



~ Thought For The Day ~

~gathering from the 4 winds~

“come just as you are”

Refresh, Restore, Rebuild = Healing



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Prayer

Lord, help us make the decision to put our unsanctified emotions, thoughts, feelings, and behavior aside and to start acting like You. We know that if we approached every problem "acting" like You, and leaning on You, and leaning into You, and by bringing everything to You in prayer it would make a huge difference in our life. You see everything from Your viewpoint and You know our beginning and ending and victory, so please help us to see like You, think like You, and act like You. Help us make the decision to change our way of thinking—to learn how to respond as You do to every situation we are confronted with in life. Guide us Lord, and lead us in the right pathway. Help us to walk in Your ways, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Scripture

Exodus 40: 1-38 (AMP)

1 AND THE Lord said to Moses, 2 On the first day of the first month you shall set up the tabernacle of the Tent of Meeting [of God with you]. 3 And you shall put in it the ark of the Testimony and screen the ark [of God's Presence] with the veil. 4 You shall bring in the [showbread] table and set in order the things that are to be upon it; and you shall bring in the lampstand and set up and light its lamps. 5 You shall set the golden altar for the incense before the ark of the Testimony [outside the veil] and put the hanging or screen at the tabernacle door. 6 You shall set the altar of the burnt offering before the door of the tabernacle of the Tent of Meeting. 7 And you shall set the laver between the Tent of Meeting and the altar and put water in it. 8 And you shall set up the court [curtains] round about and hang up the hanging or screen at the court gate. 9 You shall take the anointing oil and anoint the tabernacle and all that is in it, and shall consecrate it and all its furniture, and it shall be holy. 10 You shall anoint the altar of burnt offering and all its utensils; and consecrate (set apart for God) the altar, and the altar shall be most holy. 11 And you shall anoint the laver and its base and consecrate it. 12 You shall bring Aaron and his sons to the door of the Tent of Meeting and wash them with water. 13 You shall put on Aaron the holy garments, and anoint and consecrate him, so he may serve Me as priest. 14 And you shall bring his sons and put long and sleeved tunics on them, 15 And you shall anoint them as you anointed their father, that they may minister to Me as priests; for their anointing shall be to them for an everlasting priesthood throughout their generations. 16 Thus did Moses; according to all that the Lord commanded him, so he did. 17 And on the first day of the first month in the second year the tabernacle was erected. 18 Moses set up the tabernacle, laid its sockets, set up its boards, put in its bars, and erected its pillars. 19 [Moses] spread the tent over the tabernacle and put the covering of the tent over it, as the Lord had commanded him. 20 He took the Testimony [the Ten Commandments] and put it into the ark, and set the poles [in the rings] on the ark, and put the mercy seat on top of the ark. 21 [Moses] brought the ark into the tabernacle and set up the veil of the screen and screened the ark of the Testimony, as the Lord had commanded him. 22 Moses put the table [of showbread] in the Tent of Meeting on the north side of the tabernacle outside the veil; 23 He set the bread [of the Presence] in order on it before the Lord, as the Lord had commanded him. 24 And he put the lampstand in the Tent of Meeting opposite the table on the south side of the tabernacle. 25 Moses set up and lighted the lamps before the Lord, as the Lord commanded him. 26 He put the golden altar [of incense] in the Tent of Meeting before the veil; 27 He burned sweet incense [symbol of prayer] upon it, as the Lord commanded him. 28 And he set up the hanging or screen at the door of the tabernacle. 29 [Moses] put the altar of burnt offering at the door of the tabernacle of the Tent of Meeting and offered on it the burnt offering and the cereal offering, as the Lord commanded him. 30 And Moses set the laver between the Tent of Meeting and the altar and put water in it for washing. 31 And Moses and Aaron and his sons washed their hands and their feet there. 32 When they went into the Tent of Meeting or came near the altar, they washed, as the Lord commanded Moses. 33 And he erected the court round about the tabernacle and the altar and set up the hanging or screen at the court gate. So Moses finished the work. 34 Then the cloud [the Shekinah, God's visible presence] covered the Tent of Meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle! 35 And Moses was not able to enter the Tent of Meeting because the cloud remained upon it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. 36 In all their journeys, whenever the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the Israelites went onward; 37 But if the cloud was not taken up, they did not journey on till the day that it was taken up. 38 For throughout all their journeys the cloud of the Lord was upon the tabernacle by day, and fire was in it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel.

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The Tabernacle Indwelt By The Lord: V 17 The second year, in the first month when they came out of Egypt, was the celebration of the Passover, and they raised up this tabernacle there in the wilderness. **V 20** The "testimony" referred to the two tables of stone containing the Ten Commandments. **VV 34-38** Imagine what that would be like as you are constantly reminded of the presence of God, having the tabernacle in the midst of the Israelites encamped around it. At night they would see the fire of God hovering over the tabernacle. During the day they would see the cloud resting there. When the cloud lifted and moved, the people would fold the tabernacle and carry it off. They would follow the cloud until it stood still.

