



~ Thought For The Day ~

~gathering from the 4 winds~

“come just as you are”

Refresh, Restore, Rebuild = Healing



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May 02, 2011

Prayer

God Father; in Jesus' name I ask it, Lord give us wisdom and peace in the coming days. Cause Your discernment to well up in us to know the truth and non-truth. Lord, I pray that the people lean on you only and not on other people. Bless and keep each person and protect them and their families. Please protect our troops in the coming days, and our home land, give Your people peace, and calmness in Jesus' name. Amen.

Scripture

1 Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not; 2 But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. 2Cor 2:17; 2Cor 6:4; 3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: 2Cor 2:15; 2Thess 2:10; 4 In whom the god of this world has blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine to them. Isa 6:10; John 12:40; John 14:9; Phil 2:6; Col 1:15; Heb 1:3; 5 For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. 6 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, has shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. Gen 1:3; 2Pet 1:19;

7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us. 2Cor 5:1; 1Cor 2:5; 8 We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; 9 Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; 10 Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. Rom 8:17; Gal 6:17; Phil 3:10; 2Tim 2:11-12; 1Pet 4:13; 11 For we which live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh. Ps 44:22; Matt 5:11; Rom 8:36; 1Cor 4:9; 1Cor 15:49; Col 3:4; 12 So then death works in us, but life in you.

13 We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak; Ps 116:10; 14 Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present us with you. Rom 8:11; 1Cor 6:14; 15 For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God. 2Cor 1:11; 16 For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. 17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, works for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; Ps 30:5; Matt 5:12; Rom 8:18; 1John 3:2; 18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

2 Corin. 4

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In this letter Paul speaks much of his sufferings, especially in chapters 4, 6, and 11. At his conversion the Lord had said, "I will show him how much he must suffer for my name" (Acts 9:16). The sufferings began immediately and continued in unbroken succession for over 30 years; they plotted to kill him in Damascus and again in Jerusalem, they drove him out of Antioch, they attempted to stone him in Iconium, they did stone him and left him for dead in Lystra, In Philippi they beat him with rods and put him in stocks, in Thessalonica the Jews and the rabble tried to mob him, they drove him out of Berea, they plotted against him in Corinth, in Ephesus they almost killed him, in Corinth shortly after he had written this epistle they again plotted his death, in Jerusalem they again would have made a quick end of him if he had not been rescued by the Roman soldiers, he was imprisoned in Caesarea for two years and for two more years in Rome, there were unrecorded beatings, imprisonments, shipwrecks and endless deprivations of ever kind, finally he was taken to Rome to be executed as a criminal.

Paul must have had amazing endurance, for he sang as he suffered. Nothing but an iron constitution could have lived through it all and even that would not have been sufficient apart from the marvelous grace of God. By the Lord's help, Paul must have felt himself immortal until his work was done.
(Halley's Bible handbook; 2000; history and commentaries and notes; page 792)

The Gospel is unseen by those who are lost, because Satan has blinded their eyes. These people are often too prejudiced to reasonably discuss spiritual things. We need to pray that God will destroy the blinding power and influence Satan has over them and that the Holy Spirit will open their eyes to the truth (2 Corinthians 10:4). The greatest treasure on earth is the good news of God's love for us, the Gospel; and God has graciously chosen to put this treasure into us, the earthen vessels. We're never forsaken by God. We know that the same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead will also raise us. Though this life is often painful, our problems will seem mild and only temporary when we see it from the spiritual side. We can comfort ourselves by keeping our eyes on spiritual rather than material things, for the spiritual things are eternal.
(New Testament Study Guide; 2005; Chuck Smith; notes and commentaries; page 93)

We must learn to be and not always feel that we must do. In Christian circles today spending personal time with the Lord is a emphasis and rightly so. We need His presence. He is the only One Who can do anything for us that will be permanent. Many people are frustrated by this emphasis in teaching. They want to spend time with God, but feel uncomfortable; or, they do not know what to do during these times. Some express that they never sense God's presence. They find prayer and fellowship to be a dry experience. One of the reasons this happens is that people live under the Law instead of under grace. Grace is not the freedom to sin, it is the power to live a holy life. Grace also sees when our hearts are right toward God and even though our performance may not always be perfect, grace forgives and helps us get from where we are to where we need to be. The Law condemns, Grace removes the condemnation and sets us free..free from and free to.....free from condemnation, self hatred, self rejection, fear of God, and many other negative traps. And free to serve God without pressure, free to use the life and energy we are given to behave better, rather than to fight condemnation. When you spend time with God, just be yourself, do not try to be or sound "religious." Talk to God and listen to hear what He will speak to your heart. Read the Word and it will edify an help you grow as a believer in Jesus Christ. Just keep your time with Him simple and trust Him to teach you in all areas of life.

Remember, that the seasons of trials pass. It is tough when we are going through trials, but Paul learned to keep his eyes on the prize of heaven and trusted God to prepare him so that God's glory was revealed through his life. When you feel discontented, remember; "this too shall pas." Your afflictions are "light and momentary" from the perspective of eternity. No matter how the situation might look, God loves you. Never let go of the truth that God loves you, no matter what happens in your life. You can trust that everything will work out because of His great love for you.

(Amplified Bible; Scripture, notes, commentaries, Joyce Meyers, 2005, pages 1888-1891)

(KJV Bible; Scripture, notes, commentaries, 2005)

Psalm 116

- 1 I love the LORD, because he has heard my voice and my supplications.
2 Because he has inclined his ear to me, therefore will I call on him as long as I live.
3 The sorrows of death compassed me, and the pains of hell got hold on me: I found trouble and sorrow. 2Sam 22:5-6;
4 Then called I on the name of the LORD; O LORD, I beseech you, deliver my soul.
5 Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; yes, our God is merciful.
6 The LORD preserves the simple: I was brought low, and he helped me.
7 Return to your rest, O my soul; for the LORD has dealt bountifully with you. Ps 13:6;
8 For you have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, and my feet from falling.
9 I will walk before the LORD in the land of the living.
10 I believed, therefore have I spoken: I was greatly afflicted: 2Cor 4:13;
11 I said in my haste, All men are liars. Rom 3:4;
12 What shall I render to the LORD for all his benefits toward me?
13 I will take the cup of salvation, and call on the name of the LORD.
14 I will pay my vows to the LORD now in the presence of all his people.
15 Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.
16 O LORD, truly I am your servant; I am your servant, and the son of your handmaid: you have loosed my bonds.
17 I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call on the name of the LORD.
18 I will pay my vows to the LORD now in the presence of all his people.
19 In the courts of the LORD's house, in the middle of you, O Jerusalem. Praise you the LORD.

National Day of Prayer

May 5, 2011

(click)

Psa 119:105

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



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