

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

Inner Court Ministries

For the Week of October 26, 2003

A Call to Prayer

*Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt,
that you may know how you ought to answer each one.*

Col. 4:6 (NKJV)

Are you, “Salt seasoned by grace or grace seasoned by salt?” Often in our zeal to share with people we become salt. We are to be salt you say, and this is true. But if we are first salt and then grace we block people from hearing before the word comes. If we are grace seasoned by salt then they listen and get the salt.

To speak with grace is not easy; Paul explains that we must know how to answer to “each one.” This is a major challenge that is impossible to do, without grace. Our mood, attitudes, prejudices, and fears strive to dictate how we will speak to people. We are constantly in danger of falling into the trap of honoring one person over another. “The rich man with the fancy robes sit in the best seat, beggars to the rear”, comes out even in our sharing the Gospel. But grace is for all men and a message shared by “grace seasoned by salt” will have eventual entrance.

The same is true in prayer. Does the rich man get your “best” prayers? “Oh, no, I pray for everyone equally”. Do you? Or do you pray for what is “best” as you see it? It is easy for prayer to slip into “knowing” what is best. Salt seasons everything we do and say, also everything we pray. Salt with grace in prayer easily becomes a puppet master, who controls and directs the puppet.

The guide for prayer is grace seasoned by salt. Without the salt we have no force behind our prayers, but with grace first, we cut the strings that would make us the puppet master. The goal of our prayers must always be love not control.

*The goal of this command is love,
which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.*

1 Tim. 1:5 (NIV)

The prayer for rich or poor, “God’s best”, this is prayer of grace seasoned by salt.

This Week in Prayer

- Pray for Israel.
- Pray for the **Brotherhood Beyond Boundaries** pastors and their families; pray for the work of these men in Belarus, and Lithuania.

- 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 Mark Spencer as he leaves this week for Poland and Lithuania. He and Marek Kaminski will minister with Lithuanian pastors from the ***Brotherhood Beyond Boundaries*** conference. Pray for their safe travel and open doors of opportunity to minister the Gospel. Pray as well for their families and churches as they travel.

For a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.

1 Cor. 16:9 (NKJV)

- 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 is in Afghanistan with UFM International.

Praying Always for You

Pray for one another. We must not be held back by fear from doing the will of God. Fear would hinder, slow or destroy our work if we let it. Pray that in place of fear we would have God given power, love and sound mind.

The Lord is on my side;

I will not fear.

What can man do to me?

Psalm 118:6 (NKJV)

***For God has not given us a spirit of fear,
but of power and of love and of a sound mind.***

2 Tim. 1:7 (NKJV)

Imperative Importance of the Work of Prayer

Open Door

There are few things as awesome as an open door. It is exciting to contemplate the possibilities that lie behind the door. To go through an open door is to enter a new world. Listen to Paul's excitement about an open door. As much as he longed to come to Corinth, and although there were adversaries, he chooses to tarry in Ephesus because of an open door.

For a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.

1 Cor. 16:9 (NKJV)

A closed door is a stoppage, a no, to all who would go through the door. But this also can be a tool of God's leading. Paul was not permitted to travel into some areas.

***Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia,
they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia.
After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia,
but the Spirit did not permit them.***

Acts 16:6-7 (NKJV)

Notice the closed door. But even with a closed door God brings direction to the open door.

***So passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas.
And a vision appeared to Paul in the night.
A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying,
"Come over to Macedonia and help us."
Now after he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go to Macedonia,
concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them.***

Acts 16:8-10 (NKJV)

The life of Joseph is another example of a closed door as a guide to open doors. His brothers sold him into slavery; his door slammed shut. But God, that is one of the great phrases of Christian life. And with your permission I will say it again. But God had an open door in mind for young Joseph. Through many trials and tribulations God brought Joseph to the open door. As overlord, Joseph provided for Egypt and for his family.

Paul knew about open doors and earnestly sought them. Today we refer to this closed door leading to an open door concept as "try every door". Don't wait for a door to open, but actively check doors. Try every door, if it is open go through, if it is closed go to the next one. Active pursuit of God's plan and directions is valuable. Would the vision of God have come to Paul if he had not been actively pursuing his call? Would he have recognized where to go if he had still been in Antioch?

Beyond the "try every door" practice there is prayer. One of the jobs of those who will pray is opening doors. Notice they are called "doors" not walls. Doors are made to open. Yes, they close and some even have locks, but if it is a door, it can be opened. In the spiritual world God opens doors. When God opens doors they are open.

***I know your works. See,
I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it;
for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name.***

Rev. 3:8 (NKJV)

One of the startling revelations about God is His plans for prayer. God has chosen to let people move His hands. In prayer men and women move the hands of their Creator. This is so startling we can scarcely fathom its import. Earlier in this issue, in ***A Call to Prayer***, we cut the strings of being a puppet master when praying for people. Guarding against controlling their life, but leaving them to God's best. But God, here we go again, but God calls men and women to move his hands, even as a puppet master would move the hands of the puppet.

Please do not get angry with me, I do not write this in any way to be flippant, but to challenge. If we will pray, we must move the hands of God by prayer, opening doors for the Gospel. We can evoke all kinds of caution check points such as, “if it be God’s will”, but the bottom line is, God has call us to move His hands. Will you pray? Will you be vigilant in prayer, moving the hands of the Father, praying until doors are open? Pray for open doors.

*Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving;
meanwhile praying also for us,
that God would open to us a door for the word,
to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains,
that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.*
Col. 4:2-4 (NKJV)

*Now when they had come and gathered the church together,
they reported all that God had done with them,
and that He had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles.*
Acts 14:27 (NKJV)

*Furthermore, when I came to Troas to preach Christ's gospel,
and a door was opened to me by the Lord,*
2 Cor. 2:12 (NKJV)

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
include the word JOIN in the subject line

To receive **Voice of Thanksgiving** by regular mail:
Voice of Thanksgiving
Inner Court Ministries
P.O. Box 2125-80502
Longmont, CO 80502

The **Voice of Thanksgiving** is available online
To read or reread articles go to
http://www.feargod.com/VoT_Articles.htm

If you have questions or comments
Send them to David Williamson:
david@innercourt.com