(Old Testament Study Guide; The Word For Today; 2005; Chuck Smith; Commentaries; pages 42-43)

The cloud that led the Israelites on their journey (see Exodus 40:36-38) symbolizes the leading of the Holy Spirit in our lives today. Are you following the "cloud" in your life, patiently waiting on God to lead you on the next phase of your journey and being quick to obey when He does? The Everyday Life Bible.

Ephesians 5:1

Have you ever been in a situation that made you so uncomfortable, you wished you could turn and run, but you knew you had to stay? Did you throw a fit and cry in front of everyone, alerting them to the fact that you were upset? Or did you speak to yourself, telling your emotions to get a grip and to be controlled? Did you make the choice to grit your teeth, put a smile on your face, and act like you were happy to be there, although truthfully that wasn't what you felt at all?

Let me give you two more common scenarios to consider. Have you ever been depressed, but because you were with other people, you had no choice but to smile, laugh, and act as if everything was fine? Or can you remember a moment when you were having a very upsetting or emotional talk with someone in your household—and suddenly the phone rang? Did you notice how your voice changed from sounding gloomy to sounding like a cheerful welcoming committee when you answered the telephone? "Hello! I'm so glad to hear from you. How are you?"

To disguise what you really were feeling in these different situations, you were required to act. All of us have found ourselves in similar situations.

Acting is an ability that every human being possesses. Children know how to act; teenagers know how to act; husbands and wives know how to act; and employees know how to act. If needed, every person on the planet knows how to switch into an acting mode! Acting is something that everyone can do.

In Ephesians 5:1, the apostle Paul wrote these words: "Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children." The word "followers" is the Greek word *mimetes*. The word *mimetes* means to imitate someone or to mimic what you see someone else doing. It was also used to describe actors or performing arts artists who acted on the stage for their profession. In addition, *mimetes* frequently depicted the modeling of a parent, teacher, champion, or hero. When a person was known for his high moral character, others were encouraged to emulate or copy that person.

The word *mimetes* is frequently used in the New Testament. For instance, Paul used the word *mimetes* when he told the Corinthians, "Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me." (1 Corinthians 4:16). This verse could be translated, "I'm urging you to act like me! Watch what I do, and duplicate in your own life everything you see in me...."

In Second Thessalonians 3:7, Paul used the word *mimetes* when he told the Thessalonians, "For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us...." This could be translated, "It would behoove you to follow our example—to imitate and mimic us with the goal of replicating the things you observe in our lives."

Hebrews 13:7 also uses the word *mimetes*. It says, "Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation." The last section of that verse could be translated, "... You need to carefully model your faith after theirs—doing what they do, saying what they say, acting like they act—considering the great maturity and fruit produced by their lives."

Because Paul uses this word in Ephesians 5:1, he is telling us to model our lives after God. Just as a professional actor is committed to capturing the emotions, looks, voice, character, and even the appearance of the person he is portraying, we are to put our whole heart and soul into imitating God in every sphere of our lives. This means we must make a decision to act like God!

But let's go back a little to see how Paul begins this verse. He says, "Be ye therefore...." The Greek word used here is the word *ginomai*; however, here it appears as the word *ginesthe* and would be better translated: "Be constantly in the process of becoming...." It expresses the idea of someone who has started some action in his life and is now continuing to work on it. He hasn't arrived at his goal yet, but he is committed to keep working on it and to stay in the process of becoming.

Successfully acting like God is not something you will attain the first time you try. For you to capture the emotions, looks, voice, and character of God—in other words, to successfully replicate Him in your life—will require commitment and time. Don't expect to arrive at this high level of duplication overnight. Instead, resolve to start where you are today; then do more tomorrow. Keep it up until you finally begin to think like God, talk like God, sound like God, and carry yourself in the confidence of God! (as in doing as the Word says we are His sons and daughters, and the closer our love walk, the more we become like Him)

When all of this is put together in Ephesians 5:1, it could be interpreted: "Be constantly in the process of becoming more like God—making it your aim to act like Him, to duplicate Him, and to exactly copy Him in every area of your life...."

I noted already that children, parents, husbands, wives, students, and employees have the ability to act. Very early in life, people learn that they must act a certain way in order to get what they want. If their behavior is wrong, they know that they must act differently. Changing behavior requires a decision to do things differently—to speak differently, to think differently, and to act differently. It all starts with a decision. (The choice is yours; to obey God as He leads you, or go around the mountain again.....we must learn to also be still and listen for the Lord; it will be as we meditate on the Word, or a stranger will come up to us at times and give us a message or confirmation from Him and it will be someone you do not know that knows nothing about you and sometimes it maybe a friend that does not know your prayer to God or a brother or sister in Christ, many times it will be confirmation or exhortation or encouragement and it will all line up with the Word. If it does not line up with the Word than it is not God, He cannot go against His Word, for He is the truth.)

Matthew 22:37-40 (AMP)

37 And He replied to him, You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind (intellect). 38 This is the great (most important, principal) and first commandment. 39 And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as [you do] yourself. 40 These two commandments sum up and upon them depend all the Law and the Prophets.

