



~ Thought For The Day ~

~gathering from the 4 winds~

“come just as you are”

Refresh, Restore, Rebuild = Healing



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Prayer

Lord, I thank You so much for people who have prayed for me. I know their prayers were a vital force to keep Heaven in remembrance of the needs and situations I was facing in life at the time. Forgive me for not being more grateful for people who loved me enough to pray. Now I ask You to help me faithfully pray for those You place on my heart, just as others have prayed for me. Help me keep Heaven in remembrance of these people and their needs. Fill me with their needs and how I ought to pray for them, as lead by the Holy Spirit in how to pray, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Scripture

Leviticus 11: 1-47 (AMP)

1 AND THE Lord said to Moses and Aaron, 2 Say to the Israelites: These are the animals which you may eat among all the beasts that are on the earth. 3 Whatever parts the hoof and is cloven-footed and chews the cud, any of these animals you may eat. 4 Nevertheless these you shall not eat of those that chew the cud or divide the hoof: the camel, because it chews the cud but does not divide the hoof; it is unclean to you. 5 And the coney or rock badger, because it chews the cud but does not divide the hoof; it is unclean to you. 6 And the hare, because it chews the cud but does not divide the hoof; it is unclean to you. 7 And the swine, because it divides the hoof and is cloven-footed but does not chew the cud; it is unclean to you. 8 Of their flesh you shall not eat, and their carcasses you shall not touch; they are unclean to you. 9 These you may eat of all that are in the waters: whatever has fins and scales in the waters, in the seas, and in the rivers, these you may eat; 10 But all that have not fins and scales in the seas and in the rivers, of all the creeping things in the waters, and of all the living creatures which are in the waters, they are [to be considered] an abomination and abhorrence to you. 11 They shall continue to be an abomination to you; you shall not eat of their flesh, but you shall detest their carcasses. 12 Everything in the waters that has not fins or scales shall be abhorrent and detestable to you. 13 These you shall have in abomination among the birds; they shall not be eaten, for they are detestable: the eagle, the ossifrage, the ospray, 14 The kite, the whole species of falcon, 15 Every kind of raven, 16 The ostrich, the nighthawk, the sea gull, every species of hawk, 17 The owl, the cormorant, the ibis, 18 The swan, the pelican, the vulture, 19 The stork, all kinds of heron, the hoopoe, and the bat. 20 All winged insects that go upon all fours are to be an abomination to you; 21 Yet of all winged insects that go upon all fours you may eat those which have legs above their feet with which to leap on the ground. 22 Of these you may eat: the whole species of locust, of bald locust, of cricket, and of grasshopper. 23 But all other winged insects which have four feet shall be detestable to you. 24 And by [contact with] these you shall become unclean; whoever touches the carcass of them shall be unclean until the evening, 25 And whoever carries any part of their carcass shall wash his clothes and be unclean until the evening. 26 Every beast which parts the hoof but is not cloven-footed or does not chew the cud is unclean to you; everyone who touches them shall be unclean. 27 And all that go on their paws, among all kinds of four-footed beasts, are unclean to you; whoever touches their carcass shall be unclean until the evening, 28 And he who carries their carcass shall wash his clothes and be unclean until the evening; they are unclean to you. 29 These also are unclean to you among the creeping things [that multiply greatly] and creep upon the ground: the weasel, the mouse, any kind of great lizard, 30 The gecko, the land crocodile, the lizard, the sand lizard, and the chameleon. 31 These are unclean to you among all that creep; whoever touches them when they are dead shall be unclean until the evening. 32 And upon whatever they may fall when they are dead, it shall be unclean, whether it is an article of wood or clothing or skin (bottle) or sack, any vessel in which work is done; it must be put in water, and it shall be unclean until the evening; so it shall be cleansed. 33 And every earthen vessel into which any of these [creeping things] falls, whatever may be in it shall be unclean, and you shall break the vessel. 34 Of all the food [in one of these unclean vessels] which may be eaten, that on which such water comes shall be unclean, and all drink that may be drunk from every such vessel shall be unclean. 35 And everything upon which any part of their carcass falls shall be unclean; whether an oven, or pan with a lid, or hearth for pots, it shall be broken in pieces; they are unclean, and shall be unclean to you. 36 Yet a spring or a cistern or reservoir of water shall be clean; but whoever touches their carcass shall be unclean. 37 If a part

