



# ~ 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 want to set my eyes on the finish line and never lose my focus until I know that I've accomplished the task You have given me to do. I know it's going to take all my spiritual, mental, and physical energies to get this job done. So I am turning to You now, Holy Spirit, and I'm asking You to empower me and to help me make it all the way to the completion of the dream You have given to me. Lord fill me with Your will for me today and plans, in Jesus' name. Amen.

## Scripture

Leviticus 14: 1-57 (AMP)

1 AND THE Lord said to Moses, 2 This shall be the law of the leper on the day when he is to be pronounced clean: he shall be brought to the priest [at a meeting place outside the camp]; 3 The priest shall go out of the camp [to meet him]; and [he] shall examine him, and if the disease is healed in the leper, 4 Then the priest shall command to take for him who is to be cleansed two living clean birds and cedar wood and scarlet [material] and hyssop. 5 And the priest shall command to kill one of the birds in an earthen vessel over fresh, running water. 6 As for the living bird, he shall take it, the cedar wood, and the scarlet [material], and the hyssop, and shall dip them and the living bird in the blood of the bird killed over the running water; 7 And he shall sprinkle [the blood] on him who is to be cleansed from the leprosy seven times and shall pronounce him clean, and shall let go the living bird into the open field. 8 He who is to be cleansed shall wash his clothes, shave off all his hair, and bathe himself in water; and he shall be clean. After that he shall come into the camp, but stay outside his tent seven days. 9 But on the seventh day he shall shave all his hair off his head, his beard, his eyebrows, and his [body]; and he shall wash his clothes and bathe his body in water, and be clean. 10 On the eighth day he shall take two he-lambs without blemish and one ewe lamb a year old without blemish, and three-tenths of an ephah of fine flour for a cereal offering, mixed with oil, and one log of oil. 11 And the priest who cleanses him shall set the man who is to be cleansed and these things before the Lord at the door of the Tent of Meeting; 12 The priest shall take one of the male lambs and offer it for a guilt or trespass offering, and the log of oil, and wave them for a wave offering before the Lord. 13 He shall kill the lamb in the place where they kill the sin offering and the burnt offering, in the sacred place [the court of the tabernacle]; for as the sin offering is the priest's, so is the guilt or trespass offering; it is most holy; 14 And the priest shall take some of the blood of the guilt or trespass offering and put it on the tip of the right ear of him who is to be cleansed, and on the thumb of his right hand, and on the great toe of his right foot. 15 And the priest shall take some of the log of oil and pour it into the palm of his own left hand; 16 And the priest shall dip his right finger in the oil that is in his left hand and shall sprinkle some of the oil with his finger seven times before the Lord; 17 And of the rest of the oil that is in his hand shall the priest put some on the tip of the right ear of him who is to be cleansed, and on the thumb of his right hand, and on the great toe of his right foot, on the blood of the guilt or trespass offering [which he has previously placed in each of these places]. 18 And the rest of the oil that is in the priest's hand he shall pour upon the head of him who is to be cleansed and make atonement for him before the Lord. 19 And the priest shall offer the sin offering and make atonement for him who is to be cleansed from his uncleanness, and afterward kill the burnt offering [victim]. 20 And the priest shall offer the burnt offering and the cereal offering on the altar; and he shall make atonement for him, and he shall be clean. 21 If the cleansed leper is poor and cannot afford so much, he shall take one lamb for a guilt or trespass offering to be waved to make atonement for him, and one tenth of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil for a cereal offering, and a log of oil, 22 And two turtledoves or two young pigeons, such as he can afford, one for a sin offering, the other for a burnt offering. 23 He shall bring them on the eighth day for his cleansing to the priest at the door of the Tent of Meeting, before the Lord. 24 And the priest shall take the lamb of the guilt or trespass offering, and the log of oil, and shall wave them for a wave offering before the Lord. 25 And he shall kill the lamb of the guilt or trespass offering, and the priest shall take some of the blood of the offering and put it on the tip of the right ear of him who is to be cleansed, and on the thumb of his right hand, and on the great toe of his right foot. 26 And the priest shall pour some of the oil into the palm of his own left hand, 27 And shall sprinkle with his right finger some of the oil that is in

