



~ Thought For The Day ~

~gathering from the 4 winds~

“come just as you are”

Refresh, Restore, Rebuild = Healing



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Prayer

God Father; in Jesus' name I ask it, Lord, we need the Holy Spirit to open our eyes and convince us that we've become righteous through the blood of Jesus Christ. We've read and heard this truth, and we know it intellectually, but we need a revelation of it in our heart. So Holy Spirit, go to work in our heart. Open the eyes and ears of our spirit to see and to hear that we are the righteousness of God in Jesus Christ. Free us from religious thinking that holds us in bondage to feelings of unworthiness.
Please do it today! I pray this in Jesus' name! Amen.

Worship Music

[I Get On My Knees- Jaci Velasquez](#)

[Love Like Fire-Hillsong](#)

[The Father's Heart-Hillsong](#)

[Age to Age-Hillsong](#)

Scripture

1 Thessalonians 1 (AMP; 2005)

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 (AMP)

¹PAUL, SILVANUS (Silas), and Timothy, to the assembly (church) of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah): Grace (spiritual blessing and divine favor) to you and [heart] peace.

²We are ever giving thanks to God for all of you, continually mentioning [you when engaged] in our prayers,

³Recalling unceasingly before our God and Father your work energized by faith and service motivated by love and unwavering hope in [the return of] our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah).

⁴[O] brethren beloved by God, we recognize *and* know that He has selected (chosen) you;

⁵For our [preaching of the] glad tidings (the Gospel) came to you not only in word, but also in [its own inherent] power and in the Holy Spirit and with great conviction *and* absolute certainty [on our part]. You know what kind of men we proved [ourselves] to be among you for your good.

⁶And you [set yourselves to] become imitators of us and [through us] of the Lord Himself, for you welcomed our message in [spite of] much persecution, with joy [inspired] by the Holy Spirit;

⁷So that you [thus] became a pattern to all the believers (those who adhere to, trust in, and rely on Christ Jesus) in Macedonia and Achaia (most of Greece).

⁸For not only has the Word concerning *and* from the Lord resounded forth from you unmistakably in Macedonia and Achaia, but everywhere the report has gone forth of your faith in God [of your leaning of your whole personality on Him in complete trust and confidence in His power, wisdom, and goodness]. So we [find that we] never need to tell people anything [further about it].

⁹For they themselves volunteer testimony concerning us, telling what an entrance we had among you, and how you turned to God from [your] idols to serve a God Who is alive and true *and* genuine,

¹⁰And [how you] look forward to *and* await the coming of His Son from heaven, Whom He raised from the dead—Jesus, Who personally rescues *and* delivers us out of *and* from the wrath [bringing punishment] which is coming [upon the impenitent] *and* draws us to Himself [investing us with all the privileges and rewards of the new life in Christ, the Messiah].

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Silas and Timothy helped Paul found the Thessalonian church (Acts 17:1-14) and are included here in the salutation of his first letter. Paul recognizes the church's faithfulness and how they have become a model church even while suffering severe persecution. With power (v. 5) must refer to miracles that accompanied and attested Paul's preaching, though none are mentioned in Acts. A model (v. 7). The Thessalonian church was an example to all of Greece, of perseverance under persecution and of a genuinely Christian manner of life. Wait for his Son (v. 10). Paul closes every chapter with a reference to the Lord's coming (2:19; 3:13; 4:16-18; 5:23). (Halley's Bible Handbook; 2000; history, commentaries, notes; page 827)

Faith, Love, and Hope.

