



Open Water Ministries

~ Thought For The Day ~

~gathering from the 4 winds~

“come just as you are”

Refresh, Restore, Rebuild = Healing



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Worship Music

Prayer

Lord, I believe Your Word to be true. By faith, I claim that there is nothing the enemy can do to injure or hurt me when I am traveling to take Your name to a new part of the world or to people who do not know You. Thank You for this promise of divine protection for my life. I am so grateful that You have shielded me with Your power and that the enemy cannot destroy me. Thank You that greater is You that lives in me, than that is in the world. Lead me and guide me, this day as to Your will for me and plans, in Jesus' name. Amen....

[Like A Lion-](#)
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[Never Let Go-](#)
[David Crowder](#)

[Heaven Came Down-](#)
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[Dominic Balli](#)

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If you have a prayer request...please e-mail it to us so we can pray for you...or a person.....

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1 YOU SHALL not sacrifice to the Lord your God an ox or sheep with a blemish or any defect whatsoever, for that is an abomination to the Lord your God. **2** If there is found among you within any of your towns which the Lord your God gives you a man or woman who does what is wicked in the sight of the Lord your God by transgressing His covenant, **3** Who has gone and served other gods and worshiped them, or the sun or moon or any of the host of the heavens, which I have forbidden, **4** And it is told and you hear of it, then inquire diligently. And if it is certainly true that such an abomination has been committed in Israel, **5** Then you shall bring forth to your town's gates that man or woman who has done that wicked thing and you shall stone that man or woman to death. **6** On the evidence of two or three witnesses he who is worthy of death shall be put to death; he shall not be put to death on the evidence of one witness. **7** The hands of the witnesses shall be the first against him to put him to death, and afterward the hands of all the people. So you shall purge the evil from among you. **8** If there arises a matter too hard for you in judgment—between one kind of bloodshed and another, between one legality and another, between one kind of assault and another, matters of controversy within your towns—then arise and go to the place which the Lord your God chooses. **9** And you shall come to the Levitical priests and to the judge who is in office in those days, and you shall consult them and they shall make clear to you the decision. **10** And you shall do according to the decision which they declare to you from that place which the Lord chooses; and you shall be watchful to do according to all that they tell you; **11** According to the decision of the law which they shall teach you and the judgment which they shall announce to you, you shall do; you shall not turn aside from the verdict they give you, either to the right hand or the left. **12** The man who does presumptuously and will not listen to the priest who stands to minister there before the Lord your God or to the judge, that man shall die; so you shall purge the evil from Israel. **13** And all the people shall hear and [reverently] fear, and not act presumptuously again. **14** When you come to the land which the Lord your God gives you and you possess it and live there, and then say, We will set a king over us like all the nations that are about us, **15** You shall surely set as king over you him whom the Lord your God will choose. One from among your brethren you shall set as king over you; you may not set a foreigner, who is not your brother, over you. **16** But he shall not multiply horses to himself or cause the people to return to Egypt in order to multiply horses, since the Lord said to you, You shall never return that way. **17** And he shall not multiply wives to himself, that his [mind and] heart turn not away; neither shall he greatly multiply to himself silver and gold. **18** And when he sits on his royal throne, he shall write for himself a copy of this law in a book, out of what is before the Levitical priests. **19** And he shall keep it with him, and he shall read in it all the days of his life, that he may learn [reverently] to fear the Lord his God, by keeping all the words of this law and these statutes and doing them, **20** That his [mind and] heart may not be lifted up above his brethren and that he may not turn aside from the commandment to the right hand or to the left; so that he may continue long, he and his sons, in his kingdom in Israel.

As you've discovered by now the book of Deuteronomy is sort of a review of the law. The word itself indicates the second law. It is a review by Moses for the people. Really a final review because Moses will be dying in just a few days and Joshua will be taking over and leading the children of Israel into the Promised Land. So he is continuing his instructions, his final instructions to them.

And in the 17th chapter, again, at the beginning he lets them know that what they give to God should never be castoffs. Never give a sacrifice that has blemishes. God really isn't honored when we give to Him the castoffs, that which has no value to us. The Lord is really honored when we give to Him a sacrifice that really costs something.

