 Nadab son of Jeroboam began to reign over Israel in the second year of Asa king of Judah, and reigned two years. 26 He did evil in the sight of the Lord and walked in the way of his father and in his sin, with which he made Israel sin. 27 Baasha son of Ahijah of the house of Issachar conspired against Nadab, and Baasha smote him at Gibbethon, which belonged to the Philistines, for Nadab and all Israel were laying siege to Gibbethon. 28 In the third year of Asa king of Judah Baasha slew Nadab and reigned in his stead. 29 As soon as he was king, Baasha killed all the household of Jeroboam. He left to [it] not one who breathed, until he had destroyed it, according to the word of the Lord which He spoke by His servant Ahijah the Shilonite— 30 Because of the sins of Jeroboam which he sinned and by which he made Israel to sin, and because of his provocation of the Lord, the God of Israel, to anger. 31 The rest of Nadab's acts, and all that he did, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel? 32 There was war between Asa and Baasha king of Israel all their days. 33 In the third year of Asa king of Judah, Baasha son of Ahijah began his reign of twenty-four years over all Israel in Tirzah. 34 He did evil in the sight of the Lord and walked in the way of Jeroboam and in his sin, with which he made Israel sin.

Chapter 15

And he walked in the sins, which his father had done before him: his heart was not completely towards the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father. Nevertheless for David's sake the LORD gave him the lamp in Jerusalem, to set his son after him, and establish Jerusalem: Because David did that which was right in the eyes of the LORD, and turned not aside from any thing that he commanded in all the days of his life, [except in the case of Bathsheba,] the matter of Uriah the Hittite (1Ki 15:3-5).

That's the place where David stumbled and fell badly.

Now there was war between Rehoboam and Jeroboam all the days of his life. The rest of the acts of Abijam, and all that he did, they also are in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah (1Ki 15:6-7)?

So we'll get more on Abijam later.

And Abijam slept with his fathers; they buried him in the city of David: and Asa his son reigned in his stead. Now in the twentieth year of Jeroboam (1Ki 15:8-9)

So Abijam had a very short reign. And still in Judah.

Asa now reigned over Judah. Forty-one years he reigned in Judah. And Asa did that which was right in the eyes of the LORD, as David his father. And he took away the sodomites out of the land (1Ki 15:9-12),

And part of his reformation.

He removed all of the idols which his father had made. He also got rid of his mother from being the queen, because she had made an idol in a grove; and he destroyed her idol, and burnt it there near the brook Kidron. And the high places, however, were not removed: however, Asa's heart was perfect with the LORD all of his days. And he brought in the things which his father had dedicated, and the

things which he himself had dedicated, into the house of the LORD, silver, gold, vessels. Now there was war between Asa and Baasha the king of Israel all of their days (1Ki 15:12-16).

So the time of Asa, you remember he reigned forty-one days. And so Baasha became the king over Israel up in the northern tribes.

And Baasha the king of Israel came against Judah, and he started building the city of Ramah (1Ki 15:17),

Which is the present-day city of Ramallah, which he intended to be a fortified city and he was going to cut off all of the supplies that were coming in to Jerusalem. So Asa took the silver and gold out of the temple, and he sent it up to Syria, to Benhadad, who at this time was ruling over Syria.

And he said, "We have a mutual defense pact and I'm asking you now to honor it. Take this silver and gold and I want you to attack Baasha, the king of Israel."

So the Syrians attacked up in the north part of the city of Dan, up around the Golan, began to take the cities. They actually invaded all the way down to Cinneroth, which is Galilee or the Sea of Galilee, the area of Naphtali and all. And when Baasha heard that they had been invaded from the north, he took his troops from the building of this fortified city of Ramah and they went to face the Syrians. And of course, then Asa came out with his men and they took all of the materials they had brought for this fortified city and they built a couple of cities with it. But Baasha did not return.

Now it seems like brilliant strategy and yet, as we get into Chronicles, we find that God rebuked Asa for this. And Chronicles does expand upon Asa's reign so much more and we find some very fascinating and interesting lessons concerning king Asa when we get to the Chronicles. Now in his later years, he became diseased in his feet and he died of this foot disease.

In Chronicles, there is an intimation that because he sought the aid of the physicians and inquired not of the Lord, he died of the disease. In other words, the intimation is that had he really just prayed and asked God, God would have healed him. But his heart was turned from the Lord in the later years.

So Asa slept with his father: and Jehoshaphat his son reigned in his place (1Ki 15:24).

