



# ~ Thought For The Day ~

~gathering from the 4 winds~

“come just as you are”

Refresh, Restore, Rebuild = Healing



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## Prayer

Lord, please forgive me for being so soft and wimpy about my faith and my commitment to Your call on my life. Please help me to become tough in the Spirit so I can deal with any attack the devil might try to bring against my life. I am so sorry that I've bent under pressure, whining and complaining that things were too hard, despite the fact that the power of Your resurrection lives inside me. I don't want to waste one more minute feeling sorry for myself. Therefore, I ask You to help me brace myself, grab hold of Your power, and bravely overcome every situation in the power of the Holy Spirit, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Sparkling Gems from the Greek.

## Worship Music

[J.E.S.U.S.-Micheal Sweet-Stryper](#)

[Real-Micheal Sweet-Stryper](#)

[Mercy Said No-CeCe Winans](#)

[Comforter-CeCe Winans](#)

[I Still Believe-Crystal Lewis](#)

## Scripture

## Genesis 19

Genesis 19:1-38 (AMP)

1 IT WAS evening when the two angels came to Sodom. Lot was sitting at Sodom's [city] gate. Seeing them, Lot rose up to meet them and bowed to the ground. 2 And he said, My lords, turn aside, I beg of you, into your servant's house and spend the night and bathe your feet. Then you can arise early and go on your way. But they said, No, we will spend the night in the square. 3 [Lot] entreated and urged them greatly until they yielded and [with him] entered his house. And he made them a dinner [with drinking] and had unleavened bread which he baked, and they ate. 4 But before they lay down, the men of the city of Sodom, both young and old, all the men from every quarter, surrounded the house. 5 And they called to Lot and said, Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us, that we may know (be intimate with) them. 6 And Lot went out of the door to the men and shut the door after him 7 And said, I beg of you, my brothers, do not behave so wickedly. 8 Look now, I have two daughters who are virgins; let me, I beg of you, bring them out to you, and you can do as you please with them. But only do nothing to these men, for they have come under the protection of my roof. 9 But they said, Stand back! And they said, This fellow came in to live here temporarily, and now he presumes to be [our] judge! Now we will deal worse with you than with them. So they rushed at and pressed violently against Lot and came close to breaking down the door. 10 But the men [the angels] reached out and pulled Lot into the house to them and shut the door after him. 11 And they struck the men who were at the door of the house with blindness [which dazzled them], from the youths to the old men, so that they wearied themselves [groping] to find the door. 12 And the [two] men asked Lot, Have you any others here—sons-in-law or your sons or your daughters? Whomever you have in the city, bring them out of this place, 13 For we will spoil and destroy [Sodom]; for the outcry and shriek against its people has grown great before the Lord, and He has sent us to destroy it. 14 And Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who were to marry his daughters, and said, Up, get out of this place, for the Lord will spoil and destroy this city! But he seemed to his sons-in-law to be [only] joking. 15 When morning came, the angels urged Lot to hurry, saying, Arise, take your wife and two daughters who are here [and be off], lest you [too] be consumed and swept away in the iniquity and punishment of the city. 16 But while he lingered, the men seized him and his wife and his two daughters by the hand, for the Lord was merciful to him; and they brought him forth and set him outside the city and left him there. 17 And when they had brought them forth, they said, Escape for your life! Do not look behind you or stop anywhere in the whole valley; escape to the mountains [of Moab], lest you be consumed. 18 And Lot said to them, Oh, not that, my lords! 19 Behold now, your servant has found favor in your sight, and you have magnified your kindness and mercy to me in saving my life; but I cannot escape to the mountains, lest the evil overtake me, and I die. 20 See now yonder city; it is near enough to flee to, and it is a little one. Oh, let me escape to it! Is it not a little one? And my life will be saved! 21 And [the angel] said to him, See, I have yielded to your entreaty concerning this thing also; I will not destroy this city of which you have spoken. 22 Make haste and take refuge there, for I cannot do anything until you arrive there. Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar [little]. 23 The sun had risen over the earth when Lot entered Zoar. 24 Then the Lord rained on Sodom and on Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the Lord out of the heavens. 25 He overthrew, destroyed, and ended those cities, and all the valley and all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground. 26 But [Lot's] wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt. 27 Abraham went up early the next morning to the place where he [only the day before] had stood before the Lord. 28 And he looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah,