When David wanted to buy the threshing floor of Ornan in order that he might offer to God a sacrifice there, because it was at that point that the angel was stayed and the plague that was upon Israel was stopped. Ornan says, "I'll give it to you. And here you can have the cattle to offer as a sacrifice". And David said, "No, I'll not give unto God that which costs me nothing"(1 Chronicles 21:23-24). Now David was called a man after God's own heart. And I think that God is honored when we do give to Him; we give that which costs us something, otherwise it really isn't a gift.

Jesus watching the people putting their money into the treasury, when he saw the widow woman threw in her mite He said, "She's given enough. That's true giving"(Mark 12:43). The rest of them were all giving out of their abundance. She was giving out of her sustenance, out of her livelihood. And so, when we give unto God, not to cast off.

And so you're not to sacrifice unto the LORD any bullock, or sheep, with blemishes or evilfavouredness: that's an abomination unto the LORD (Deu 17:1).

Then they were very strict within the law. God was seeking to preserve the nation. He knew that by allowing certain things within the land that it—they would have within them incumbent seeds of destruction. As you look at history, you'll find that the majority of the nations that were once great were not really conquered by outside forces but deteriorated by the rotten politics within the nation itself. Nations, after a period of time, have a tendency to become corrupted. Nations are built upon certain pillars of righteousness, justice, equity; solid pillars upon which a nation is built, but when these pillars begin to rot, then the nation is in a dangerous condition and will soon fall.

One of the rotten plagues that God was seeking to guard against was that of idolatrous worship. And therefore the penalty that God ordered for anyone who would enter into idolatrous worship, the worship of other gods, the worshipping of gods in unprescribed ways, the penalty was to be that of stoning.

He's wrought wickedness within Israel. And he's served other gods, worshipped them, the sun, the moon, the host of heaven, which I have not commanded [God said] (Deu 17:2-3); Now you're to inquire diligently to see if the story is true and if two or three people will witness against that person of the truth of the charges, then he is to be stoned by the congregation of Israel. However, the death penalty was not to be evoked if there were only one witness against the person. Now, if the matters were brought to the judges and it was really too hard for them to determine just how to rule in the case, then they were to bring those matters before the priest.

And the Levites shall inquire of the Lord; and give the sentence of judgment (Deu 17:9):

And again God speaks of the place that He will choose of the land, which will be the place where men will meet God and worship God.

Now in the fourteenth verse it is interesting, as God now anticipates a future deterioration of the land. You see, God intended that the nation Israel be a Theocracy, that it be a nation that was governed by God. They were to have the most unusual form of government of any nation of the world. Where other nations may have had monarchies or dictatorships or democracies or other forms of government, theirs was to be unique because they were to be a Theocracy: A nation that was ruled over by God, not as Iran is today. Khomeini sort of tries to give an aura of divine approval or, you know, God's government, but surely what he has installed is far from God's government.

But God knew that one day these people would insist upon a king. And therefore, even though at this point there was not to be any king ruling over them by God's divine ideal, yet knowing that the day would come when they would no longer adhere to God's ideal plan for them as a nation and would insist upon a king God.

Therefore, in the law gave certain rules when a king would rise to rule over them, then he gave rules for the kings here in the laws. Though it was to be four hundred years or so before they would have a king, yet God already anticipating the demand for a king is now giving the rules when a king does rise to rule over them. And so, to me it is interesting that God, in anticipation of their future demand for a king, throws in here even in the law, certain rules to govern a king when they ultimately have a king. And the very reason that they would give for having a king is anticipated by God, when you want to have a king like the other nations.

When the people came to Samuel they said, "Set up a king over us like the other nations". And they demanded that they have a king. And so God anticipating this demand to the people:

When it comes to pass, here in the land which the LORD gives you, you're dwelling there, and you shall say, I will set a king over me, like all the nations that are about me; Thou shalt in any wise, set him king over thee, whom the LORD thy God shall choose: one from among your brothers shall thou set king over thee: thou mayest not set a stranger over you, which is not your brother (Deu 17:14-15).

Now, here are the rules for the king. First of all he's not to multiply horses to himself or to go down to Egypt in order to trade for horses. The second was that he was not to multiply wives unto himself. And the reason for this was given: "lest his wives turn his heart away from God".

