



# ~ Thought For The Day ~

~gathering from the 4 winds~

“come just as you are”

Refresh, Restore, Rebuild = Healing



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## Prayer

Dear God, sometimes I am hesitant to do what You are calling me to do because I don't feel that I'm ready. But I know that I am ready the moment You call me and that You will supply all my needs according to Your riches in glory. I am so thankful that we never have to get ready to be saved! You tell us to come as we are. "Just as I am without one plea, but that Thy blood was shed for me." Hallelujah! "Oh Lamb of God, I come. I come."  
In Jesus' Name,  
Amen

## Worship Music

[Reach-Peter Furler](#)

[I'm Alive- Peter Furler](#)

[Where Were You When The World Stopped Turning- Alan Jackson](#)

[Consuming Fire- Tim Hughes](#)

## Scripture

Revelation 9:1-21 (AMP)

<sup>1</sup> THEN THE fifth angel blew [his] trumpet, and I saw a star that had fallen from the sky to the earth; and to the angel was given the key of the shaft of the Abyss (the bottomless pit). <sup>2</sup> He opened the long shaft of the Abyss (the bottomless pit), and smoke like the smoke of a huge furnace puffed out of the long shaft, so that the sun and the atmosphere were darkened by the smoke from the long shaft. <sup>3</sup> Then out of the smoke locusts came forth on the earth, and such power was granted them as the power the earth's scorpions have.

<sup>4</sup> They were told not to injure the herbage of the earth nor any green thing nor any tree, but only [to attack] such human beings as do not have the seal (mark) of God on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup> They were not permitted to kill them, but to torment (distress, vex) them for five months; and the pain caused them was like the torture of a scorpion when it stings a person. <sup>6</sup> And in those days people will seek death and will not find it; and they will yearn to die, but death evades *and* flees from them. <sup>7</sup> The locusts resembled horses equipped for battle. On their heads was something like golden crowns. Their faces resembled the faces of people. <sup>8</sup> They had hair like the hair of women, and their teeth were like lions' teeth. <sup>9</sup> Their breastplates (scales) resembled breastplates made of iron, and the [whirring] noise made by their wings was like the roar of a vast number of horse-drawn chariots going at full speed into battle. <sup>10</sup> They have tails like scorpions, and they have stings, and in their tails lies their ability to hurt men for [the] five months. <sup>11</sup> Over them as king they have the angel of the Abyss (of the bottomless pit). In Hebrew his name is Abaddon [destruction], but in Greek he is called Apollyon [destroyer]. <sup>12</sup> The first woe (calamity) has passed; behold, two others are yet to follow. <sup>13</sup> Then the sixth angel blew [his] trumpet, and from the four horns of the golden altar which stands before God I heard a solitary voice, <sup>14</sup> Saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, Liberate the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates. <sup>15</sup> So the four angels who had been in readiness for that hour in the appointed day, month, and year were liberated to destroy a third of mankind. <sup>16</sup> The number of their troops of cavalry was twice ten thousand times ten thousand (200,000,000); I heard what their number was. <sup>17</sup> And in [my] vision the horses and their riders appeared to me like this: the riders wore breastplates the color of fiery red and sapphire blue and sulphur (brimstone) yellow. The heads of the horses looked like lions' heads, and from their mouths there poured fire and smoke and sulphur (brimstone). <sup>18</sup> A third of mankind was killed by these three plagues—by the fire and the smoke and the sulphur (brimstone) that poured from the mouths of the horses. <sup>19</sup> For the power of the horses to do harm is in their mouths and also in their tails. Their tails are like serpents, for they have heads, and it is by means of them that they wound people.

<sup>20</sup> And the rest of humanity who were not killed by these plagues even then did not repent of [the worship of] the works of their [own] hands, so as to cease paying homage to the demons and idols of gold and silver and bronze and stone and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor move.

<sup>21</sup> And they did not repent of their murders or their practice of magic (sorceries) or their sexual vice or their thefts.

## Radio Stations

[KWVE ...Calvary Chapel](#)

[KLOV](#)

## Bible Study Sites

[Chuck Smith Through The Bible](#)

[Bob Coy/Teachings](#)

[Mike MacIntosh](#)

[Jon Courson](#)

[Biblos.com](#)

[Billy Graham](#)

[Charles Stanley](#)

[David Wilkerson](#)

[Greg Laurie](#)

[Virtue for Women- Cathie Laurie](#)

**Revelation 9. The Fifth and Sixth Trumpets****The Fifth Trumpet (The First Woe), Revelation 9:1–11**

The plague of demon locusts, loosed from the Abyss by a fallen star. Satan is the "star that had fallen to the earth from the sky" due to a prideful heart (see Isaiah 14:12). Satan is given, by God, the key to the bottomless pit—the Abyss. The demon locusts are terrifying. Shaped like war horses, they have humanlike faces, with women's hair and lions' teeth. Their breastplates are like iron and their crowns like gold. Their wings sound like an army of chariots and horses rushing to war. They have the power to sting like scorpions. They feed, not on vegetation like regular locusts (in fact, they are forbidden to do so), but on terror. The locusts are given strict orders to torment only those who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. The locusts are also prohibited from killing people. They can only torment people for five months, like the normal period for locusts (May to September). The futurist interpreter holds that demon locusts will literally infest the earth in the days of the Tribulation after being unloosed by Satan. There are parallels in the prophecies in the book of Joel, which also predicts a locust plague as part of the events leading to the coming Day of Judgment. A locust plague is also described in Exodus 10:1–20.