Now shift gears, go back to Israel. Northern tribe again. We leave the southern tribe. We've had it, succession of kings, Rehoboam and then Abijam his son reigning for three years, Baasha taking over. I mean, not Baasha but Asa taking over. And then Jehoshaphat the son of Asa.

Now back in the Northern Kingdom.

Nadab the son of Jeroboam (1Ki 15:25)

Jeroboam was the one that God had prophesied against.

began to reign over Israel in the second year of Asa the king of Judah, and he reigned for only two years. He did evil in the sight of the LORD, he walked in the way of his father, and in the sins wherein his father caused Israel to sin. And Baasha the son of Ahijah, of the house of Issachar, conspired against him (1Ki 15:25-27);

So here's the third Ahijah we have here.

and Baasha smote him at Gibbethon. In the third year of Asa the king of Judah did Baasha slay him, and he reigned in his stead. And it came to pass, when he reigned, that he smote all of the house of Jeroboam; he not did not leave any that breathed, until he had destroyed the entire descendants, even as the word of the Lord had come to him by Ahijah the prophet from Shiloh: Because of the sins of Jeroboam whereby he sinned, made Israel to sin, and the provocation whereby he provoked the LORD to anger. Now the rest of the acts of Nadab, are in [the books that we don't have] the books of chronicles of Israel? And there was war between Asa and Baasha the king of Israel all their days. And in the third year of Asa, Baasha began to reign over Israel and he reigned for twenty-four years. He did evil in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the way of Jeroboam, and his sin wherewith he made Israel to sin (1Ki 15:27-34).

A.W. Tozer; Jesus, Author of Our Faith; AND OTHER ESSAYS ON FAITH; COMPILED AND EDITED BY GERALD B. SMITH
Aiden Wilson Tozer (April 21, 1897 - May 12, 1963) was an American Protestant pastor, preacher, author, magazine editor, Bible conference speaker, and spiritual mentor. For his work, he received two honorary doctorates. Among the more than forty books that he authored, at least two are regarded as Christian classics: The Pursuit of God and The Knowledge of the Holy. His books impress on the reader the possibility and necessity for a deeper relationship with God. Living a simple and non-materialistic lifestyle, he and his wife, Ada Cecelia Pfautz, never owned a car, preferring bus and train travel. Even after becoming a well-known Christian author, Tozer signed away much of his royalties to those who were in need. Prayer was of vital personal importance for Tozer. "His preaching as well as his writings were but extensions of his prayer life", comments his biographer, James L. Snyder in the book, In Pursuit of God: The Life Of A.W. Tozer. "He had the ability to make his listeners face themselves in the light of what God was saying to them", writes Snyder. Tozer himself produced the works: Let My People Go; Man : the Dwelling Place of God; Paths to Power; The Divine ConquestThe Knowledge of the Holy, (1961) New York: Harper & Row, ISBN 0-06-068412-7; The Pursuit of God, (1957) Camp Hill, PA: Christian Publications, ISBN 0-87509-522-4; The Root of the Righteous; There are also many compilations of sermons and other writings which were edited and published by Christian Publications, Inc., after Tozer's death. Although the books were published posthumously, authorship is attributed to A. W. Tozer. Wikipedia

GOD IS NOT LOOKING for carbon copies of Abraham to believe Him and obey Him in this twentieth century. He is not looking for carbon copies of Enoch, or Noah, or Moses, or David.

God is looking for persons exactly like you and me. The old heroes of faith named in the eleventh chapter of Hebrews Bible have long ago gone to their reward, as the writer has reminded us:

And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel and the prophets. ... They were stoned; they were sawed in two; they were put to death by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated—the world was not worthy of them. ... These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised. God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect. (Heb 11:32, Heb 11:37-40)

It is plain to see from this text that God had us in His heart and in His thoughts. Even as the Old Testament saints were passing on to be forever with the God they loved, God had us in mind, too. Those heroes of the faith died, but God did not die with them. The eternal character of God has never changed and it never will. God continues to be God. He continues to be in control throughout His universe. He assures us He is the God of the living. He is still yearning, loving, calling men and women everywhere. He is still gladly responding to the prayers of His believing people. Best of all, He is still seeking and wooing those of our day who are ready and willing to become His new heroes in the faith!

God has a design for each of us.....

I wonder if we are consistently holding to this assurance of God's presence and God's blessing in our Christian churches today. God does want to speak to all of us who will listen! I repeat: God is not looking for an exact replica of Abraham or Noah or David. He wants to bless, equip and use our individuality—every one of us who by faith make up His believing people in our own generation.