Now it is interesting when Solomon became king he failed on all three counts. First of all Solomon began to multiply horses unto himself and the stables of Solomon are still to be found throughout Israel. Not only did he multiply horses but he went down to Egypt in order to do horse trading, the second disobedience. And finally he multiplied wives unto himself. Now it is interesting that God said, "You're not to multiply wives lest their hearts—lest they turn your heart away from me" and Solomon's wives turned his heart away from the Lord and brought the failure to Solomon. So God anticipated the evil. He anticipated the results of the evil. He warned about it. And yet Solomon disregarded the warnings of God, did exactly what God said He should not do and exactly what God said would happen did happen.

In other words, God knows what He's talking about. We so often feel that we know better, "Well, that doesn't apply to me. Well, I can do it and get by with it. Oh, that will never change me. Wives can never change my attitude towards God and that may apply to some others but that really doesn't apply to me". And we think that somehow we have some private exclusion from the rules or the laws that God establishes. Not so. God has set the rules. He has set the punishment or the things that would transpire if the rules are violated.

You think you can get by with it; you can't. You can be sure that even as God has stated, so shall it be and you can be sure that God doesn't warn you about anything needlessly. Whatever God warned you about is the thing that you're in danger of violating or doing. So God was warning concerning the king Solomon, disregarded the warning and even as God declared, so did it take place in Solomon's life.

Now the king actually was to make his own copy of the law and he was to read it daily. Now how marvelous that would be if you had a president who would have to write his own copy of the word of God. Because in writing it, you're really into it all the time and then have to read it daily. When Moses turned the charge over to Joshua, he gave to him the law and he said, "Now thou shalt diligently consider the law. Thou shalt meditate in it and thus shalt thou make thy way prosperous and thus thou shalt have good success."

David spoke of his own delight in the law of the Lord which he meditated in day and night. He was a man after God's own heart because of the respect that he gave to God's word as a king. David was the kind of king that God wanted. God wanted a shepherd king. God always wants shepherds to rule. He wants all of the rulers to have the hearts of a shepherd, and David had the heart of a shepherd for God's people: nurturing them, caring for them, loving them, concerned with their needs. And so the requirement that the king write his own copy of the scriptures and read it.

The strength of a believer always is related to his faith in God. Jesus said, "Without me ye can do nothing" (John 15:5). Unfortunately, I don't always believe that.

In fact, it seems that I often believe just the opposite. I stubbornly insist that there must be something good I can do apart from Jesus. I'm always looking for some redeeming quality within myself, some characteristic for which God might love me - because it seems that I'm incurably self-righteous. "That's all right, Lord, I'll do this one. You don't have to help me this time." Then when I totally fail, Jesus reminds me, "Without me ye can do nothing."

I have proven the truth of that statement over and over again in my life. Apart from Christ I can do nothing. I am really weak and helpless.

On the other hand, I've discovered another beautiful truth, one that Paul also discovered. "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Philippians 4:13). Apart from Him I'm totally helpless and have no strength. Through Christ I have strength to meet any situation and to overcome any difficulty. In myself I am weak, but in Him I am strong.

Some people are strong within themselves. They trust in their own abilities and then gloat in their independence and strength. However, no matter how strong a person thinks he may be, there will come a day when he exhausts his own resources and finally confesses, "I can't do it! I can't go on!"

When the man who has learned to trust only in himself comes to that day of reckoning, it is a tragic and disastrous day. But for the man who has learned to trust in the Lord, that day is no different than any other, because he has learned to turn every day over to God. The man who is self-reliant, self-willed, and self-made will ultimately fall. But the man who has learned to trust in the Lord for his strength will never fall. As long as I am looking to myself and my own resources, I will always be restricted by my human limitations. But if I trust in God and in His resources, then I have His infinite capacities available to me.

I can never face a situation which is too big for God and me to handle. There is no obstacle so great that God and I can't overcome. There is no enemy too strong for God and I to defeat. God and I make a majority in any crowd! If God be for me, who can be against me? (Romans 8:31). Learn to turn to God for your resources and your strength. In II Corinthians 12:9, Paul is speaking of his infirmities or weaknesses. He speaks of glorying in his weaknesses that the power of Christ might rest upon him. He said that he actually took pleasure in his weaknesses, for when he was weak then he was strong. My greatest area of weakness is where I feel strongest in my flesh and in no need of the Lord's help. Conversely, my greatest area of strength is where I know that I am weak and cannot make it without the Lord's help.

God is our source of strength, but prayer is the channel through which God gives us His strength.