(v. 1) This is one of the first epistles Paul wrote. Since his apostleship had not yet been challenged by the false teachers, he didn't begin this epistle with a defense (as he did in so many others). Silvanus is Silas. (v. 3) Faith is the work God requires of us (John 6:29). Love motivated the works of the Thessalonian believers. They waited with patience for the return of Christ and the establishment of His Kingdom. Pistis=faith, assurance, belief (1:3). (v. 4) God has chosen us to be His children (John 15:16; Romans 9:16). (v. 5) The power of the Holy Spirit was demonstrated in the miracles that accompanied Paul's teaching. (v. 6) The Jews had stirred up the people against Paul, so a great tumult and contention arose in the city when the Thessalonians received Christ. (v. 8) True evangelism is a by-product of a healthy church. (v. 9) Turning from idols to God is a work of faith. It must have been difficult for the Thessalonians to give up their traditions in the worship of their pagan gods, for religion had been part of their lives for generations. (v. 10) Waiting for Jesus is the patience of hope. There is a difference between the persecution of the Church and the Great Tribulation. The persecution on Christians comes from others here on earth. The Tribulation is the wrath of God on the Christ rejecting world. It would be inconsistent for God to pour out His wrath on His Church (Genesis 18: 20-32; 2 Peter 2:9). (New Testament Study Guide; 2005; Chuck Smith; notes & commentaries; pages 123-124)

According to 1 Thessalonians 2:13, God is at work in your life right this very minute, whether you know it or not. I encourage you to say every day, "God is working in me right now. He is changing me!" Speak from your mouth what the Word says, not what you feel. Have you ever heard the saying, "You've got to look out for number one"? This means, live for yourself, because that is what everyone else is trying to do. However, as a Christian, you are called to live a life that is pleasing to God (see 1 Thessalonians 4:1). Ask Him to continually show you how to live to please Him. Many people do not understand that we are tri-part beings: spirit, soul and body. We *are* a spirit, we *have* a soul (composed of our mind, will and emotions), and we *live in* a body. Our new birth begins in our spirit, is carried out through our soul, and is finally visible to other people through a demonstration of God's glory in our physical lives. Many Christians make the mistake of thinking that God cares only about the spirit. But He wants us to be whole in soul and body, too. Be blessed in the knowledge that God is faithful and will sanctify you in body, soul, and spirit. (Amplified Bible; The Everyday Life Bible; 2005; Joyce Meyer Ministries; Scripture; note, commentaries; pages 1974-1975)

Do You Need Some Convincing?

John 16:8, 10

Have you ever complimented someone who responded by arguing with you—rejecting your compliment and essentially questioning your judgment in the matter? For example, after you told someone that he looked as if he had lost weight, did he respond by telling you how fat he is rather than by thanking you for the compliment? "Well, I've gained a lot of weight," the person may have said, "and I look so fat now. I wish you could have seen me three months ago when I really looked good! I don't look as good now."

This is the equivalent of throwing the compliment back in your face. It would have been far more polite and gracious to say, "Thank you. I'm so glad you noticed. I appreciate you telling me that I look better."

Here is another example that I think will make the point. A person stands before the church and sings a beautiful solo that deeply stirs your heart. At the end of the service, you make your way through the congregation to find the soloist because you want to express how much his singing moved you. After opening your heart and thanking him for allowing God to use him, the soloist responds to your compliment by saying, "Thanks for the compliment, but I thought I did a horrible job tonight. I can't believe I sang so badly. I don't know how you got anything out of it."

It's rude to respond like this to someone who is trying to thank you for being a blessing. Although you are probably not deliberately intending to be ill-mannered, your response is still equivalent to a rejection of the love, admiration, and appreciation God is expressing through someone else to you. It's the same as saying, "I appreciate the fact that you gave me that compliment, but we both know it isn't true, so you don't have to say it." In effect, you are calling the person a liar!

We sometimes respond this way to one another, not meaning to be rude. But did you know that we also do this to God almost every day? Consider, for example, what Second Corinthians 5:21 declares: "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." This verse says that God sent Jesus to the Cross to take upon Himself our sin, to die in our place, and to give us His standing of righteousness in God's sight. Yet if there is any subject about which Christians will get bent out of shape, it is this question of their being "righteous." Most believers are so conscious of their old sinful nature that they can't embrace the truth that they've been declared righteous! Tell them that they are righteous before God, and they will respond by telling you how bad they are. Sinful nature always clings to the worst and to what is most negative. It will always gravitate downward, never upward. That is the nature of the mind that is not under the control of the Holy Spirit. If abandoned to your flesh, you'll never believe a good report; you'll never believe God is doing a good work in you; and you'll certainly never believe that you have been made "the righteousness of God in him."

