

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

For the Week of December 14, 2003

A Call to Prayer

*Seek the LORD and his strength,
seek his face continually.*

1 Chronicles 16:11

*Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit,
and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;*

Ephesians 6:18

This Week in Prayer

*Therefore I exhort first of all
that supplications, prayers, intercessions,
and giving of thanks be made for all men,
for kings and all who are in authority,
that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.
For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,
who desires all men to be saved
and to come to the knowledge of the truth.*

1 Tim. 2:1-4 (NKJV)

This week we are to pray for leaders; those in authority. Much of human life is controlled and directed by leaders. With their authority over people, their control over nations and groups, leaders affect life. The effect of their decision may be good or bad, but it always affects people. God has call His people to pray for leaders; His hands are not tied, but by lack of prayer. If President Bush of the USA decided to have breakfast with you once a week, just the two of you, you would have great input into his life and plans. The first few weeks are a time to get to know one another, but slowly, week after week you meet and speak. Wouldn't we speak of what is on our heart and what is on his heart? Wouldn't we pray for him?

In every area of our life there are leaders, from the famous and powerful, to those known by few, and for all, we are to pray. The meeting may not be like our hypothetical breakfast with the US President I just wrote about, but with God as the mediator, we can meet with each leader. We lift the leader to God, we pray for this leader, and God meets with the leader. Some leaders listen to Him and respond to His every word, others are hard and face being crushed, but all need prayer.

This week pray. Pray as though your prayers are as powerful as if you and the leader meet together (and God stands behind you). Pray as though life was at stake, your life, the leader's life, and those

affected by the leader, because it is. Think what you could do at your breakfast meetings with President Bush, you can do all this and more in prayer.

- Pray for the leaders of Israel and Palestine. This should be for political and religious leaders. A key to these prayers is the words “God’s Will”. His plans for Israel (and for the Palestinians) have not changed, nor will it, but men try to impose their will and plans.

***So He said to them, "When you pray, say:
Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.
Your kingdom come. Your will be done
On earth as it is in heaven.***

Luke 11:2 (NKJV)

- Pray for the leaders of your country. Pray that the rules, regulations, policies and laws are aimed at fulfillment of the phrase “*all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth*”. The policy on imports? Yes even the policy on imports should be framed with the opportunity for the Gospel in mind. You say, “That would take a heap of praying in my country”, yes, so pray!
- Pray for the leaders of your church.

***Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive,
for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account.
Let them do so with joy and not with grief,
for that would be unprofitable for you.***

Hebrews 13:17 (NKJV)

- Pray for the leaders of ministries. For example:
 - Pray for the ***Brotherhood Beyond Boundaries***. Pray for the pastors and their families as they go through a long winter, season wise and ministry.
 - Pray for the leaders of the outreaches at you church or fellowship.
 - Pray for the leaders of Inner Court Ministries

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

1 Cor. 16:9 (NKJV)

Praying Always for You

Pray for one another. Pray that there would be no partiality in us or our message. Pray that the Gospel of Jesus Christ would be free for all and to all.

***My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the Lord of glory, with partiality.***

James 2:1 (NKJV)

***If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture,
"You shall love your neighbor as yourself,"
you do well;
but if you show partiality, you commit sin,
and are convicted by the law as transgressors.***

James 2:8-9 (NKJV)

Imperative Importance of the Work of Prayer

Absolute Surrender

By

Andrew Murray

***“And Ben-hadad the king of Syria gathered all his host together:
and there were thirty and two kings with him, and horses, and chariots:
and he went up and besieged Samaria, and warred against it.
And he sent messengers to Ahab king of Israel into the city,
and said unto him, Thus saith Ben-hadad, Thy silver and thy gold is mine;
thy wives also and thy children, even the goodliest, are mine.
And the king of Israel answered and said,
My lord, O king, according to thy saying,
I am thine and all that I have”***

I Kings 20: 1-4

What Ben Hadad asked was *absolute surrender*, and what Ahab gave was what was asked of him—*absolute surrender*. I want to use these words: “My lord, O king, according to thy saying, I am thine, and all that I have,” as the words of absolute surrender with which every child of God ought to yield himself to his Father. We have heard it before, but we need to hear it very definitely — the condition of God’s blessing is absolute surrender of all into His hands. Praise God! If our hearts are willing for that, there is no end to what God will do for us, and to the blessing God will bestow.

Absolute surrender — let me tell you where I got those words. I used them myself often, and you have heard them numberless times. But in Scotland once I was in a company where we were talking about the condition of Christ’s Church, and what the great need of the Church and of believers is; and there was in our company a godly worker who has much to do in training workers, and I asked him what he would say was the great need of the Church, and the message that ought to be preached. He answered very quietly and simply and determinedly: “*Absolute surrender to God is the one thing.*”

The words struck me as never before. And that man began to tell how, in the workers with whom he’ had to deal, he finds that if they are sound on that point, even though they be backward, they are willing to be taught and helped, and they always improve; whereas others who are not sound there very often go back and leave the work. The condition for obtaining God’s full blessing is *absolute surrender* to Him.

And now, I desire by God's grace to give to you this message — that your God in Heaven answers the prayers which you have offered for blessing on yourselves and for blessing on those around you by this one demand: *Are you willing to surrender yourselves absolutely into His hands?* What is our answer to be? God knows there are hundreds of hearts who have said it, and there are hundreds more who long to say it but hardly dare to do so. And there are hearts who have said it, but who have yet miserably failed, and who feel themselves condemned because they did not find the secret of the power to live that life. May God have a word for all!

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:

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The **Voice of Thanksgiving** is available online

To read or reread articles go to
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