Prayer In Action

Nehemiah was a man of the word and prayer. When Hanani and the other travelers returned from Jerusalem, Nehemiah questioned them about his beloved city. Hanani told him of the bad state of affairs in Jerusalem. "The walls are broken down. The people are demoralized. They're barely existing. They're an easy prey to all of their enemies. They have no defenses. The city is in shambles!"

When Nehemiah heard the condition of Jerusalem, God's holy city, he wept before the Lord. Then Nehemiah fasted, prayed, and confessed to God his sins and the sins of the people. He also acknowledged the righteousness of God's judgment against Jerusalem. Notice how he used the word in his prayer. He said, "Lord, You said by the mouth of Moses that if we turn from You, You would turn Your back upon us and make us afraid of our enemies, and we would be scattered into the world. But, Lord, You also said that if we would turn back to You and seek Your face and call upon You, You would hear us and restore and rebuild the land" (Nehemiah 1:1-11).

The burden on Nehemiah's heart was to restore and rebuild the city of Jerusalem. The Bible shows us how God opened the doors for Nehemiah's prayer to be answered.

Nehemiah was the cupbearer to the king of Persia in Shushan. This prestigious position brought him into daily contact with the king. One day as he bore the cup to the king, the king asked, "Nehemiah, why are you looking so sad today? I've never seen you so glum."

Nehemiah replied, "I've just received the report concerning Jerusalem. It is devastated and the people are demoralized. How can I be happy when the city I love is so desolate?"

The king said, "What would you like me to do?"

Nehemiah tells us, "I prayed to the God of heaven. And I said unto the king..." When the king said, "What can I do for you?" Nehemiah prayed, "Quick, God, help! What do I say?" (Nehemiah 2:1-4). Nehemiah prayed first and then acted. That is the correct order: pray, then act. If we always prayed before we acted, needless to say, we would act differently in many cases. We wouldn't be so apt to act rashly or inappropriately. The Bible promises, "In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths" (Proverbs 3:6). Prayer was such an important part of Nehemiah's life that it was simultaneous with his actions.

Nehemiah's response to the king's question was to ask for permission to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. The king granted Nehemiah's request, and sent him to Jerusalem with a company of men.

As Nehemiah and his men were rebuilding the wall, their enemies gathered around them and tried to defeat the Israelites by ridiculing them and mocking the construction of the wall. Many times Satan uses ridicule to discourage you in the work of God. He says, "Who do you think you are? Billy Graham? Are you out to save the world?" Ridicule is one of the main tools the enemy uses to thwart your efforts for God. And it's a powerful tool. None of us like to be ridiculed. Too often that device actually stops a person's ministry for God. But Nehemiah did the right thing. Instead of battling the enemy himself and answering the mockery, he prayed, "Lord, You've heard them. Take care of them. Wipe them out. Lead them into captivity" (Nehemiah 4:1-5). Don't respond to ridicule by striking back. It's much better to commit it to the Lord and let Him be your defense. You'll surely be strong in Him.

When the enemy realized that they couldn't discourage the rebuilding of the wall through ridicule, they planned to attack and tear it down at night. Nehemiah heard of the conspiracy and replied. "We made our prayer unto our God, and set a watch against them day and night" (Nehemiah 4:9).

This brings out an important point. Prayer should never be an excuse for idleness or foolhardy action. God has given you good common sense and He expects you to use it. If you're being threatened by an enemy, pray first - but then take what defensive measures are necessary. Action following prayer is not a lack of faith.

Be practical. If you ask God to heal your poor eyesight, don't throw away your eyeglasses before the optometrist has a chance to retest you and says that you've been healed. Prayer shouldn't lead you into reckless or careless actions. It should actually create a diligence within you. In fact, prayer will lead you into activity more often than it will lead you into inactivity. Pray first, then take steps of action.

Some people are very lazy and think that God is going to do all the work for them. You question them about something and they use the excuse, "I'm just leaving that in the hands of the Lord." No, the Lord expects you to act, too! For instance, if you need a job, you don't just sit at home and wait for someone to call. You ask God to give you one. Then go out and submit applications every place you can. Then trust that the Lord will open the door to the job He wants you to have. Don't just sit there and say, "Okay, Lord, bring me the job." You don't say that when you have to eat. You don't lie in bed and say, "If you want me to eat today, Lord, just drop the food in my mouth." You're not passive about that, and you shouldn't be passive about the other areas of your life.

