

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

For the week of April 20, 2003

***A Call to Prayer***

**He Is Risen – the Stone Is Rolled Away**

He is risen  
the hold of death is broken

He is risen  
all claims are canceled, men are free

He is risen  
His victory well won

He is risen  
the acclimation resounds

He is risen  
and the stone is rolled away

The tomb could not hold Him  
the stone is rolled away

The grave cloths could not hold Him  
the stone is rolled away

Jesus leads  
the stone is rolled away

His heirs do follow  
the stone is rolled away

**Praise God He has risen and the stone is rolled away**

***This Week In Prayer***

- Pray for Israel.
  
- Pray for Mark Spencer's ministry trip. The trip begins today. He will be ministering in Polish speaking churches across Australia. Pray for this time of ministry, protection for Mark and his family, and for his church, Christ Church International, while he is away.

- Pray for the *Brotherhood Beyond Boundaries* conference for pastors from Belarus, Ukraine, and Lithuania, June 13-15, 2003. Here is further information about the conference. Please make this conference and the details for its success a priority in prayer.

*Brotherhood Beyond Boundaries* is the result of travel to Belarus and visiting churches there. For five years Marek Kaminski, a pastor in Koszalin, Poland, has been building a trust relationship with pastors of the region. Listen to how he has been touched by these people,

“Each time I went there my heart was deeply touched both by extreme poverty of the people there as well as by sacrificial devotion of Christians. For all of these years the Lord was touching my heart and building a vision of my involvement.”

The Vision is to find pastors who live and minister in remote areas of Belarus (and also in Ukraine, Lithuania and other former Soviet Union republics) who minister under the pressure of poverty and in loneliness. When we find that kind of person, we want to bring him to fellowship with one of the churches or individuals in the west for following reasons:

- Bring parties into brotherly relationship which includes exchanging friendship, ideas, mutual prayer and care
- Bringing encouragement to each other and help in times of need simply by meeting every once in awhile and writing letters
- Supporting a Belarussian pastor financially which is \$50-\$100 a month (depending on the family status of the pastor and location)
- Help starting new churches by sending a minister to the new place and providing for his financial needs (\$50-\$100 a month)
- Organize conferences twice a year in Koszalin, Poland to pray and minister to each other, and to fellowship. Learning from each other’s experiences, strengths and weaknesses, as we get involved closely into the lives of the brothers. In this world of shallow relationships we need to learn the beauty of true and deep brotherhood. We certainly lack it in the body of Christ.

### *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 prayers of Paul as our guide. Our current passage is Romans 16:25-27 and last week we prayed “**Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel.**”

*Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel,  
and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery,  
which was kept secret since the world began, But now is made manifest,  
and by the scriptures of the prophets,  
according to the commandment of the everlasting God,  
made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:  
To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen.*

Romans 16:25-27

Read and meditate on the full prayer, but our emphasis this week is: “**Pray for each of us to be established according to the revelation of the mystery.**”

*But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery,  
even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:  
Which none of the princes of this world knew:  
for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.  
But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard,  
neither have entered into the heart of man,  
the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.  
But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit:  
for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.  
For what man knoweth the things of a man,  
save the spirit of man which is in him?  
even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.  
Now we have received, not the spirit of the world,  
but the spirit which is of God;  
that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.  
Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth,  
but which the Holy Ghost teacheth;  
comparing spiritual things with spiritual.  
But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God:  
for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them,  
because they are spiritually discerned.  
But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.  
For who hath known the mind of the Lord,  
that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.*

1 Corinthians 2:7-16

*Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations,  
but now is made manifest to his saints:  
To whom God would make known what is the riches  
of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles;  
which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:  
Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom;  
that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:*

Colossians 1:26-28

*And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery,  
which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God,  
who created all things by Jesus Christ:*

Ephesians 3:9

## *Imperative Importance Of The Work Of Prayer*

### **The Necessity Of Prayer**

E.M. Bounds

Genuine, authentic faith must be definite and free of doubt. Not simply general in character; not a mere belief in the being, goodness and power of God, but a faith which believes that the things which “he saith, shall come to pass.” As the faith is specific, so the answer likewise will be definite:

“He shall have whatsoever he saith.” Faith and prayer select the things, and God commits Himself to do the very things, which faith and persevering prayer nominate, and petition Him to accomplish.

The American Revised Version renders the twenty-fourth verse of the eleventh chapter of Mark, thus: “Therefore I say unto you, All things whatsoever ye pray and ask for, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.” Perfect faith has always in its keeping what perfect prayer asks for. How large and unqualified is the area of operation -- the “All things whatsoever!” How definite and specific the promise -- “Ye shall have them!”

