

***Voice of Thanksgiving***  
**Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer**  
Inner Court Ministries

For the week of October 5, 2003

***A Call to Prayer***

THE description of the Christian soldier given by Paul in the sixth chapter of the Epistle to the Ephesians, is compact and comprehensive. He is depicted as being ever in the conflict, which has many fluctuating seasons -- seasons of prosperity and adversity, light and darkness, victory and defeat. He is to pray at all seasons, and with all prayer, this to be added to the armour in which he is to fare forth to battle. At all times, he is to have the full panoply of prayer. The Christian soldier, if he fight to win, must pray much. By this means, only, is he enabled to defeat his inveterate enemy, the devil, together with the Evil One's manifold emissaries. "Praying always, with all prayer," is the Divine direction given him. This covers all seasons, and embraces all manner of praying.

From *The Necessity Of Prayer* by E.M. Bounds

***This Week in Prayer***

- Pray for Israel. The clash of nations, religions, ideologies, and peoples all come together in Israel. Prayer for the peace of Jerusalem is more than people putting down their weapons, but is prayer for the conflict of the ages to be completed. A battle to the finish, with God winning, but He calls for prayer and commits Himself to be moved by your prayers.
- Pray for the ***Brotherhood Beyond Boundaries*** pastors and their families; pray for the work of these men in Belarus, and Lithuania.
- Pray for Christ Church International (Inner Court Ministries) in Longmont. God has not been caught off-guard by the recent events, but He has a plan for us, revealed by prayer.
- Pray for outreach. The fields are white ready for harvest in many areas where members of this company live. Now is the time for outreach and church activities. Pray for labors, finances and open doors of opportunity.
- Pray for members of this company who are traveling in ministry. A couple of men for specific prayer, Marek Kaminski travels from his home in Koszalin, Poland to Belarus and Lithuania working with the pastors from the conference as well as other ministry trips. Another minister traveling more and more is Mark Spencer from Longmont, Colorado. As these men and others travel we must keep them and their families in prayer. God is using them to touch lives in many cities, countries, and even on several continents. The travel and ministry is hard and being away from families is never pleasant.

- Pray for the transfer of the German Verein to Inner Court Ministries. Once the transfer has taken place, the ICM Verein will be a social and religious organization in Germany. Pray for a revealing of God's will and plans for this ministry and organization.
- Pray for Michal Szameto a young man from Poland many of you know. Michal has just returned from ministry in Bosnia and will be going to Afghanistan, October 5, with UFM International.

### **Praying Always For You**

Pray for one another, this week pray for the members of this team, some you know by name others you have never met, but for one and all pray that we would continue to seek the Lord.

***But from there you will seek the Lord your God,  
and you will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul.***

Deut. 4:29 (NKJV)

***Seek the Lord while He may be found,  
Call upon Him while He is near.***

Isaiah 55:6 (NKJV)

### **Imperative Importance of the Work of Prayer**

#### **Tests**

Life is tests. In the United States students commonly take the ACT, SAT, GED, PSAT, or PLAN tests, not to mention tests in their regular classes. Tests are common in education, and life, the Bible is full of them. No, Moses did not take the ACT test, and Paul was not studying for the SAT when Barnabas found him in Tarsus, but people in the Bible faced tests, lots of tests. Every book of the Bible has a record of tests people faced, some failed, and some were successful.

Looking at tests can be very revealing. The tests in the Bible are common to man. The details of the tests may be unique, but the basics of the test are the same as tests today. Look at a few famous tests. Adam and Eve in the garden, the test, obedience. Peter stepping out of the boat, the test, faith. King Saul, the test, waiting on God. The Hebrew spies, the test, the power of God in the life of men (just for the record two passed this test). Jesus' disciples and the deliverance of the demon possessed man, the trial, faith, fasting and prayer. The 12 and 70 that Jesus sent out, Gideon, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, or Peter and John on the way to prayer, the list of tests goes on and on. This list is just the tip of the iceberg, but makes for a very revealing study. Some of these people never rose beyond their failed tests, but others learn from tests and became great men and women of faith.

So how about you? Seen burning bushes or fiery furnaces? Gone for walks in gardens with a certain serpent or on the water? The answer is probably no, but you face tests every day, new format, but

same tests. Everyone faces tests, so let's look at their role in the successful Christian life. How do you respond to tests?