**The Sixth Trumpet (The Second Woe), Revelation 8:12–21**

The second woe will bring more than just torment—it will kill one-third of humanity. Instead of demon locusts, four fallen angels are now unleashed from the ties that bind them at the Euphrates River. (The Euphrates River is in the Middle East in the present-day location of Iraq and Syria.) An army of 200 million horsemen accompanies them. They were loosed for "the" hour, day, month, and year, which appears to mean the exact appointed time. Under the fourth seal, one-fourth of all people had been killed (6:4); now one-third of those left are killed, leaving only half of the world's population. But incredibly, all this has no effect on the survivors. They persist in their rejection of God by refusing to repent of worshipping idols, murder, magic arts, fornication, and stealing. To the futurist, the army of 200 million is the literal army of the Antichrist, aided by the superhuman activity of demons. (Halley's Bible Handbook; Henry Halley; 2000; Zondervan; Bible History & Commentaries; pages 936-937)

**More Trumpet Judgments:** V4 The men with the seal of God on their foreheads are the 144,000 from Chapter 7. V6 For five months, no matter how badly injured they are, people will not be able to die. V11 "Abaddon" and "Apollyon" both mean destroyer. This is Satan, the king of the demons. V14 Euphrates is the river that ran through the ancient city of Babylon. Babylon was the center from which all the satanic cults originated. V16 An army of 200,000,000. VV20-21 The people left alive after these plagues will continue to worship Satan. "Sorceries" comes from the Greek word pharmakia which is the use of drugs for hallucinatory purposes. (New Testament Study Guide; The Word For Today; Chuck Smith; 2005; commentaries; page 197)

**What Will You Do When the Effects of Gravity Start To Show Up?**

1 Peter 3:3, 4

When a young bride prepares for her wedding, she wants to be beautiful for the man she is about to marry. She goes to the salon to have her hair fixed and her nails manicured. Everything has to look as perfect as possible for that moment when she says "I do" to her husband at the church altar.

It is right and normal for a woman to desire to look gorgeous for this long-awaited moment in her life. But when I am the one performing the wedding ceremony, there always comes a point in the ceremony when I peer into the eyes of the beautiful young bride and tell her:

"Today you look so beautiful in your white wedding gown. You are the perfect picture of a gorgeous bride. But a day will come when your body will begin to change, when wrinkles will start to appear, and gravity will begin to move things from where they used to be! When that day comes—and it will come—the most beautiful thing you'll have to offer your husband will not be your body but a godly, beautiful, unfading spirit. Never forget that your spirit is what will make your husband think you are beautiful to the very last day of your life!"

People in the audience always giggle when I say these words. Most of these giggles come from people who are middle-aged and who see wrinkles when they look in the mirror. They are beginning to experience the middle-aged effects of gravity! Parts of their bodies that used to be strong and firm are starting to droop, and they feel tempted to lament when they look in the mirror.

That's why it's important to remember that the most beautiful thing a wife has to offer her husband is not her body but her spirit. The good news is that when the body begins to show signs of age, the human spirit remains remarkably free from its effects. This is why Paul said, "... Though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day" (2 Corinthians 4:16).

Perhaps you can think of a time when you met an elderly man or woman who was so young at heart that it simply amazed you. Now you know why! The process of aging affects the human body, but it has no effect on the spirit.

When Peter wrote to wives in First Peter 3, he instructed them to give attention to the "hidden man of the heart." These words are very significant, for they refer here to the spirit of a godly woman. The word "hidden" is the word *kruptos*, which describes something that is hidden or veiled from the eyes. The word "heart" is the Greek word *kardia*, which is the Greek word for the physical organ of the heart. Just as the physical organ of the heart is hidden from human sight, so the inner man is not visible to the natural eye.

By using the word *kardia* (the Greek word for the "heart"), Peter is giving us a powerful insight regarding the human spirit. The heart is the central vital organ of the body. Although the heart is invisible to natural sight, the human body cannot live without it. The heart has a direct impact on every single part of the body as it pumps blood through arteries and many miles of blood vessels.

Paul uses the word *kardia* ("heart") to let us know that the human spirit is very similar to the natural heart. For instance, although the human spirit is invisible to the eyes, it is vital to life. According to James 2:26, where there is no spirit, the physical body dies. Thus, the spirit is the life-giving force within a human being.