Our chief concern is with our faith, -- the problems of its growth, and the activities of its vigorous maturity. A faith which grasps and holds in its keeping the very things it asks for, without wavering, doubt or fear -- that is the faith we need -- faith, such as is a pearl of great price, in the process and practice of prayer.

The statement of our Lord about faith and prayer quoted above is of supreme importance. Faith must be definite, specific; an unqualified, unmistakable request for the things asked for. It is not to be a vague, indefinite, shadowy thing; it must be something more than an abstract belief in God’s willingness and ability to do for us. It is to be a definite, specific, asking for, and expecting the things for which we ask. Note the reading of Mark 11:23: “And shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatever he saith.”

Just so far as the faith and the asking is definite, so also will the answer be. The giving is not to be something other than the things prayed for, but the actual things sought and named. “He shall have whatsoever he saith.” It is all imperative, “He shall have.” The granting is to be unlimited, both in quality and in quantity.

Faith and prayer select the subjects for petition, thereby determining what God is to do. “He shall have whatsoever he saith.” Christ holds Himself ready to supply exactly, and fully, all the demands of faith and prayer. If the order on God be made clear, specific and definite, God will fill it, exactly in accordance with the presented terms.

Faith is not an abstract belief in the Word of God, nor a mere mental credence, nor a simple assent of the understanding and will; nor is it a passive acceptance of facts, however sacred or thorough. Faith is an operation of God, a Divine illumination, a holy energy implanted by the Word of God and the Spirit in the human soul -- a spiritual, Divine principle which takes of the Supernatural and makes it a thing apprehendable by the faculties of time and sense.

Faith deals with God, and is conscious of God. It deals with the Lord Jesus Christ and sees in Him a Saviour; it deals with God’s Word, and lays hold of the truth; it deals with the Spirit of God, and is energized and inspired by its holy fire. God is the great objective of faith; for faith rests its whole weight on His Word. Faith is not an aimless act of the soul, but a looking to God and a resting upon His promises. Just as love and hope have always an objective so, also, has faith. Faith is not believing just anything; it is believing God, resting in Him, trusting His Word.

Faith gives birth to prayer, and grows stronger, strikes deeper, rises higher, in the struggles and wrestlings of mighty petitioning. Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the assurance and realization of the inheritance of the saints. Faith, too, is humble and persevering. It can wait and pray; it can stay on its knees, or lie in the dust. It is the one great condition of prayer; the lack of it lies at the root of all poor praying, feeble praying, little praying, unanswered praying.

The nature and meaning of faith is more demonstrable in what it does, than it is by reason of any definition given it. Thus, if we turn to the record of faith given us in that great honour roll, which constitutes the eleventh chapter of Hebrews, we see something of the wonderful results of faith. What a glorious list it is -- that of these men and women of faith! What marvelous achievements are there recorded, and set to the credit of faith! The inspired writer, exhausting his resources in cataloguing the Old Testament saints, who were such notable examples of wonderful faith, finally exclaims:

“And what shall I more say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets.”

And then the writer of Hebrews goes on again, in a wonderful strain, telling of the unrecorded exploits wrought through the faith of the men of old, “of whom the world was not worthy.” “All these,” he says, “obtained a good report through faith.”

What an era of glorious achievements would dawn for the Church and the world, if only there could be reproduced a race of saints of like mighty faith, of like wonderful praying! It is not the intellectually great that the Church needs; nor is it men of wealth that the times demand. It is not people of great social influence that this day requires. Above everybody and everything else, it is men of faith, men of mighty prayer, men and women after the fashion of the saints and heroes enumerated in Hebrews, who “obtained a good report through faith,” that the Church and the whole wide world of humanity needs.

Many men, of this day, obtain a good report because of their money-giving, their great mental gifts and talents, but few there be who obtain a “good report” because of their great faith in God, or because of the wonderful things which are being wrought through their great praying. Today, as much as at any time, we need men of great faith and men who are great in prayer. These are the two cardinal virtues, which make men great in the eyes of God, the two things which create conditions of real spiritual success in the life and work of the Church. It is our chief concern to see that we maintain a faith of such quality and texture, as counts before God; which grasps, and holds in its keeping, the things for which it asks, without doubt and without fear.

### **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](mailto:david@innercourt.com)  
include the word JOIN in the subject line

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

Voice of Thanksgiving  
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If you have questions or comments

Send them to David Williamson:  
[david@innercourt.com](mailto:david@innercourt.com)

To have your address removed from our list

Send an email to [david@innercourt.com](mailto:david@innercourt.com)  
Include the word REMOVE in the subject line