Surprised by tests?

We should not be, they are the fabric of life and common to all of us. Paul Billheimer in his book, *Destined for the Throne*, explains that we are learning in this life as preparation for eternal life. So this would make tests an expected part of life now. God's promises of help in times of trials only can be in this life. In Psalms 23, God sets a table for us in the presence of our enemies; this must be now in this life as our enemies will not be with us in heaven. This is very important to understand for our success in tests. Surprise makes tests harder. You may have a test from an unexpected happening, but you should expect tests. This is not expecting bad to happen, but looking for opportunities to succeed in tests, knowing they are coming. Don't let a test be a double problem, know they are coming; this is life. Knowing tests will come, you prepare to walk with God through the test. "Yes, here is the next in a long line of opportunities for God to demonstrate His love and strength for me." I am going to walk close to Him because tests will come."

Angry with tests?

No they are a normal part of life and of great value to those who will take notice. Tests tell a story. In education they are designed to tell about student progress, how the mind and the abilities of the student have matured and developed. In life the Christian setting, and all of life is the Christian setting, "what will you do with Christ", is the theme of all tests. These tests are designed to reveal maturity and development. The results are the revealing of the heart, not to God, He already knows, but to us. It is impossible for a man or woman to know their heart on their own. It is deceitful and desperately wicked, and will deceive when trying to measure Christian growth.

***Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.***

Hebrews 3:12-13 (NKJV)

Christians who gauge for themselves how they are doing, will always be deceived, this is why we are so often shocked when we fail a test. We think we are doing pretty well, and then wham there is a messy revealing, our personal gauge of the condition of our heart was wrong. By the test, the Lord reveals the true state of the heart.

***"The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it? I, the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings.***

Jeremiah 17:9-10 (NKJV)

Refuse tests?

People try to set their lifestyle to exclude test from their life. If I am rich enough, if I live in a remote place, if I live in the right country, or some such plan, are attempts to miss testing. But testing follows people; no matter where you go or do testing will be waiting for you. All tests are custom fit for you, designed just for your heart. Why refuse just what you need. Take the test reveal your heart, and then what is revealed can be dealt with.

Tests always come at “bad times”.

The Bible has many classic examples of people tested at “bad times”. King Saul could not wait for God (or His representative Samuel), Jonah and his I would rather not attitude or Ananias and Sapphira who knew that money could be a problem, they all attempted to end or avoid tests because they thought it was a bad time. But timing is a part of the test.

Tests seem so negative.

People, who find tests to be negative, often have a poor attitude and knowledge of God. If God seems harsh and mean, then tests would be negative, but in the hands of a good God, one who is always good, testing is to be desired, it is never negative. Yes it will be difficult for the moment, when heart conditions are revealed, but getting things right is sweet.

When I face tests God seems far away.

That is part of a test. If the teacher stands by your desk giving you the answers it is not a test. In God’s presence everything is easy. The question is when He seems far away, how do you test when it is just you?

Embracing tests is best.

At first this seems scary, “embrace another test?” But this is what the “greats” do. Instead of a “let a sleeping dog lie” attitude, they seek to reveal and deal with more and more of their heart attitudes.

Tests and you?

Where are you on the question tests, embracing or testy?

### ***Joining This Company***

All Christians who will pray are welcome. ***Voice of Thanksgiving*** is sent by e-mail or letter to all who will commit to prayer as members of this company. It is a guide to challenge us and direct our prayers. The fee for joining is your commitment to pray. Please join us in praying for the nations.

To join send an e-mail with the word JOIN for the subject. Tell your friends and prayer partners about ***Voice of Thanksgiving***. The call is to gather a company of believers who will pray. Together we will reach nations for Jesus Christ.

To receive **Voice of Thanksgiving** by e-mail:

Send an e-mail to [david@innercourt.com](mailto:david@innercourt.com)  
include the word JOIN in the subject line

To receive **Voice of Thanksgiving** by regular mail:

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The **Voice of Thanksgiving** is available online

To read or reread articles go to  
[http://www.feargod.com/VoT\\_Articles.htm](http://www.feargod.com/VoT_Articles.htm)

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