

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

For the week of February 2, 2003

A Call to Prayer

"That the true apostolic preacher must have the prayers of others - good people to give to his ministry its full quota of success, Paul is a preeminent example. He asks, he covets, he pleads in an impassionate way for the help of all God's saints. He knew that in the spiritual realm as elsewhere, in union there is strength; that the consecration and aggregation of faith, desire, and prayer increased the volume of spiritual force until it became overwhelming and irresistible in its power. Units of prayer combined, like drops of water, make an ocean that defies resistance."

E M Bounds

This Week In Prayer

- Pray for Israel. I have been calling you to prayer for Israel for several weeks, and continue to do so this week as we have not yet been relieved from this assignment.

*Ye have not gone up into the gaps,
neither made up the hedge for the house of Israel
to stand in the battle in the day of the LORD.*

Ezekiel 13:5

*And I sought for a man among them,
that should make up the hedge,
and stand in the gap before me for the land,
that I should not destroy it: but I found none.*

Ezekiel 22:30

- Pray for safety and protection for our pastors. Yes I know that some of you are pastors, but this week we are to be praying for our pastors. Pray that they would remain strong in the Lord and the power of His might. See *Praying Always for You*

*Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord,
and in the power of his might.*

Ephesians 6:10

- Pray for world leaders. Many leaders will be making decisions this week that will shape the course of their nations and countries. While this is an every day occurrence, it will be even

so-much-more-so, these next few days. Pray that they will listen to wise counselors and that wisdom and understanding will guide these decisions. When Harry Truman became President after the death of Franklin Roosevelt, Truman address the Congress of the United States, part of his message included the following verse from 1 Kings, the prayer of Solomon.

*Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people,
that I may discern between good and bad:
for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?*
1 Kings 3:9

Praying Always for You

Last week our prayer for this company of believers was “That we would be fruitful in every good work.”

*For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you,
and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and
spiritual understanding;
That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing,
being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;*
Colossians 1:9-10

This week pray – “*increasing in the knowledge of God*”

We must constantly be increasing in the knowledge of God. When we are not increasing we are slipping back. There is no neutral place. Pray for one another. Areas that might need special prayer this week include:

Personal intake – it is easy to get too busy to receive from God personally
Loneliness - puts up a wall that separates, and leads to spiritual drought
Failure – high expectations, especially in Americans, can be devastating if the work is “slow”
Disillusionment – much of the work of the ministry is not very glamorous
Discontent – is a major point of attack by the enemy

*And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding,
shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*
Philippians 4:7

*Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you?
let him show out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.
But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth.
This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.
For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.
But the wisdom that is from above is first pure,
then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated,
full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.
And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.*
James 3:13-18

Imperative Importance Of The Work Of Prayer

Breadth, And Length, And Depth, And Height

All Christians need to know, in an ever-increasing way, the love of Christ. Much of our day-to-day walk is geared towards learning more about this love. It is good that God has planned eternity for us, as we will need at least that much time to know the fullness of God in the area of love. With every turn of the road we learn more.

*That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith;
that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,
May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the
breadth, and length, and depth, and height;
And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge,
that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.*

Ephesians 3:17-19

If we are to be effective in prayer we should be growing in our knowledge of the breadth, length, depth, and height of every aspect of God. As we learn more about Him, He will also challenge us with the cost of prayer, even the breadth, length, depth, and height of its demands. Both, knowledge of Him and the costs of prayer, are needed for understanding of His ways concerning prayer, both are the lessons taught by the Spirit, working with all who will come to His school of prayer.

Everyone who is willing to learn, everyone who keeps track of what He is doing, will see that God works to reveal Himself to us. Life is not just haphazard events that slam into us as random occurrences. For the lost the events are designed to reveal God and His salvation. Once people have entered into His salvation, the events continue to come, but now they are designed to reveal His nature more fully and completely. Just as people miss or ignore His salvation, so also, people miss His revealing of Himself.

An obvious example is the answers of prayers for meeting a need. He brings us to places where we can, and must, trust Him with the answer for a need; when we trust Him, He shows His ability. Down the road He plans other opportunities to trust. Every obedience in trusting; is followed with an opportunity to trust in a new area. To those who trust and obey, He exposes more and more of His ability. Biographies of men and women who have explored His abilities to meet needs, even very large needs, show us the possibilities that exists. In this area God has a breadth, length, depth, and height, even these great people of faith have scarcely scratched the surface. He is revealing not only His abilities, in this example, but revealing Himself. He is bringing us, if we walk with Him, to know Him. He wants us to know the breadth, length, depth, and height of all of His nature.

These great men and women of prayer, that I just mentioned, also show us the second exploration of the breadth, length, depth, and height that should be going on in our life. These people and the "heroes" of the Bible show examples of the cost of prayer. As Abraham learned of God's nature, God's provision of a sacrifice (God's Son) to atonement for sin, he found the cost of covenant. In the movie *The Bible* the young Isaac asks Abraham who has knife in hand, "Is there nothing He cannot ask of thee?" The three Hebrew children, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, learn more of the cost of this walk with God. As the fiery furnace was heated even hotter, their response to the king was, "We are not careful to answer thee in this matter. If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king.

But if not, be it known unto thee, O king that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image, which thou hast set up. They knew more about the breadth, length, depth, and height of the cost of following and obeying God than most of us. Their willingness to pay the price, even in the fire, brought the Fourth Man into their fire. Will you explore the breadth, length, depth, and height of the cost of prayer, so the Fourth Man will come and walk with you in your fire?

Is there nothing He cannot ask of you?

Joining This Company

All Christians who will pray are welcome. ***Voice of Thanksgiving*** is sent by email or letter to all who will commit to prayer as member 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. Send me an email with the word JOIN in the subject so I know you are interested in continuing to receive ***Voice of Thanksgiving***. 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 email:

Send an email 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
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Longmont, CO 80502

If you have questions or comments

Send them to David Williamson:

david@innercourt.com

To have your address removed from our list

Send an email to david@innercourt.com
Include the word REMOVE in the subject line