You cannot study the Book of Hebrews long without discovering that faith in God is neither an ordinary nor an imaginary quality. Godly faith is dynamic and powerful! The accomplishments of faith are rightfully attributed only to God, of course. But it is satisfying to know that the people He blesses and uses may be as different in personality as night is from day.

This is an important lesson for us to learn. God does not intend that we who believe and trust Him shall all be alike—all poured into the same mold. No! It is actually one of the snares of Christian experience to think that we must copy one another.

Each one of us is different.....

God knew very well what He was doing when He created us to differ in personality, temperament and disposition. It has been well demonstrated that variety is the very hallmark of God's creation throughout the universe.

As humans, we do not understand how it can be, but biologists tells us they can examine thousands upon thousands of leaves in the forest and never find two exactly alike! In the Chicago church where I ministered for many years, we had identical twins—Irene and Ilene. We watched them grow and develop. Although they were called identical, they exhibited traits and expressions that were different. For that reason, most of us could tell them apart and call them by their right names.

We have come to realize and accept the fact that there are no two people exactly, identically alike in our world. And the point I am making is that God, the all-knowing divine artist, has formed each one of us out of His inexhaustible variety. He works in His wisdom and love to bless and honor the many differences—as well as the similarities—in men and women.

God accepts us no matter where we fall within the range of varying human personalities. He desires to manifest Himself to us and through us, no matter how different we may be. May I give you an illustration?

When the time comes around for the annual decorating of your Christmas tree, you get out the string or strings of lights that have been carefully packed since the year before. You wrap those lights as artistically as possible around your tree. You make sure you have a good mixture of red, green, yellow, blue and maybe white lights.

It is not likely you ever stop to worry whether you need more than one kind of electricity to light the bulbs of different colors. The same power, the same amount of power flows through each. Only the glass or the coating on the glass differs. The power flowing through the filaments creates the light.

The same source of illumination.....

God makes all of us different from one another, but by His Spirit He will bring divine illumination and power to our beings. That is something we understand. That is why we are glad we are not all alike. We can read and talk about Wesley and Moody and A. B. Simpson and Billy Sunday, about Holy Anne and Sophie the scrubwoman. It is God's planned variety and not similarity that makes beauty and interest in our world.

We should thank God for giving us our own individual personalities and temperaments and abilities. We should never waste time and energy trying to fashion ourselves after someone else, no matter how much we admire that person. God does not expect us to become identical copies of our spiritual heroes.

Actually, I have learned something very important about our efforts to become someone else. If I am tempted to copy someone whom I admire as a Christian believer, I will probably succeed only in copying his or her eccentricities and not that person's spirituality at all.

It is futile to try to assume another person's good characteristics. In only these respects should we all try to be alike: We should love God more than anything or anyone else, we should hate sin and iniquity even as Jesus hated them, and we should be willing always to obey God through the leading of His Word and His Spirit. Apart from that, it is perfectly natural for us to be ourselves, that is, different from each other.

God is the same today....

I see another lesson in this Hebrews text. God has never in the past done anything good in response to faith that He is unwilling to do again. Let me turn that around and say it this way: Everything good that God has done in the past in response to faith, He is willing to do again. We need only believe and obey.

How subtle is unbelief! You read the biography of one of God's great saints and suddenly you are overcome with discouragement. You find you are comparing yourself very unfavorably with the

one you have been reading about. Let me pass on some advice. Do not stop reading about God's great men and women. But keep in mind that faith and obedience, not their abilities or temperaments or dispositions, are what matter. God knows how best to use us for His glory and as His witnesses.

Faith came like a dove to the heart of Abraham—but not only to Abraham. Faith came to the rascal Jacob as well. Faith came to Moses, it is true. But faith came also to Samson. Faith came to Sarah. Faith came as well to Rahab. I think of a simple little song we used to sing:

Let not conscience make you linger,

Nor of fitness fondly dream,

All the fitness here required

Is to feel your need of Him.

I feel good about that advice! I am not to compare myself with Abraham or Luther or Billy Graham and wonder how I can qualify as a good and useful Christian. If I truly feel my need of God, I can approach Him and expect Him to work through my uniqueness.

Be careful!

This problem of personal identity not infrequently troubles the faithful minister. The congregation has called him as their pastor and teacher, but the members have a hard time forgetting the saintly predecessor who died or who was called to another ministry. They find it hard to make room for the new minister—mainly because he is not enough like the former one. His voice is different. So are his gestures. His hair is not gray. His wife is not as friendly.