of their carcass falls on seed which is to be sown, it shall be clean; 38 But if any water be put on the seed and any part of their carcass falls on it, it shall be unclean to you. 39 If any animal of which you may eat dies [unslaughtered], he who touches its carcass shall be unclean until the evening. 40 And he who eats of its carcass [ignorantly] shall wash his clothes, and be unclean until the evening; he also who carries its carcass shall wash his clothes, and be unclean until the evening. 41 And everything that creeps on the ground and [multiplies in] swarms shall be an abomination; it shall not be eaten. 42 Whatever goes on its belly, and whatever goes on all fours, or whatever has more [than four] feet among all things that creep on the ground and swarm you shall not eat; for they are detestable. 43 You shall not make yourselves loathsome and abominable [by eating] any swarming thing that [multiplies by] swarms, neither shall you make yourselves unclean with them, that you should be defiled by them. 44 For I am the Lord your God; so consecrate yourselves and be holy, for I am holy; neither defile yourselves with any manner of thing that multiplies in large numbers or swarms. 45 For I am the Lord Who brought you up out of the land of Egypt to be your God; therefore you shall be holy, for I am holy. 46 This is the law of the beast, and of the bird, and of every living creature that moves in the waters, and creeps on the earth and multiplies in large numbers, 47 To make a difference (a distinction) between the unclean and the clean, and between the animal that may be eaten and the animal that may not be eaten.

Leviticus 11. Clean and Unclean Animals;... Before the Flood there was a distinction between clean and unclean animals (Genesis 7:2). Through Moses this distinction acquired the force of divine law. It was based partly on the wholesomeness of a particular kind of animal as food, and partly on religious considerations, designed to serve as one of the marks of separation of Israel from other nations. Jesus abrogated the distinction (Mark 7:19), making all meats clean (see also Acts 10:9–16). (Halley's Bible Handbook; Henry Halley; 2000; Zondervan; Bible History and Commentaries; page 159)

Clean and Unclean Animals: V 6 This animal in the Hebrew is arnebeth. We don't know what kind of animal it is, but the King James translators think it may be a rabbit. However, just lately they discovered that a rabbit does chew a cud. There's a danger with wild rabbits, of the yellow fever disease. V 7 We know that if we eat pork, it is important that we cook it well done because of the danger of getting trichinosis from rare pork. God is protecting them rather than telling them how to cook. He just put it on one of the forbidden lists. VV 9_11 Crab and claims were forbidden. Shellfish during certain months of the year are deadly and poisonous. God , again, was protecting the people with these laws in regards to these things that are in the water. VV 25-40 The care and washing yourself after touching dead carcasses. God is teaching good hygiene. (Old Testament Study Guide; The Word For Today; 2005; Chuck Smith; Commentaries; page 49)

Leviticus 11 sets forth all kinds of guidelines about what the Israelites could and could not eat. Over the years, I have needed God's help in the area of eating, just as the Israelites did. I would like to share ten tips I have learned that have enabled me to eat wisely, healthfully, and in a way that pleases God:

Eat when you are truly hungry and not just because someone offers you food or because it is sitting in front of you.

If you listen carefully to your body, it will let you know what it needs and wants. Sometimes I actually crave vegetables; at other times I want fish or red meat. That is my body letting me know what it needs. There are times I want something sweet, and it is not wrong to eat sweets if we do so in moderation. Eating a variety of foods is one of the keys to good nutrition.

Enjoy what you eat. Eat sitting down. People tend to eat more than they realize when they are standing while they eat. Eat slowly. After about twenty minutes of eating, your brain receives a signal that you are full. Stop eating when you are no longer hungry. Take small portions, planning to have another portion if you want it. Many times, the first small portion will satisfy you. Eat small portions more frequently rather than one or two huge meals a day. Anything your body cannot metabolize and use is stored as fat. Keeping your metabolism working by eating several small meals a day or healthy snacks between meals will actually help you stay fit and trim. Do not make provision for "eating binges" by keeping your refrigerator and pantry full of high-calorie, high-fat, low-quality foods that you know you should not eat. Stay focused on things you need to do and keep your mind off food. Eat necessary food. We all consume many calories that are truly unnecessary every day—a bite of this or that, the piece of bread and butter before the meal, the second helping when in reality we are already getting full. Ask yourself if you really need something before you just mindlessly put it in your mouth. I think it is amazing that the Bible tells us what to eat. God cares about every area of our lives, not just the spiritual parts. He wants us to be healthy, filled with energy, and looking our best! Leviticus contains much instruction on eating. Do you have any eating habits that you know are unwise or displeasing to the Lord? Ask Him to help you eat healthfully!

How Is Your Memory Working?

2 Timothy 1:3

When Paul wrote these words, he was sitting in prison in Rome. Having been judged by the courts and sentenced to death, he was living his final days in prison as he awaited the day of his execution. The method of execution had been decreed: He was to die by beheading.

Paul knew that in just a short time, soldiers would enter his cell, bind him in chains, and then take him to the place of his beheading. As he anticipated this coming hour, Paul received a letter from Timothy. Reading the letter, he perceived that his young disciple was in trouble. A spirit of fear was attempting to operate in Timothy due to the horrific persecution that was sweeping like waves across his city. In addition, Timothy was fighting feelings of hurt and devastation because the leaders he trusted had abandoned him in this difficult hour.

