

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

For the week of March 2, 2003

A Call to Prayer

A reason for this constant, persistent, sleepless, overcoming prayer is that
**Prayer Is God's Appointed Way For Obtaining Things, And The Great Secret Of All Lack In
Our Experience, In Our Life And In Our Work Is Neglect Of Prayer.**

James brings this out very forcibly in the 4th chapter and 2nd verse of his epistle: "Ye have not because ye ask not." These words contain the secret of the poverty and powerlessness of the average Christian—neglect of prayer.

"Why is it," many a Christian is asking, "I make so little progress in my Christian life?"
"Neglect of prayer," God answers. "You have not because you ask not."

"Why is it," many a minister is asking, "I see so little fruit from my labors?"
Again God answers, "Neglect of prayer. You have not because you ask not."

"Why is it," many a Sunday-School teacher is asking, "that I see so few converted in my Sunday-School class?"
Still God answers, "Neglect of prayer. You have not because you ask not."

"Why is it," both ministers and churches are asking, "that the church of Christ makes so little headway against unbelief and error and sin and worldliness?"
Once more we hear God answering, "Neglect of prayer. You have not because you ask not."

From *How To Pray* by R. A. Torrey

This Week In Prayer

- Pray for Israel. Ask God to hide her from her enemies. Pray that Israel will not be the focal point of world affairs. The safe place is hidden in God's arms.

*A Song or Psalm of Asaph. Keep not thou silence,
O God: hold not thy peace, and be not still, O God.
For, lo, thine enemies make a tumult:
and they that hate thee have lifted up the head.
They have taken crafty counsel against thy people,
and consulted against thy hidden ones.
They have said, Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation;
that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance.*

Psalms 83:1-4

- Pray for the leaders of your country and those in authority over you. Pray for them wisdom and understanding from the Lord.

*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

- Pray for local outreaches. Members of this company are in Austria, Brazil, Germany, Poland and the United States. All around us we have men and women in desperate need of Jesus. Pray for open doors of opportunity, and open ears to hear. Pray for soft hearts, quick to receive His Word. Pray for labors to minister.

*Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great,
but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest,
that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.*

Luke 10:2

- A prayer note: Many people and groups are calling for prayer on March 3. I wanted to be sure you knew of these requests. Here is an example:

Dear World Prayer Team Member,

This is another reminder to set aside some time at 3:33 pm on 03-03-03 for the Worldwide Day of Prayer on 03-03-03. The keynote Scripture for this day is Jeremiah 33:3: "Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know." Many leaders around the world are urging worldwide support of the Worldwide Day of Prayer on 03-03-03. Please pass this email on to anyone whom you know who is concerned about the potential war with Iraq and its short and long-term consequences. All Christians are asked to set aside time to pray at 3:33 pm in their own time zone on 03-03-03.

The World Prayer Team

Praying Always for You

Week by week we are praying for one another as members of this company of believers joined together for prayer. We have been using the prayer of Paul found in his letter to the Colossians as our guide. Last week our prayer was "That we would ... **give thanks unto the Father.**" This week we turn to a prayer from Thessalonians.

This week pray – "That God would count us worthy of His calling."

*Wherefore also we pray always for you,
that our God would count you worthy of this calling,
and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness,
and the work of faith with power:*

*That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you,
and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

*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;
Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power,
unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;
Giving thanks unto the Father,
which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:
Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness,
and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:
In whom we have redemption through his blood,
even the forgiveness of sins: Who is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created,
that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible,
whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers:
all things were created by him, and for him:
And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.*

Colossians 1:9-17

What a great and wonderful blessing we have. God has called us by name to be with Him and has given us the calling of witnesses of Christ's resurrection. Paul's yearning was that by our conduct and actions we should clearly evince ourselves to be among the effectually called of God.