"So we prayed unto God," Nehemiah said, "and we set a watch against the enemy." The Israelites built the wall with a trowel in one hand and a sword in the other. The enemy saw that they were armed and prepared, so he didn't attack; instead, he planned new ways for Jerusalem's destruction. Nehemiah, knowing the enemy was trying to weaken him and the hands of his men, prayed, "God, strengthen my hands" (Nehemiah 6:9). Nehemiah, a man of prayer, was a man of action and of strength as a result.

Man of Prayer

What constitutes a man of prayer? First, he prays about everything - little things as well as big things. Oftentimes, we're reluctant to pray about the little things because we're afraid to bother God with trivia. He's so busy running the universe that He doesn't need to help me in the small areas of my life. But Jesus said that our heavenly Father is conscious of the sparrow falling to the ground. How much more is He conscious of our every need? (Luke 12:6-7).

The Bible also commands, "In every thing by prayer and supplication and thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God" (Philippians 4:6). If you really love someone, it doesn't matter how often he calls or what he calls about, you're just glad to hear from him. God loves you so much, He doesn't care how trivial your need might be. He just loves to hear from you.

Jesus said, "Men ought always to pray, and not to faint" (Luke 18:1). Why then are so many people losing heart and never praying? I hear people say, "I don't know what I'm going to do! I don't know where to turn." They're fainting. Learn of God's grace through prayer. Learn to turn every situation over to God so your life might be strengthened by His hand upon you.

As a result of Nehemiah's close fellowship with God, the walls of the city were rebuilt in 52 days. Others had tried to rebuild those same walls of Jerusalem for almost a 100 years! Not only that, there was a spiritual revival among the people. While doing the physical work of God, Nehemiah and his men also did a spiritual work. The Israelites became so excited that their walls were rebuilt and they could again dwell securely in Jerusalem that they gathered together to worship the Lord. In the temple, Ezra the scribe brought out the law of God and read it to the people. It was accompanied by repentance and weeping before God. The hearts of the people were turned back to the Lord (Nehemiah 8-9).

One man living in prayer and fellowship with God can accomplish incredible results!

As I look around today, I see that we're living in a needy world. We need people who live in fellowship with God, who know the strength of God, and who are willing to pray for God's work to be done. Why not be that man of prayer for the sake of this poor, lost world, nation, city, schools, or perhaps even your own family.

Psalm 138:1-8 (AMP)

1 I WILL confess and praise You [O God] with my whole heart; before the gods will I sing praises to You.

2 I will worship toward Your holy temple and praise Your name for Your loving-kindness and for Your truth and faithfulness; for You have exalted above all else Your name and Your word and You have magnified Your word above all Your name!

3 In the day when I called, You answered me; and You strengthened me with strength (might and inflexibility to temptation) in my inner self.

4 All the kings of the land shall give You credit and praise You, O Lord, for they have heard of the promises of Your mouth [which were fulfilled].

5 Yes, they shall sing of the ways of the Lord and joyfully celebrate His mighty acts, for great is the glory of the Lord.

6 For though the Lord is high, yet has He respect to the lowly [bringing them into fellowship with Him]; but the proud and haughty He knows and recognizes [only] at a distance.

7 Though I walk in the midst of trouble, You will revive me; You will stretch forth Your hand against the wrath of my enemies, and Your right hand will save me.

8 The Lord will perfect that which concerns me; Your mercy and loving-kindness, O Lord, endure forever—forsake not the works of Your own hands.

Psalm 100:1-5 (AMP)

1 MAKE A joyful noise to the Lord, all you lands!

2 Serve the Lord with gladness! Come before His presence with singing!

3 Know (perceive, recognize, and understand with approval) that the Lord is God! It is He Who has made us, not we ourselves [and we are His]! We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.

4 Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and a thank offering and into His courts with praise! Be thankful and say so to Him, bless and affectionately praise His name!

5 For the Lord is good; His mercy and loving-kindness are everlasting, His faithfulness and truth endure to all generations.

(AMP Bible; The Everyday Life Bible; Joyce Meyers; Scripture; Commentaries; Past Pastor Sermons; Dictionary; 2006; pg 298-299)
(Word 9 Bible Software; 2010; Concordance, Dictionary, Scripture, Sermons of Saints past, Devos; Sparkling Gems From The Greek)

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