



~ 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, my Lord if anyone reading this devotional does not know You, I ask that You draw them to You, that they are saved and redeemed. Than I ask that You change what You want changed in them, and than in You make them the best they can be; beauty for ashes. Keep them all and bless them and supply their needs, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Scripture

1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?
2 God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? 3 Know you not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Gal 3:27; 4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. Col 2:12; Rom 8:11; Phil 3:10-11; Eph 4:23; Col 3:10; Heb 12:1; 1Pet 2:2; 5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Rom 8:11; Col 3:1; 6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that from now on we should not serve sin. Gal 2:20; Gal 5:24; Phil 3:10; 1Pet 4:1-2; 7 For he that is dead is freed from sin. 1Pet 4:1;
8 Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: 2Tim 2:11; 9 Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dies no more; death has no more dominion over him. Rev 1:18; 10 For in that he died, he died to sin once: but in that he lives, he lives to God. 1Pet 2:24; 11 Likewise reckon you also yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 6:1-11

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If we are no longer under the Law, and Christ forgives our sins, then why not keep on sinning and Christ will keep on forgiving? Paul answers that such a thing is unthinkable, Christ died to save us from our sins. His forgiveness is for the purpose of making us hate our sins. We cannot be servants of sin and servants of Christ at the same time. We must choose one or the other. It is not possible to please Christ and the other. It is not possible to please Christ and continue to live in sin at the same time. This does not mean that we can entirely overcome all our sins and place ourselves beyond the need of His mercy. But it does mean that there are two essentially different ways of life; the way of Christ and the way of sin. In our heart we belong to one or the other, but not to both. Christ, the perfect embodiment of the Law of God, furnishes us with the motive and supplies us with the power to struggle on toward that perfect holiness which, by His grace, ultimately shall be ours.

God forbid means perish the thought. When we're born again, our spirits are put in control of our bodies and minds. In the spiritual dimension we fellowship with God and we are conscious of Him. We buried the old flesh dominated nature in baptism, and the new creature is free from sin. Destroyed, is the Greek work *katargeo* which means to put out of business. Our old man was crucified. God didn't intend for our bodily appetites to rule over us, but as long as we're in these bodies, we'll have a struggle with the flesh. We must daily go before God to recon our old nature dead and faithfully claim the victory (Galatians 5). We don't have to sin anymore. We now have the choice to yield to the flesh or to God. We've been freed from being servants of sin. Now that we're free from the bondage of sin and under grace, it doesn't make sense to sin. Instead, we can yield ourselves to God as His instruments for righteousness. The fruit (or product) of it is death. The fruit of holiness is eternal life.

(New Testament Study Guide; 2005; Chuck Smith; commentaries; page 74)

What do we believe about ourselves? Do we believe that we must have approval from people in order to be happy? If so, you will never be happy when anyone disapproves of you. Do you believe that you are all wrong? If we do, we will continue to produce wrong behavior. Our lives will bear fruit on the outside of what you believe about yourself on the inside. We are to behave correctly, so He gives us what we need in order to do that. God never requires us to do something without giving us what we need to do it. God gives us the gift of righteousness so we can become righteous in what we think, say, and do. Although we sin, God's free gift of righteousness cannot even be compared to our sin. Our sin is great, but His free gift of righteousness is greater. Our sin is swallowed up in His righteousness. Our righteousness is not found in what people think of us, it is found in Christ. Christ is our righteousness from God. We are righteous in Him, and because of that God is pleased with us.

Our decision to obey God affects other people, and when we decide to disobey God, that also affects others too. You may disobey God and choose to stay in the wilderness, but please keep in mind that if you now have children or ever will have children, your decisions will keep them in the wilderness with you. They may manage to get themselves out when they are grown, but we can assure you that they will pay a price for your disobedience.

Obedience is a far-reaching choice; it close the gates of hell and opens the windows of heaven, and it has the power to affect many people. Jesus was obedient willingly, because of that countless multitudes will be brought into right standing with God.

Our life might be in better shape now if someone in our past had obeyed God. If there is a cycle of disobedience in your family or among your friends, why not break it by refusing to be disobedient in your life? Ask God to help you to obey. That way you will be teaching your children in the right way to go, and just maybe when they get old they will not depart from it.

Even though we know we receive forgiveness does not mean we are free to sin. Grace is not meant to encourage sin. We are to live in obedience. If you have an area in your life of sin you struggle with. Don't treat it casually because you know you will be forgiven, ask God to strengthen you and to help you stop committing sin. Sadly today I see people out and about in the community whom profess to be Christian, but still are living the way they were before they came to Christ. This usually means that a person did not take it as real, but that if they say it, than it is ok to sin because they are accepted. God will not be mocked. I think myself that this comes from the concept that they cannot see God, so it is a go along with the crowd sort of thing. God knows a persons heart, and He also knows if they are telling the truth when coming to Him.

You earn a paycheck, but you receive a gift. Romans 6:23, Paul teaches that the payment, the unavoidable consequence we earned because of our sin, is death. God offers to every individual the gift, something we cannot earn of eternal life in Jesus Christ. If you have not received this gift of eternal life, we encourage you to ask Him for it. He gives it freely all you have to do is ask. He gives us free will to choose or not choose, He gives people the right to go straight to hell if that is what they choose. He draws people first and chooses to redeem them.

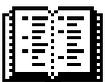
(KJV Bible; Amplified Bible; 2005; Joyce Meyer; Scripture, notes and commentary; pages 1812-1815)

Psalm 46

- 1 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
- 2 Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the middle of the sea;
- 3 Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. Selah.
- 4 There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High.
- 5 God is in the middle of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her, and that right early.
- 6 The heathen raged, the kingdoms were moved: he uttered his voice, the earth melted.
- 7 The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah.
- 8 Come, behold the works of the LORD, what desolations he has made in the earth.
- 9 He makes wars to cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow, and cuts the spear in sunder; he burns the chariot in the fire.
- 10 Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.
- 11 The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah.

Psa 119:105

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



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