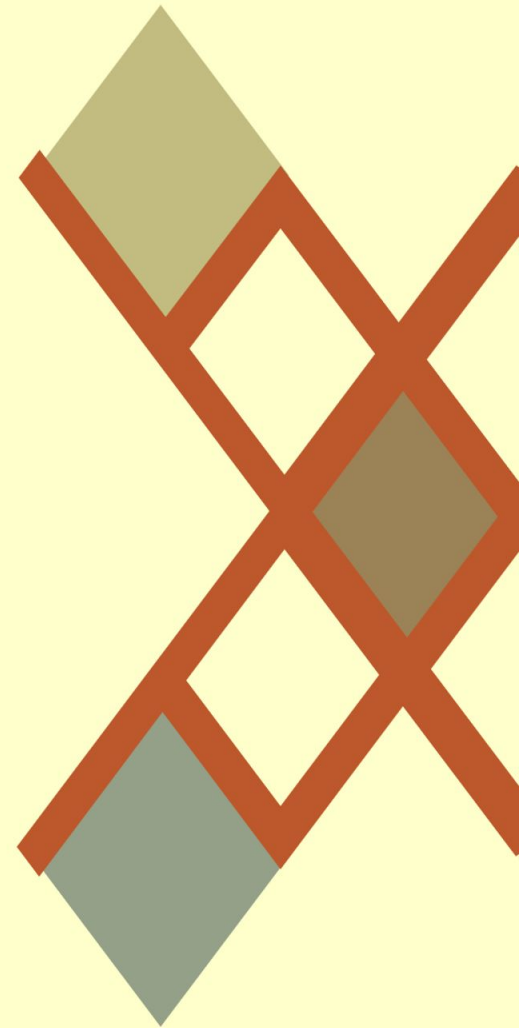


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AN
ACCEPTABLE
SACRIFICE
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VERSE FOR THE JOURNEY

- **1 John 2:3-6** By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His command-ments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.
- **Philippians 4:6-7** Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanks-giving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
- Guard: *phroureo*: a watcher in advance; a sentinel sent in advance of the troops

ABOUT PEACE

- **Romans 5:1-2** Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have **peace with God** through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.
- The **peace of God** guards our hearts and minds
- Our minds are renewed by when we submit to God and give the Holy Spirit control
- **Philippians 4:8** Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.
- Dwell: *logizomai*: consider; take into account

WHEN YOU'RE THREATENED

□ **Acts 4:18-24** And when they had summoned them, they commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to give heed to you rather than to God, you be the judge; we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard." When they had threatened them further, they let them go (finding no basis on which to punish them) on account of the people, because they were all glorifying God for what had happened; for the man was more than forty years old on whom this miracle of healing had been performed. When they had been released, they went to their own *companions* and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them. And when they heard *this*, they lifted their voices to God with one accord...

HOW THEY PRAYED

□ **Acts 4:24-30** And when they heard *this*, they lifted their voices to God with one accord and said, "O Lord, it is **You who MADE THE HEAVEN AND THE EARTH AND THE SEA, AND ALL THAT IS IN THEM**, who by the Holy Spirit, *through* the mouth of our father David Your servant, said, '**WHY DID THE GENTILES RAGE, AND THE PEOPLES DEVISE FUTILE THINGS? 'THE KINGS OF THE EARTH TOOK THEIR STAND, AND THE RULERS WERE GATHERED TOGETHER AGAINST THE LORD AND AGAINST HIS CHRIST.'** For truly in this city there were gathered together against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose pre-destined to occur. Now, Lord, take note of their threats, and grant that Your bond-servants may speak Your word with all confidence, while You extend Your hand to heal, and signs and wonders take place through the

WHO YOU ARE....

- ...not what you were!
- **Jeremiah 31:34** "They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them," declares the LORD, "for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."
- Remember: *zakar*: to mention; cause to be remembered
- If you have confessed sin and repented, God doesn't keep bringing it up. Who does keep bringing it up?
- **Revelation 12:10** ... "Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night

WARFARE WEAPONS

- **2 Corinthians 10:3-6** For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. *We are* destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and *we are* taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ...
- **Thinking differently involves the ability to control our thought processes**
- Only possible when the Holy Spirit controls our mind
- There is a reason we are told to present our bodies sacrificially and be transformed by renewing our minds
- This proves the will of God!

FORTRESSES AND SPECULATIONS

- **Fortresses:** *ochuroma*: a fortified stronghold
- **Speculations:** *logismos*: thoughts and ideations, particularly pertaining to the future
- **Lofty things:** *hupsoma*: something elevated to call attention of give honor
- **2 Corinthians 10:7** You are looking at things as they are outwardly. If anyone is confident in himself that he is Christ's, let him consider this again within himself, that just as he is Christ's, so also are we.
- **2 Corinthians 5:16-17** Therefore from now on we recognize no one according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know *Him in this way* no longer. Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

PRAY FOR DISCERNMENT

- **Philippians 1:8-11** And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment...
- Satan doesn't just waltz in and say, "Hi! I'm here to take over your mind; how may I destroy your walk with God today?"
- Satan can put out some good looking propaganda
- He can make suggestions that don't look terribly bad
- He can cast doubt on God's purposes for your life
- **Discernment:** *aesthesis*: moral perception; judgment; appropriate spiritual insight
- God's sovereignty does not, in any way, invalidate our responsibility
- We must, with renewed minds, act where directed

SPIRITUAL THINKING AND....

□ **Nehemiah 4:6-10,16** So we built the wall and the whole wall was joined together to half its *height*, for the people had a mind to work. Now when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites and the Ashdodites heard that the repair of the walls of Jerusalem went on, *and* that the breaches began to be closed, they were very angry. All of them conspired together to come *and* fight against Jerusalem and to cause a disturbance in it. But we prayed to our God, and because of them we set up a guard against them day and night. Thus in Judah it was said, "The strength of the burden bearers is failing, yet there is much rubbish; and we ourselves are unable to rebuild the wall ...From that day on, half of my servants carried on the work while half of them held the spears, the shields, the bows and the breastplates; and the captains *were* behind the whole house of Judah.

PERIL OF WRONG THINKING

□ **Joshua 9:3-11, 14** When the inhabitants of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and to Ai, they also acted craftily and set out as envoys, and took worn-out sacks on their donkeys, and wineskins worn-out and torn and mended, and worn-out and patched sandals on their feet, and worn-out clothes on themselves; and all the bread of their provision was dry *and* had become crumbled. They went to Joshua to the camp at Gilgal and said to him and to the men of Israel, "We have come from a far country; therefore, make a covenant with us." The men of Israel said to the Hivites, "Perhaps you are living within our land; how shall we make a covenant with you?" But they said to Joshua, "We are your servants." ...So the men *of Israel* took some of their provisions, and did not ask

RIGHT THINKING INCLUDES GOD

- **Proverbs 16:9** The mind of man plans his way, But the LORD directs his steps
- **Proverbs 19:20-21** Listen to counsel and accept discipline, That you may be wise the rest of your days. Many plans are in a man's heart, But the counsel of the LORD will stand.
- **LEARNING TO THINK DIFFERENTLY REQUIRES A DISCIPLINE THAT CAN ONLY COME THROUGH MIND RENEWAL BY THE HOLY SPIRIT**
- A lack of knowledge isn't the only problem in presenting an acceptable sacrifice
- Sometimes the problem is lack of personal discipline – otherwise known as obedience