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and toward all the land of the valley, and saw, and behold, the smoke of the country went up like the smoke of a furnace. 29 When God ravaged and destroyed the cities of the plain [of Siddim], He [earnestly] remembered Abraham [imprinted and fixed him indelibly on His mind], and He sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow when He overthrew the cities where Lot lived. 30 And Lot went up out of Zoar and dwelt in the mountain, and his two daughters with him, for he feared to dwell in Zoar; and he lived in a cave, he and his two daughters. 31 The elder said to the younger, Our father is aging, and there is not a man on earth to live with us in the customary way. 32 Come, let us make our father drunk with wine, and we will lie with him, so that we may preserve offspring (our race) through our father. 33 And they made their father drunk with wine that night, and the older went in and lay with her father; and he was not aware of it when she lay down or when she arose. 34 Then the next day the firstborn said to the younger, See here, I lay last night with my father; let us make him drunk with wine tonight also, and then you go in and lie with him, so that we may preserve offspring (our race) through our father. 35 And they made their father drunk with wine again that night, and the younger arose and lay with him; and he was not aware of it when she lay down or when she arose. 36 Thus both the daughters of Lot were with child by their father. 37 The older bore a son, and named him Moab [of a father]; he is the father of the Moabites to this day. 38 The younger also bore a son and named him Ben-ammi [son of my people]; he is the father of the Ammonites to this day.

### The Angels Visit Sodom

V1 The two angels had gone on to Sodom. The judges of Sodom sat in the gate. V 5 The men of Sodom wanted homosexual relations with the angels. VV 6-8 Lot's offering of his virgin daughters to the wicked men of Sodom is difficult to comprehend unless one understands the mindset of the times: women were considered chattel. This attitude changed after the advent of Christianity. V 10 The angels pulled Lot back into the house. V 14 Though Lot was righteous, his compromises in moving into the wicked city cost him his children. Only his two daughters who remained at home escaped with him. V 31 The daughters thought they were the only survivors on the earth, so they acted to preserve life. VV 37-38 The Moabites and Ammonites were the result of these unions and have caused continual problems for the Hebrews. (The Old Testament Study Guide; The Word For Today; Chuck Smith; 2005; pages 13-14)

Lot and his wife had to leave the city where they lived in order to escape the destruction God would bring upon that city because of the sin there. They were instructed not to look back as they left the city. In what situations in your life do you need to heed God's instruction not to look back? How can you look ahead instead of behind you in those areas?

Abraham and Sarah had to wait a long time before God's promise came to pass, but it finally did, as we read in Genesis 21:1-3. What promises of God are you waiting to have fulfilled in your life? How can you be like Abraham and wait with a heart full of faith?

### Fight Like a Soldier!

#### 2 Timothy 2:3

In Second Timothy, Timothy was facing a horrible predicament. Thousands of his brothers and sisters in the Lord were being slain by a man on the Roman throne named Nero. Of course, Satan was behind this vicious persecution of believers. Infuriated that Jesus had been raised from the dead, the devil was releasing all the power and fury of hell in his fierce efforts to destroy the Church.

It is difficult for us to imagine the persecution and martyrdom the early believers experienced during this time period. However, an even greater crisis that Timothy faced was the mass defections that were taking place. Many people were fleeing the church and returning to the pagan temples in order to save their lives.

The fact is, crises only serve to reveal the genuineness of people's faith. The fires of persecution revealed that many in the Early Church were not as committed as they had pretended to be. Many forsook the Lord, deserted the faith, and went back to their old ways. Timothy was seeing this take place among the members of his congregation—and even among many of his leaders. Many of the men and women whom he thought he could depend on had left. They didn't want to be associated with Timothy and the church any longer. Hence, this was a very, very tough time for the Ephesian believers and their pastor.

It was in the midst of these catastrophic challenges that Paul wrote Timothy and said, "Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ." The phrase "endure hardness" in Greek tells us something very important about doing the work of God. Please pay careful attention to this, because if you are going through a difficult ordeal as you obey God with your life, this also applies to you.

The phrase "endure hardness" comes from the Greek word *sunkakopatheo*, a compound of three Greek words. The first part of the word is the Greek word *sun*. This little word *sun* always connects you to someone else. It is a word that describes partnership. For example, in Second Corinthians 6:1, Paul says, "We then, as workers together with him...." The word *sun* is used in the phrase "workers together."