*And he said unto them,
Go ye into all the world,
and preach the gospel to every creature.*

Mark 16:15

Imperative Importance Of The Work Of Prayer

Prayer And Trust In God

From *George Muller, And The Secret Of His Power In Prayer*

By Andrew Murray

There are other points on which I would be glad to point out what is to be found in Mr. Muller's narrative, but one more must suffice. It is the lesson of firm and unwavering trust in God's promise as the secret of persevering prayer. If once we have, in submission to the teaching of the Spirit in the word, taken hold of God's promise, and believed that the Father has heard us, we must not allow ourselves by any delay or unfavorable appearances be shaken in our faith.

The full answer to my daily prayers was far from being realized; yet there was abundant encouragement granted by the Lord, to continue in prayer. But suppose, even, that far less had come in than was received, still, after having come to the conclusion, upon scriptural grounds, after much prayer and self-examination, I ought to have gone on without wavering, in the exercise of faith and patience concerning this object; and thus all the children of God, when once satisfied that anything which they bring before God in prayer, is according to His will, ought to continue in believing, expecting, persevering prayer until the blessing is granted. Thus am I myself now waiting

upon God for certain blessings, for which I have daily besought Him for ten years and six months without one day's intermission.

Still the full answer is not yet given concerning the conversion of certain individuals, though in the meantime I have received many thousands of answers to prayer. I have also prayed daily without intermission for the conversion of other individuals about ten years, for others six or seven years, for others from three or two years; and still the answer is not yet granted concerning those persons, while in the meantime many thousands of my prayers have been answered, and also souls converted, for whom I had been praying.

I lay particular stress on this for the benefit of those who may suppose that I need only to ask of God, and receive at once; or that I might pray concerning anything, and the answer would surely come. One can only expect to obtain answers to prayers which are according to the mind of God; and even then, patience and faith may be exercised for many years, even as mine are exercised, in the matter to which I have referred; and yet am I daily continuing in prayer, and expecting the answer, and so surely expecting the answer, that I have often thanked God that He will surely give it, though now for nineteen years faith and patience have thus been exercised. Be encouraged, dear Christians, with fresh earnestness to give yourselves to prayer, if you can only be sure that you ask things which are for the glory of God.

But the most remarkable point is this, that £6, 6s. 6d. from Scotland supplied me, as far as can be known now, with all the means necessary for fitting up and promoting the New Orphan Houses. Six years and eight months I have been day by day, and generally several times daily, asking the Lord to give me the needed means for this enlargement of the Orphan work, which, according to calculations made in the spring of 1861, appeared to be about fifty thousand pounds: the total of this amount I had now received.

I praise and magnify the Lord for putting this enlargement of the work into my heart, and for giving me courage and faith for it; and above all, for sustaining my faith day by day without wavering. When the last portion of the money was received, I was no more assured concerning the whole, that I was at the time I had not received one single donation towards this large sum. I was at the beginning, after once having ascertained His mind, through most patient and heart-searching waiting upon God, as fully assured that He would bring it about, as if the two houses, with their hundreds of orphans occupying them, had been already before me.

I make a few remarks here for the sake of young believers in connection with this subject:

1. Be slow to take new steps in the Lord's service, or in your business, or in your families: weigh everything well; weigh all in the light of the Holy Scriptures and in the fear of God.
2. Seek to have no will of your own, in order to ascertain the mind of God, regarding any steps you propose taking, so that you can honestly say you are willing to do the will of God, if He will only please to instruct you.
3. But when you have found out what the will of God is, seek for His help, and seek it earnestly, perseveringly, patiently, believably, expectantly; and you will surely in His own time and way obtain it.

To suppose that we have difficulty about money only would be a mistake: there occur hundreds of other wants and of other difficulties. It is a rare thing that a day occurs without some difficulty or some want; but often there are many difficulties and many wants to be met and overcome the same day. All these are met by prayer and faith, our universal remedy; and we have never been

confounded. Patient, persevering, believing prayer, offered up to God, in the Name of the Lord Jesus, has always, sooner or later, brought the blessing. I do not despair, by God's grace, of obtaining any blessing, provided I can be sure it would be for any real good, and for the glory of God.

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
P.O. Box 2125-80502
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