Negative, base, sinful thinking has been a part of humanity for so long that it requires some special convincing to make us realize what God has done inside us. For us to really believe that we have right standing with God, it will take the work of the Holy Spirit to convince us! Otherwise, when God says, "You're My child. I have made you righteous. You are beautiful to Me," our negatively charged minds and emotions will retort, "It's not so! I'm unworthy. I'm unholy. I'm so pitiful!" But here is the good news: Just as the Holy Spirit convicts a sinner of his sin, He is also sent to convince believers of their new right standing with God! Jesus told us this about the Holy Spirit: "And when he is come, he will reprove... of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more" (John 16:8, 10).

The word "reprove" is the Greek word *elegcho*. It means *to expose or to convict*, such as *to convict someone of a crime or a sin*. This word was used to describe legal proceedings during which a person was examined and cross-examined in a court of law until the court issued a final ruling. If the person was deemed guilty, he was *unmistakably convicted* of his crime. In this sense, the word *elegcho* describes the work of the Spirit to completely and thoroughly convict a sinner of his sin. When the Holy Spirit is finished opening the eyes of a person to his sin, that person *knows* he is a sinner. There is no escaping the truth for the unbeliever once the Holy Spirit has revealed truth to his heart! But the word "reprove" is also used in a positive sense *to convince* someone of something positive. Again in a legal sense, it was used to denote lawyers who worked very diligently to convince people of a new way of thinking or a new way of seeing things. Perhaps they were entrenched in a wrong mindset or had a distorted perception, so the attorneys would go to work to change their opinion. In this case, they weren't trying *to convict* someone; they were working *to convince* someone!

Referring to the Holy Spirit, Jesus said, "And when he is come, he will reprove... of righteousness..." (John 16:8). After the Holy Spirit convicts us of sin and God declares us righteous, it takes a supernatural work of God to make us comprehend our new condition in Jesus Christ. This realization is just as supernatural as the moment we recognized we were lost. Only this time, we are being *supernaturally awakened* to the fact that we are righteous! I can remember when I woke up to this truth many years ago. I was driving down the street, feeling totally unrighteous while listening to a teaching tape on the subject of righteousness. Suddenly my mind began to grasp what I was hearing. It was as if someone took blinders off my eyes and earplugs out of my ears! For the first time, I was seeing and hearing the truth about my new righteousness in Christ Jesus. This truth was going straight to my heart by the power of the Holy Spirit! I not only heard the words, but I also *understood* them. My inward man leaped for joy when the Spirit of God illumined my understanding about righteousness. He convinced me of the truth, and I was set free!

If you struggle with a poor self-image and a constant feeling of condemnation, you need the Holy Spirit to do His convincing work in *your* life. Only He can open your eyes to see who you have become in Jesus Christ. Once your eyes have been opened and you understand you are righteous, you will never again throw the truth back in God's face and argue with Him. When the Holy Spirit reminds you that you have been declared righteous, you will cry out with joy, "Thank you! That's exactly who I am!" This means you don't have to be negative about yourself all the time. You don't have to beat yourself over the head, constantly reminding yourself of how unworthy you are, because Jesus made you worthy! He made you righteous! On the other hand, if you *don't have* a grasp of this God-given righteousness, a negative self-image will most likely rule your life, inhibiting your ability to pray with the confident trust that God will answer your prayer. That sense of unworthiness will cause a cloud of heaviness to hang over your life, hindering your ability to walk in the joy and victory of the Lord.

So don't you think it's time to let the Holy Spirit open your eyes and ears to see and hear the truth about who God has made you to be? It may seem hard to believe that you're righteous, and it may take a lot of convincing for you to finally believe it. *But the Holy Spirit was sent to be the Great Convinced He is on the job and is ready right now to start convincing you of the truth regarding who you are in Christ!*

"Sparkling Gems from the Greek."

(The Word; Word Search 9; Bible Software; 2008; Amplified Bible, KJV, American Standard, Darby.....and many more)

Psa 119:105

Thy word [is] a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.



Chapel Flock; "Thought For The Day"

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