Paul knew that this might be his last opportunity on earth to encourage the younger man of God, so he wrote back to Timothy and told him, "I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day" (2 Timothy 1:3).

This word "remembrance" comes from the Greek word *mneia*. In some places in literature, this word denoted a written record used to record and memorialize a person's actions. In other places, it signified a statue, monument, or memorial. An example of this latter meaning is found in Acts 10:3, 4. As Cornelius prays, an angel appears to him and says, "Thy prayers and thy alms are come up for a memorial before God." This word "memorial" is from the same Greek root as the word "remembrance" that Paul used in Second Timothy 1:3.

What do all these various meanings have to do with Paul's prayer for Timothy? What images does Paul intend to communicate by using this very special word?

First, this word tells us that Paul intended to use his prayer time to make sure Heaven was fully aware of all the achievements being accomplished by Timothy. Before Paul began to lift up Timothy's present need, he'd take the time to tell Heaven everything he thought and felt for this young man of God. By doing this, Paul memorialized Timothy in the annals of Heaven! Paul set the record straight and made sure Heaven was aware of what this young disciple was doing in Jesus' name.

We need to learn from Paul's example. Before you begin to pray for a person's need, first take a few minutes to review his acts of faith! Remind the Lord of all that person has done for the Kingdom of God. Put the Lord in remembrance of the way he has served, the time he has given, what he has sown, and the way he has endured to do His will. Make sure you start your prayer time by setting the record straight and memorializing that person in the Presence of the Lord. (Prayer of petition)

Second, the use of this word tells us that Paul prayed so fiercely and fervently for Timothy that his prayers left a lasting impression in Heaven. Like a statue or memorial permanently stands for generations to remind us of what someone did in the past, Paul's prayers for Timothy were monumental in Heaven. Figuratively speaking, Paul prayed so much for Timothy that he filled the throne room of God with pictures, images, statues, and memorials of the younger man (his faith walk and believing). Everywhere God looked, He saw an image of Timothy! In other words, God was continually confronted with the needs of Paul's young disciple through the apostle's continual prayers. (this is just creating a allegory, of what God must feel when we pray for a person, but yet God already does know, but expects us to ask and we cannot speak for God, but we can assume since we are His kids, that He does smile at us at times, because He is our Dad.....remember when your kids were little and they asked for something?)

How would you like for someone to pray for you this much? Would it bless you to know that one person is so dedicated to praying for you that he has filled Heaven with your image (your needs)—to the point that everywhere God looks, He is met head-on with your needs and your desires?

Let me turn the question around now and ask this: Is there anyone you're praying for right now? If the answer is yes, go for it with all your heart, knowing that your prayers are painting pictures and erecting statues of that person and his need before God. Because of your prayers for your loved one, God will consistently be reminded of his need and will move mightily on his behalf. (If it is His will, and we don't do it, God does, we just pray. Prayer is a hot line to God...love talk.)

These Greek meanings tell us that it is almost as if Paul was telling Timothy:

"Timothy, my intention is to pray, pray, pray, and pray for you until I have set the record straight about your activities and until I have stacked the throne room of God with your name! Anywhere God looks, I want Him to see a living memorial of you! I don't want God to ever forget you; therefore, I am loading Heaven with statues, monuments, and memorials of you. My prayers for you will stand as an everlasting memorial before God!" (did you know that some people when they have prayed, than they passed away, that there has been times when prayer was answered after a person passed away, for someone they had been praying for...??)

The fact is that many lives have been spared because of a mother or grandmother who prayed. Even long after these faithful prayer warriors die and go to Heaven, their prayers continue to exert power in life. Why is this so? Because prayers are permanent and everlasting. God never forgets a prayer that is prayed in faith (and love). That prayer stands in His Presence as an everlasting memorial—like a huge edifice or marble statue!

Don't wait another day! Go ahead and start stacking Heaven with some of your own everlasting memorials. Open the door for God's blessings to flow into the lives of those for whom you pray. And be assured—your prayers of faith on behalf of others will NEVER be forgotten by God!

QUESTIONS FOR YOU TO CONSIDER:....Do you know anyone who fervently prayed for you and who is partially responsible for where you are in life right now because of his or her prayers? Don't you think it's time for you to return the favor by consistently praying for someone else? Why don't you make a prayer list of people you can begin to pray for every day? Take time to really think about who you should include on that list; then write down their names on a piece of paper, and keep the list in a place where you can refer to it when you pray. The fact is that many lives have been spared because of a mother or grandmother who prayed. Even after these faithful prayer warriors die and go to Heaven, their prayers continue to exert power in life. Sparkling Gems from the Greek.

(AMP Bible; The Everyday Life Bible; Joyce Meyers; Scripture; Commentaries; Past Pastor Sermons; Dictionary; 2006; pg 170-173)
(Word 9 Bible Software; 2010; Concordance, Dictionary, Scripture, Sermons of Saints past, Devos; Sparkling Gems From The Greek)