Why don't you make a decision to put your unsanctified emotions, thoughts, feelings, and behavior aside, and start acting like God? What would happen to your life, your family, your church, your community, your nation, and the world if you did that? What would happen if you approached every problem acting as God does when He approaches problems? What difference would it make in your life if you acted like God every time you have to deal with an unloving person? In all these cases, your world would be dramatically affected if you acted like God. Problems would appear very small, and you'd believe you could overcome every one of them. You'd have sufficient love, patience, and forgiveness for every unloving person. So why don't you make the decision to take up acting (as in living in Your love walk and do as Jesus would do)? Resolve today that in every situation, you're going to imitate your Heavenly Father, the greatest Role Model of all. And remember, when you face a challenge, you don't have to sit around wondering what God would say or do. His "script"—His anointed Word—is always available to help you learn how to act like Him!

QUESTIONS FOR YOU TO CONSIDER: What would happen if you approached every problem acting as God does when He approaches problems? What difference would it make in your life if you acted like God every time you dealt with an unloving person? When you are faced with a difficult situation, do you ask yourself what God would say or do? (Seek God lean on Him, lean into Him, meditate on the Word and pray.....) Sparkling Gems from the Greek.

Proverbs 1:1-33 (AMP): 1 THE PROVERBS (truths obscurely expressed, maxims, and parables) of Solomon son of David, king of Israel: 2 That people may know skillful and godly Wisdom and instruction, discern and comprehend the words of understanding and insight, 3 Receive instruction in wise dealing and the discipline of wise thoughtfulness, righteousness, justice, and integrity, 4 That prudence may be given to the simple, and knowledge, discretion, and discernment to the youth— 5 The wise also will hear and increase in learning, and the person of understanding will acquire skill and attain to sound counsel [so that he may be able to steer his course rightly]— 6 That people may understand a proverb and a figure of speech or an enigma with its interpretation, and the words of the wise and their dark sayings or riddles. 7 The reverent and worshipful fear of the Lord is the beginning and the principal and choice part of knowledge [its starting point and its essence]; but fools despise skillful and godly Wisdom, instruction, and discipline. 8 My son, hear the instruction of your father; reject not nor forsake the teaching of your mother. 9 For they are a [victor's] chaplet (garland) of grace upon your head and chains and pendants [of gold worn by kings] for your neck. 10 My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent. 11 If they say, Come with us; let us lie in wait [to shed] blood, let us ambush the innocent without cause [and show that his piety is in vain]; 12 Let us swallow them up alive as does Sheol (the place of the dead), and whole, as those who go down into the pit [of the dead]; 13 We shall find and take all kinds of precious goods [when our victims are put out of the way], we shall fill our houses with plunder; 14 Throw in your lot with us [they insist] and be a sworn brother and comrade; let us all have one purse in common— 15 My son, do not walk in the way with them; restrain your foot from their path; 16 For their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed blood. 17 For in vain is the net spread in the sight of any bird! 18 But [when these men set a trap for others] they are lying in wait for their own blood; they set an ambush for their own lives. 19 So are the ways of everyone who is greedy of gain; such [greed for plunder] takes away the lives of its possessors. 20 Wisdom cries aloud in the street, she raises her voice in the markets; 21 She cries at the head of the noisy intersections [in the chief gathering places]; at the entrance of the city gates she speaks: 22 How long, O simple ones [open to evil], will you love being simple? And the scoffers delight in scoffing and [self-confident] fools hate knowledge? 23 If you will turn (repent) and give heed to my reproof, behold, I [Wisdom] will pour out my spirit upon you, I will make my words known to you. 24 Because I have called and you have refused [to answer], have stretched out my hand and no man has heeded it, 25 And you treated as nothing all my counsel and would accept none of my reproof, 26 I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when the thing comes that shall cause you terror and panic— 27 When your panic comes as a storm and desolation and your calamity comes on as a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come upon you. 28 Then will they call upon me [Wisdom] but I will not answer; they will seek me early and diligently but they will not find me. 29 Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the reverent and worshipful fear of the Lord, 30 Would accept none of my counsel, and despised all my reproof, 31 Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way and be satiated with their own devices. 32 For the backsliding of the simple shall slay them, and the careless ease of [self-confident] fools shall destroy them. 33 But whoso hearkens to me [Wisdom] shall dwell securely and in confident trust and shall be quiet, without fear or dread of evil.

Study Questions For Exodus:

1. The book of Exodus is all about the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt. Why did they need to leave? (Exodus 1: 8-14). What effect did this have on the children of Israel? (Exodus 1: 12).

2. The name of God is a verb meaning "to be" (Exodus 3:14). He is "The Becoming One," as He becomes to you whatever your need might be. What did God become to the children of Israel in Exodus 15:26 and 17: 15? What do you need Him to be in your life today?

3. List the ten plagues that God brought upon Egypt. What was significant about those specific things that were affected? (Exodus 8: 1-2).

4. During the last plague that God was to bring upon the Egyptians, God instituted a way of protection for the Israelites that their first born would not perish (Exodus 12: 3-12). How was the Passover a shadow of things to come for the protection of our lives today? (Exodus 12: 13-14 and 1 Corinthians 5:7).

5. What does the Sabbath symbolize for Christians today? (Hebrews 4: 9-11 and Exodus 31: 12-18).
