

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

For the week of June 29, 2003

A Call to Prayer

Will You Pray?

All of you pray, some more than others, some this way and some that. You all have different times and places for prayer. You have had successes and failures (at least so far) in prayer. But today the call is for extraordinary prayer.

*They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.
He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed,
shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.*
Psalms 126:5-6

Today the need is such that we must pray with tears and weeping. The times demand all out prayer. Only with this fervency can we complete the job at hand. Those who will sow with tears and go forth with weeping will come again with rejoicing; bring his sheaves (harvest) with him.

The need to day is for clarity of hearing God's voice, of obedience to His call, and boldness of faith. Are your prayers extraordinary or just business as usual? Can you boldly pray with confidence that nothing can turn away? Are you desperate to receive the answer, desperate enough that you sow your prayers with tears weeping before God?

Will You Pray?

This Week In Prayer

- Pray for wisdom and understanding. Many people today need to have questions and concerns answered about life and ministry. His wisdom and understanding, His direction and guidance are keys to success.

*Get wisdom, get understanding:
forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth.
Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee:
love her, and she shall keep thee.
Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom:
and with all thy getting get understanding.
Exalt her, and she shall promote thee:
she shall bring thee to honour, when thou dost embrace her.
She shall give to thine head an ornament of grace:
a crown of glory shall she deliver to thee.*

*Hear, O my son, and receive my sayings;
and the years of thy life shall be many.
I have taught thee in the way of wisdom;
I have led thee in right paths.
When thou goest, thy steps shall not be straitened;
and when thou runnest, thou shalt not stumble.
Take fast hold of instruction;
let her not go: keep her; for she is thy life.
Proverbs 4:4-13*

- Pray for mission outreaches this summer, such as the Crow Indian Camp Meeting. Pray for God's protection and provision for those who are going as well as their families. Pray for the Holy Spirit to work mightily.
- Pray for Israel. God has and will demonstrate His faithfulness to the world.

*Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God,
the faithful God,
which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that
love him and keep his commandments
to a thousand generations;
Deuteronomy 7:9*

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. This week let us begin a couple of weeks of prayer, looking at a very simple yet profound prayer of Paul. ***Now the God of peace be with you all. Amen.*** Romans 15:33

For this we are indebted to AW Pink and this teaching from his book *Gleanings from Paul*.

Fifth, “the God of peace” proclaims what He is *governmentally*, namely, the Orderer of peace in the churches and in the world. Though each Christian has peace with God, yet he is left in a world which lieth in the wicked one. Though the Christian has peace with God in his heart, yet the flesh remains, causing a continual conflict within and, unless restrained, breaking forth into strife with his brethren. Therefore, if God were not pleased to put forth His restraining power upon that which seeks to disturb and disrupt the believer’s calm, he would enjoy little or no tranquillity within or rest without.

The Blessing of Peace

“Now the God of peace *be with you all. Amen.*” By that petition the apostle requested that God would in this particular character manifest Himself among them so that His presence should be made known in their midst. Were it not for the overruling providence of the Lord His people would have no rest at any time in this world. But He rules in the midst of His enemies (Ps. 110:1-2) and gives His people a considerable measure of peace from their foes. This shows us that we ought to be constantly looking

to God for His peace else assaults are likely to arise from every quarter. Peace is a blessing the churches greatly need. We ought to “pray for the peace of [the spiritual] Jerusalem” as our chief joy.

“Now the God of peace *be with you all*” implies that the saints must conduct themselves in harmony, that amity and concord must prevail among them, so that there be no grievous failure on their part that would offend God and cause Him to withdraw His manifested presence from them. “Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: *and the God of peace shall be with you*” (Phil. 4:9). Individuals as well as a corporate company of believers must be in subjection to the divine authority and maintain scriptural discipline if they would enjoy the peace of God (see 2 Corinthians 13:11). Charles Hodge well said, “It is vain for us to pray for the presence of the God of love and peace unless we strive to free our hearts from all evil passions.”

So let us meditate on “The God of peace” and pray for our further understanding and walking in His peace.

Now the God of peace be with you all. Amen.

Imperative Importance Of The Work Of Prayer

Wonders Of God Through Prayer

From The Possibilities of Prayer

E. M. Bounds

To “pray without ceasing,” to pray in everything, and to pray everywhere -- these commands of continuity are expressive of the sleepless energy of prayer, of the exhaustless possibilities of prayer, and of its exacting necessity. Prayer can do all things. Prayer must do all things.

Prayer is the simplest form of speech
That infant lips can try;
Prayer the sublimest strains that reach
The majesty on high.

Prayer is asking God for something, and for something which He has promised. Prayer is using the divinely appointed means for obtaining what we need and for accomplishing what God proposes to do on earth.

Prayer is appointed to convey
The blessings God designs to give;
Long as they live should Christians pray,
They learn to pray when first they live.

And prayer brings to us blessings which we need, and which only God can give, and which prayer can alone convey to us.

In their broadest fullness, the possibilities of prayer are to be found in the very nature of prayer. This service of prayer is not a mere rite, a ceremony through which we go, a sort of performance.

Prayer is going to God for something needed and desired. Prayer is simply asking God to do for us what He has promised us He will do if we ask Him. The answer is a part of prayer, and is God's part of it. God's doing the thing asked for is as much a part of the prayer as the asking of the thing is prayer. Asking is man's part. Giving is God's part. The praying belongs to us. The answer belongs to God.

Man makes the plea and God makes the answer. The plea and the answer compose the prayer. God is more ready, more willing and more anxious to give the answer than man is to give the asking. The possibilities of prayer lie in the ability of man to ask large things and in the ability of God to give large things.

God's only condition and limitation of prayer is found in the character of the one who prays. The measure of our faith and praying is the measure of His giving. Like as our Lord said to the blind man, "According to your faith be it unto you," so it is the same in praying, "According to the measure of your asking, be it unto you." God measures the answer according to the prayer. He is limited by the law of prayer in the measure of the answers He gives to prayer. As is the measure of prayer, so will be the answer.

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
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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