The natural heart pumps blood into every part of the body and thereby influences a person's ability to live and function. Similarly, whatever is produced in the human spirit determines the ultimate outcome of a person's life. If a person's spirit is filled with darkness, it will pump darkness into every part of that person's life. On the other hand, if a person's spirit is filled with the life of God, it will pump life into every part of that person's being. Whatever is in the spirit is exactly what will be reproduced in a person's life and conduct.

This is precisely why Peter urges wives to take time and care to develop their spirits, which he calls "the hidden man of the heart." A woman who wants to be truly beautiful, even after her body begins to age, must put time and effort into the development of her spirit.

You see, there are many outwardly beautiful people who are inwardly wicked; therefore, their beauty is only skin deep—neither long-lasting nor impressive. Although these people spend hours adorning and grooming themselves, what is inside them is projected clear through their outer adornment. Since they are actually unkind and inwardly ugly people, their inner ugliness ruins the effect of their physical beauty and causes them to be perceived as unattractive people. The truth is, some of the meanest and most wicked, vile people in the world are physically beautiful, yet their inner attitudes cause them to be very repulsive to those around them. Peter is addressing this exact issue in First Peter 3:3, 4. Because the human spirit is the life-force of an individual, he encourages women to not only fix their faces and their hair, but to also beautify their spirits, even though the spirit man is invisible to the natural eye. Peter also declares that the hidden man of the heart is that part of the human being that is "incorruptible." The word "incorruptible" is the Greek word *aphthartos*, which refers to something that is incapable of decay or something that is incapable of suffering the effects of wear, tear, and age. This word clearly describes the hidden part of the human being that never grows old or experiences the effects of aging. As my wife grows older, I look upon her with greater respect than ever before. Honestly, I think she is physically beautiful and I am honored to be married to such an attractive woman. But what makes her most beautiful to me is not her hair, her face, her figure, or her clothing. The most beautiful part of my wife is her heart. The sweet fragrance of Jesus Christ emanates from her heart, through her attitudes, and into her words and actions, making her one of the loveliest people I've ever known. Of course, I appreciate the fact that Denise works hard to stay in shape, to eat right, and to look so striking every day. The way she dresses reveals her character and desire to be excellent in everything she does. I am very aware that another reason she diligently works to look beautiful is that she wants to honor me by looking nice. As a husband, I have a responsibility, as every husband does, to acknowledge when my wife looks beautiful. She needs that acknowledgement from me. But the part of Denise that first captured my heart and continues to do so today is not her body; it is her heart. Her heart is so beautiful that it makes me stand back and watch her with great admiration! I regularly observe and take note of what Denise does to keep her heart in this godly shape. She rises early to read her Bible and to seek the face of God. When the rest of us are still sleeping, she kneels on the floor in her prayer room to pray and to worship. She weeps before the Lord as He deals with her about the attitudes He wants to change in her. She spends hours asking Him to change her and to make her more like Him. Because my wife has made the development and maturity of her spirit such a central focus in her life, I can tell you that she continually captures my heart. Although we are getting older and our bodies are beginning to change, she is more gorgeous to me today than ever before. I know that as we grow older and older, she will only become more beautiful, because as the flesh wanes, it will only make it more possible for her dynamic heart to shine brighter! As noted in yesterday's Sparkling Gem, God is not against women using cosmetics, wearing jewelry, or arraying themselves in fine clothing. But all the world's finest jewelry and most expensive makeup and clothing cannot make a person with an ugly heart look beautiful. Whatever is in the spirit is exactly what will be reproduced in a person's life. Wife, I urge you to take heed to Peter's plea in these verses. For the sake of both your marriage and your personal walk with God, make the decision to not only adorn your outward appearance, but also to turn your attention to the hidden man of the heart.

#### MY PRAYER FOR TODAY

Lord, help me give adequate attention to my heart so I can develop my spirit and become more godly in how I live my life. I pray that the strength and godliness that resides in my spirit will manifest in my life, emanating from within me and making me more gracious and more beautiful the older I get. I look to You, Lord, for help in growing old gracefully and emanating power in my older years. I pray this in Jesus' name!

#### MY CONFESSION FOR TODAY

I confess that my spirit is getting stronger and stronger as I get older. My inner man is adorned with godliness and grace. The older I get, the more visible my inward man becomes—and what is seen coming from within me makes me attractive, even though I am getting a little wrinkled and gravity is having its effects on my physical form. I am inwardly strong and beautiful, and this inner beauty is what attracts people to me. I declare this by faith in Jesus' name!

#### QUESTIONS FOR YOU TO CONSIDER

What are you doing on a daily basis to develop the inner beauty within you?

Can you name some individuals who grew more powerful and more beautiful the older they became? What is it that strikes you most about these individuals?

Why don't you take the time to ask a few of these individuals to tell you the secret of their beauty in their latter years?

Sparkling Gems from the Greek.