his left hand seven times before the Lord. 28 The priest shall put some of the oil in his hand on the tip of the right ear of the one to be cleansed, and on the thumb of his right hand, and on the great toe of his right foot, on the places where he has put the blood of the guilt offering. 29 The rest of the oil that is in the priest's hand he shall put on the head of the one to be cleansed, to make atonement for him before the Lord. 30 And he shall offer one of the turtledoves or of the young pigeons, such as he is able to get, 31 As he can afford, one for a sin offering and the other for a burnt offering, together with the cereal offering; and the priest shall make atonement for him who is to be cleansed before the Lord. 32 This is the law of him in whom is the plague of leprosy, who is not able to get what is required for his cleansing. 33 And the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, 34 When you have come into the land of Canaan, which I give to you for a possession, and I put the disease of leprosy in a house of the land of your possession, 35 Then he who owns the house shall come and tell the priest, It seems to me there is some sort of disease in my house. 36 Then the priest shall command that they empty the house before [he] goes in to examine the disease, so that all that is in the house may not be declared unclean; afterward [he] shall go in to see the house. 37 He shall examine the disease, and if it is in the walls of the house with depressed spots of dark green or dark red appearing beneath [the surface of] the wall, 38 Then the priest shall go out of the door and shut up the house seven days. 39 The priest shall come again on the seventh day and shall look; and if the disease has spread in the walls of the house, 40 He shall command that they take out the diseased stones and cast them into an unclean place outside the city. 41 He shall cause the house to be scraped within round about and the plaster or mortar that is scraped off to be emptied out in an unclean place outside the city. 42 And they shall put other stones in the place of those stones, and he shall plaster the house with fresh mortar. 43 If the disease returns, breaking out in the house after he has removed the stones and has scraped and plastered the house, 44 Then the priest shall come and look, and if the disease is spreading in the house, it is a rotting or corroding leprosy in the house; it is unclean. 45 He shall tear down the house—its stones and its timber and all the plaster or mortar of the house—and shall carry them forth out of the city to an unclean place. 46 Moreover, he who enters the house during the whole time that it is shut up shall be unclean until the evening. 47 And he who lies down or eats in the house shall wash his clothes. 48 But if the priest inspects it and the disease has not spread after the house was plastered, he shall pronounce the house clean, because the disease is healed. 49 He shall take to cleanse the house two birds, cedar wood, scarlet [material], and hyssop; 50 And he shall kill one of the birds in an earthen vessel over running water, 51 And he shall take the cedar wood, and the hyssop, and the scarlet [material], and the living bird, and dip them in the blood of the slain bird and in the running water, and sprinkle the house seven times. 52 And he shall cleanse the house with the blood of the bird, the running water, the living bird, the cedar wood, the hyssop, and the scarlet [material]. 53 But he shall let the living bird go out of the city into the open field; so he shall make atonement for the house, and it shall be clean. 54 This is the law for all kinds of leprous diseases, and mange like conditions, 55 For the leprosy of a garment or of a house, 56 And for a swelling or an eruption or a scab or a bright spot, 57 To teach when it is unclean and when it is clean. This is the law of leprosy.

#### Leviticus 13–14. The Test for Skin Diseases

These regulations were for the purpose of controlling the spread of infectious skin diseases, of which the most loathsome and dreaded was leprosy. The word translated "leprosy" in the kjv has a range of meanings, including leprosy, skin disease, and even mildew. Primitive as this approach may seem to us, these simple measures undoubtedly saved many lives.

(Halley's Bible Handbook; Henry Halley; 2000; Zondervon; Bible History and Commentaries; page 159)

**Cleansing For Leprosy: VV 1-2** Leprosy is incurable. So in His grac, God made a provision in the law—apart from a human instrument. VV 3-10 He is to offer a trespass offering, a sin offering, and then a burnt offering of consecration. Leprosy has often been used to symbolize sin because of the mystery of its origin and of its transmission. We don't know how leprosy is transmitted from one person to another, even as we don't know how sin is actually transmitted from one to another. Leprosy by all human standards is incurable. Sin is also incurable, as far as man is concerned. Leprosy is deadly; sin is deadly in its result. Leprosy is insidious in its development within the body, destroying first the nerves and progressing until it hits a vital area. Sin seems to be progressive and insidious in that it destroys man's will to resist. VV 35-45 There was a plague that would also get in the houses, probably like mildew. If this growth was in the house, they were to scrape the rocks and re-plaster them. If it broke out again, they tore down the house completely. If it didn't break out again, the house was considered clean, and they could live in it.

(Old Testament Study Guide; The Word For Today; 2005; Chuck Smith; Commentaries; page 50)

#### Run Like You Are In the Race of Your Life!

##### 1 Corinthians 9:24

The main goal of all believers should be to find God's plan for their lives and then to go after it with all their might and strength. But most Christians have never even awakened to the fact that God has a special race for them to run! This is why Paul asked the Corinthians, "Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but only one received the prize? So run, that ye may obtain."

Paul teaches us here that we are in a "race." The word "race" is the Greek word stadion, which later became our word stadium. However, it first described a race course that was 600 feet in length or one-eighth of a Roman mile—the exact length that was used in the Olympics of the ancient world and in the Isthmian Games that were held near the city of Corinth. Because Paul was highly educated, he knew precisely what he was doing when he used a word that described the Olympic race course of his day.