The word "workers" is from the word *ergos*, which simply means work, but when the words *sun* and *ergos* are compounded together as in Second Corinthians 6:1, the new word describes coworkers or people who are partnered together as they work alongside each other on a common job. These are workers who are connected and joined to each other in the pursuit of a shared goal. You see, we are not working for the Lord by ourselves; rather, we are fellow workers with Him. Thus, Second Corinthians 6:1 is a description of partnership with God and carries the idea of cooperating with Him in our work. It also means that God is with us, working on the same task at the same time, cooperating with us as our Partner. This is exactly what Paul means when he writes that we are "... workers together with him...."

As we look at the phrase "endure hardness," it is imperative that you understand the use of the word sun in this Greek phrase. But you must also grasp the next two parts of this triple compound. The second word is the Greek word kakos. This is a very familiar Greek word that most often describes something that is vile, foul, or wicked. If all you had were these first two words, it would mean, "become a partner with this vile, foul, horrible, wicked situation." However, Paul goes further and uses a third Greek word, pathos.

The word pathos is another well-known Greek word. It normally describes suffering, but it has more to do with mental suffering than it does physical suffering. This was a word perfectly suited for Timothy at this time, for he was suffering great mental anguish as a result of the disturbing events occurring around him.

Have you ever been in such an intense situation that you thought your mind might "break"? Or have you ever felt like you might mentally collapse from being pushed hard up against the wall with no obvious way of escape? If the answer is yes, you may relate to what Timothy was going through at the time Paul wrote him.

Consider the thoughts that must have been racing through Timothy's mind. Nero was killing many of the young minister's friends and church members. As the most visible Christian leader, Timothy must have wondered if the emperor's men would kill him—and if they did, what kind of especially terrible death would be planned for him as the most famous Christian of the city? Add to all these concerns the great disappointment Timothy felt because of those who had abandoned him and the church, and it is clear that his mind could have felt very overwhelmed, subdued, and mentally affected. This is why Paul told him to "endure hardness," using the words sun, kakos, and pathos to make his point.

Compounded together, these words could be interpreted this way:

"Join in as a partner with the rest of us (sun) and face this vile, horrible, ugly circumstance (kakos) that is all around you. And if you must undergo a little suffering (pathos) to do this job, then brace yourself and go for it!"

Several key messages to Timothy were included in this one word. First, Paul used the word sun to let the younger man know he wasn't the only soldier serving the Lord. Although Timothy may have emotionally perceived that everyone else was abandoning the Lord, this wasn't the truth of the matter. In reality, many believers were still faithfully fighting the fight of faith. This is why Paul told him, "Join in as a partner with the rest of us."

Second, by using the word kakos, it is almost as though Paul was saying, "Yes, you're right. It's pretty bad out there, and it seems like things are getting worse. There is no doubt that a terrible, ugly mess lies before us. It is the most wicked situation we've ever faced."

Third, by using the word pathos, Paul is telling Timothy to brace himself for a fight and to toughen himself. A job needed to be done, no matter what kind of atmosphere surrounded him. Timothy's obedience couldn't depend on good or bad circumstances. If circumstances were turning against him and the other faithful Christians, it was time for them to make the quality decision to do whatever was necessary in order to complete their assignment. If suffering was required for Timothy to do his part in pushing the Kingdom of God forward, then he needed to be willing to undergo suffering. Every Christian soldier who is committed to taking new territory for the Kingdom of God must have this mentality.

The truth is, we all face hardships from time to time. And whether or not we want to admit it, we've all experienced times when fear has tried to wrap its tentacles around us and drain the victory of Jesus Christ from our lives.

But the next time fear tries to grab hold of you, just remember what Paul told Timothy. This is an opportunity for you to lay hold of God's power, rise up to meet the occasion, and overcome every challenge in the power of the Holy Spirit. God is calling you to endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ! Sparkling Gems from the Greek.

Questions to ask yourself.....

What is the most difficult situation you have ever faced in life?

What is the primary challenge you are facing right now?

What are you doing to make yourself tougher in the Spirit so you can overcome this present challenge in your life and press onward to a time of victory?

Be encouraged if you cannot be thankful for the situation you are in right now, than be thankful He is in it with you....and He won't let you go.....