Be careful! God blesses people for their faith and obedience, not because they are old or young, bald or gray, pleasant voiced or raspy. God expects each one of us to let Him use us in helping people to a walk of spiritual blessing and victory. Not necessarily must we have had a long record as heroes in the faith to qualify.

A personal testimony....

I do not look upon myself as especially notable. But I am invariably blessed when I discover God has used me to help someone else in the Christian faith. I was addressing a group of Lutherans on the life of fullness in the Holy Spirit. During a brief time of testimony after one of my messages, a young man who said he was a pastor told the group he carried in his Bible a copy of a small piece I once wrote: "The Prayer of a Minor Prophet."

I remember writing that piece. I wrote it from my heart, letting it express my own feelings about the responsibilities of a man genuinely called into the ministry of God's holy Word. In his words to the group, the young man said, "When I get discouraged, when there is trouble facing me, I open my Bible and read once more that prayer of one of God's prophets." He then expressed gratitude that in God's timing his path and mine had crossed.

Do you suppose that young man, as he read my "prayer," thought of A. W. Tozer as some kind of a hero of the faith? That would have been a very inflated idea—far beyond the assessment held by Mrs. A. W. Tozer, for instance! Most of us are inclined to quote other people, particularly those we consider to be good examples. Probably it is a good thing that we do not know them as well as their families do! Otherwise we would have to be more cautious about our quoting them and holding them up for veneration.

We can be today's people of faith.....

My emphasis is this: Just as those who lived in the past had the privilege of being God's people of faith then, so do we in our own day. It is good to come to the understanding that while God wants us to be holy and Spirit-filled, He does not expect us to look like Abraham or to play the harp like David or to have the same spiritual insight given to Paul.

All of those former heroes of the faith are dead. You are alive in your generation. A Bible proverb says that it is better to be a living dog than a dead lion. You may wish to be Abraham or Isaac or Jacob, but remember that they have been asleep for long centuries, and you are still around! You can witness for your Lord today. You can still pray. You can still give of your substance to help those in need. You can still encourage the depressed.

I hope you have not missed something good from God's hand because you felt you did not measure up to Gideon or Isaiah. In this your generation, give God all of your attention! Give Him all of your love! Give Him all of your devotion and faithful service! You do not know what holy, happy secret God may want to whisper to your responsive heart.

Three simple things....

Do you respond to this great possibility by asking, "How can I know?" I answer with an emphasis upon three simple things reinforced in the Word of God for those who will discern God's highest will.

First, be willing to put away known sin. Next, separate yourself from all of the attractions of the world, the flesh and the devil. Finally, offer yourself to your God and Savior in believing faith. God has never yet turned away an honest, sincere person who has come to know the eternal value of the atonement and the peace that is promised through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The only person who is incurably sick is the one who thinks he or she is well. The only person who will never be cleansed and made whole is the one who insists he or she needs no remedy. The person who comes in faith to God and confesses, "I am unclean, I am sin-sick, I am blind," will find mercy and forgiveness and life in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The doubters are still asking, "How can that be?" It can be because our Lord Jesus Christ is the Savior, the Cleanser. He is the Purifier, He is the Healer. He is the Sight-giver and the Life-giver. He alone is the Way, the Truth and the Life!

God expects us to live in faith and victory so that we may leave our Christian testimony to a new generation that undoubtedly will need it desperately. "These all died in faith,"

the writer to the Hebrews says. When it is our time, will we be able to meet our God knowing that we pleased Him? "Without faith it is impossible to please God."

A bright future

God is the Faithful One. We are to love Him and serve Him because He is God—not because of the gracious things He does for us or for the rewards He promises us. Our motives should be both right and genuine. But God does not expect us to forget or ignore the gracious future promises He has made to us.

It is a glorious truth that if we believe God and honor His Word, if we walk by faith in love and obedience, there will be eternal rewards for each of us in that great coming day. The rewards will differ. Wisdom and knowledge and love reside in Him who is our God. He will make the right judgments for His people.

But I for one will not be surprised if some of God's faithful people serving Him today should rise as high and shine as brightly as the heroes of faith listed in the Book of Hebrews. I say that in all truthfulness because I do not think all of the heroes of faith are dead and gone.

If we will take God at His Word, if we will believe Him and trust Him wholly in this ungodly and unfriendly world, if we will walk with Him as those men and women of faith walked in the long-ago past, God Himself will list us among His heroes of faith when the final records are opened.

(Amplified Bible; Joyce Meyers; 2006; Faith Words; Scripture; Commentaries; pages 514-517)

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