As noted above, eventually the word stadion became the word for a stadium, a place where athletic competitions were held. Since this is the picture Paul has in his mind as he uses the word "race," let's stop to consider the Olympic competitions and competitors of that time. The winners of the Olympic competitions were rewarded both materially and with great honor; however, if you study the Olympic champions in the ancient world, you will see that the primary emphasis of reward was not on material wealth, but on

the distinguished honor bestowed on the winners. These people were only able to achieve victory in the Olympic games by being disciplined, balanced, and committed to excellence; for these qualities, they were held in high regard. They became revered as heroes, gods, or icons in their society. Respect, honor, notoriety, and fame became their lifelong reward.

In addition to these ideas, it is also important to note that the word "race," from the Greek word stadion, depicted the huge arena where athletic competitions were held. Paul uses this word to tell us that when we enter the race of faith, it puts us in the center of the arena. People see us as we walk by faith. They know of our struggles, and they watch as spectators to see if we will win our battles.

We must always keep in mind, therefore, that we're not running a private race of faith, but a race that has influence on many people's lives. Hence, Paul urges us to run our race in a way that encourages the bystanders who are watching from the sidelines to jump into the race themselves and pursue their destiny in God!

By using these ideas, Paul was communicating to the Corinthians (and to us) that we need to see ourselves as spiritual Olympic competitors! This life we lead is no game; it is the most serious competition we will ever face in this world. The rewards of a life well lived are enormous. Not only will God materially reward us as we are faithful to His call, but He also reserves eternal rewards of honor and glory for those of us who run our race well in this life (Romans 2:10).

It is interesting that Paul says, "... They which run in a race run all..." Notice particularly the emphasis "run all." It means every believer is in some kind of race. A believer may not have awakened to the race he is in yet, or perhaps the race hasn't yet been revealed to him. Nevertheless, the fact remains that God has a specific plan for every individual.

Our task is to find the divine plan for our lives; to get in shape so we can start running our race; and then to run like mad so we can finish in first place! That's why Paul exhorted us, "... Run, that ye may obtain" (1 Corinthians 9:24).

You see, runners have one thought foremost in their minds—the finish line! With this analogy in mind, Paul tells you to run your spiritual race with all your might, keeping your focus on the goal—the divine call on your life as God has revealed it to you. You may ask, "How long am I supposed to keep running and trying to reach my God-given goals?" The answer is until you "obtain" what God called you to do!

The word "obtain" is the Greek word katalambano, which is a compound of two words, kata and lambano. The word kata describes something that is coming downward, and the word lambano means to take or to seize something. When compounded together into one word, katalambano means to grab hold of, to seize, to wrestle, to pull down, and to finally make a desired object your very own. This is the picture of someone who finally sees what he wants—and instead of letting that goal he desires slip away, he pounces on it, seizing it and latching hold of it with all his might!

Paul uses this word katalambano to depict the attitude of a runner who is running with all his energy, straining forward as he keeps his focus fixed on the finish line. At last the runner reaches the goal, and the prize is now his! He gave that race all he had to give, and it paid off! Had he approached the race with a casual, lazy attitude, the prize would have gone to another. But because he ran to obtain that prize, in the end that's exactly what he did!

There is no doubt that you have a divine purpose for your life, something God has called you to do. God has marvelous ideas and plans for your life! The question is this: Do you want to fulfill His plans for you? If your answer is truly yes, then set your heart on your goal. Don't be half-hearted, mealy-mouthed, touchy, or easily discouraged. It's time for you to develop some resolve!

Do you see yourself as someone who is running the spiritual Olympic event of his or her life? Or are you simply "jogging for Jesus"? If you're serious about fulfilling God's plan for your life, it's time to shift into high gear and to start putting all your spiritual, mental, and physical energies into getting the job done. You have to remove all distractions and commit yourself to a life of discipline, balance, and devotion.

Your attitude must be, "I'm going to run this race, and I'm going to WIN it! I'm not going to live my whole life missing out on what God has for me! No matter what inconvenience I endure, what price I have to pay, or what adjustments I have to make, I am going to faithfully run my race so that one day I can obtain the prize—the fulfillment of God's call on my life!"

#### QUESTIONS FOR YOU TO CONSIDER

Do you know what race you are supposed to be running in your life?

Are you running that race with 100 percent of your effort, or are you just halfheartedly jogging along in your life?

For you to achieve what God has told you to do, what changes of attitude and behavior do you need to make in your life? Write these changes down so you can pray about them!

Sparkling Gems from the Greek.