

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

Inner Court Ministries

For the week of August 24, 2003

A Call to Prayer

The hope which filled the heart of Paul concerning the Corinthian brethren we have already seen to be full of comfort to those who trembled as to their future. But why was it that he believed that the brethren would be confirmed unto the end? I want you to notice that he gives his reasons. Here they are: *God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 1:9).*

The apostle does not say, “*You are faithful.*” Alas! the faithfulness of man is a very unreliable affair; it is mere vanity. He does not say, “*You have faithful ministers to lead and guide you, and therefore I trust you will be safe.*” Oh, no! if we are kept by men we shall be but ill kept. He puts it, “*God is faithful.*” If we are found faithful, it will be because God is faithful. On the faithfulness of our covenant God the whole burden of our salvation must rest. On this glorious attribute of God the matter hinges. We are variable as the wind, frail as a spider’s web, weak as water. No dependence can be placed upon our natural qualities, or our spiritual attainments; but God abideth faithful. He is faithful in His love; He knows no variableness, neither shadow of turning. He is faithful to His purpose; He doth not begin a work and then leave it undone. He is faithful to His relationships; as a Father He will not renounce His children, as a friend He will not deny His people, as a Creator He will not forsake the work of His own hands. He is faithful to His promises, and will never allow one of them to fail to a single believer. He is faithful to His covenant, which He has made with us in Christ Jesus, and ratified with the blood of His sacrifice. He is faithful to His Son, and will not allow His precious blood to be spilled in vain. He is faithful to His people to whom He has promised eternal life, and from whom He will not turn away.

From All Of Grace an earnest word with those who are seeking salvation by the lord Jesus Christ BY CHARLES SPURGEON

This Week in Prayer

- Pray for Israel.
- Pray for the ***Brotherhood Beyond Boundaries*** pastors and their families; pray for the work of these men in Belarus, and Lithuania.
- Pray for outreach. The fields are white ready for harvest in many areas where members of this company live. Now is the time for outreach and church activities. Pray for labors, finances and open doors of opportunity.
- Pray for members of this company who are traveling in ministry. A couple of men for specific prayer, Marek Kaminski travels from his home in Koszalin, Poland to Belarus and Lithuania working with the pastors from the conference as well as other ministry trips. Another minister traveling more and more is Mark Spencer from Longmont Colorado. As these men and others travel we must keep them and their families in prayer. God is using

them to touch lives in many cities, countries, and even on several continents. The travel and ministry is hard and being away from families is never pleasant. Please remember them in prayer.

- Pray for the transfer of the German Verein to Inner Court Ministries. This will make ICM a social and religious organization in Germany. This will facilitate a wide range of activities in Germany, as well as using Germany as a jumping off point for other areas. The transfer will take place in November.

Praying Always For You

Pray for one another, the members of this company, this week pray for vision. It is easy to get blinded by the rush of life, the never ending scurrying that accompanies modern life. This can challenge our ability to keep our eyes on what matters. Pray that we will keep our eyes on Him who is Lord of all and that we will have open eyes to see the fields of the harvest, white and ready for harvest.

*And Elisha prayed, and said,
"Lord, I pray, open his eyes that he may see."
Then the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw.
And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.
2 Kings 6:17 (NKJV)*

Imperative Importance of the Work of Prayer

Impossible

Modern man has a very strong sense of what is impossible. Much of our industrial and technological might is built on our reaction to the impossible. Both positive and negative aspects of the impossible have served us well. Positive and negative aspects of impossible, you ask? Yes!

The alchemist of the Middle Ages tried to change base metals into gold, he failed. But out of their failures men such as Newton realized that substances did not change, that hunk of metal (your car) in your driveway will not change into a hunk of cheese while you sleep. That is absurd, but it is the confidence, that it is impossible for things to just change, that makes modern industry and technological societies possible.

Until we knew that things would react the same every time we could not count on using them. Now an engineer can test a wing for an airplane on a computer even before the wing is built because he knows carbon fibers prepared to a set of specifications will always act within those specifications. A compound of chemicals combined in a specific formula always gives us aspirin, just as it did so many years ago when first discovered. A specific type of plastic excreted from a machine will always hold our coffee warm and safe, our only fear is clumsiness, not that the plastic will suddenly change and the hot coffee will flow from the container. This principle is positive impossible.

By contrast negative impossible has also fueled the rush of progress in industry and technology. The great inventions have come from men and women refusing to listen when told, “it is impossible.” Everyone saying, “It is impossible,” set the Wright brothers soaring above their chorus. “It is impossible,” caused Bill Gates to drop out of Harvard, bite the apple and create the personal computer world. “It is impossible,” made Thomas Edison so stubborn that even after thousands of failures he still brought safe lighting to the world. The list goes on and on. It is almost as if nothing can be done until someone says, “It is impossible.” People are convinced that there is no way to do something, sets off a frantic search to make it happen, this principle is negative impossible.

Positive and negative impossible have been very good for mankind. Properly used they have opened many new worlds of exploration bringing convenience and safety. Yes there are negative examples as well, and a on going debate as to which invention is good and bad, but the modern world was formed and shaped by positive and negative impossible.

This relationship is true in other realms as well, for example in prayer. Prayer like industry is shaped and defined by positive and negative impossible. The positive impossible is foundational to prayer. With out the positive impossible, prayer is nothing more than the mindless chanting of pagan religions. For the Christian, positive impossible makes prayer not just a duty or ritual, but a source of life and power. Positive impossible is centered not on the consistency of metals and chemicals, but on God Himself. His consistency. He states it this way,

"For I am the Lord, I do not change;
Malachi 3:6 (NKJV)

If He were fickle, changing on every whim, we would never pray. It would be senseless to pray. Even if He listened and spoke, it would be of no value, for the yes of today could be the no of tomorrow. Without His never changing nature, prayer is wasted effort. Just as the chemist must know that the elements in aspirin never change, so we must know that He does not change. He is and must be the same yesterday, today and forever.

***Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above,
and comes down from the Father of lights,
with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.***
James 1:17 (NKJV)

But there must be more to the positive impossible in prayer, it is not enough for God just to not change, even the god of the Philistines in the Old Testament, Dagon never changed, he was a hunk of stone carved like a half fish. God must also listen to our prayers. The prayers to Dagon dropped to the floor and were not answered. Prayer to our Father is coupled with His promise, “Call on me, and I will answer you...” God hearing is required for positive impossible prayer.

***'Call to Me, and I will answer you,
and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.'***
Jeremiah 33:3 (NKJV)

The nature of God, not changing, listening and speaking to us, not lying, etc is the positive impossible. It is impossible for God to not be as He is. This helps us to pray.

Negative impossible is important in prayer as well. We are sons and daughters of the God who does the impossible. The Bible is filled with God doing the impossible. From rainstorms to evening walks on lakes, He is not restricted by the impossible. From flowing fountains of oil to fine wines for weddings, He is not hindered by the impossible. From city walls to prison gates, He is not waylaid by the impossible. God has restricted Himself to responding to the requests of prayer, but has made nothing to be impossible when asked.

Most problems in prayer (when people do pray) come from getting positive and negative impossible backwards. It is easy to come to the place where we doubt the positive impossible, believing that God changes, doesn't listen, lies and is not able, while believing that the impossible is impossible.

Men and women settle into questioning God and His nature, yet hold fast to the unyielding nature of what cannot be. This is devastating to prayer. It is impossible to pray with faith when positive and negative impossible are reversed. No matter how long or how well we pray, with this reversal we pray in doubt and unbelief. There cannot be faith when we cannot trust who God is. There cannot be faith when we don't believe He can do the impossible.

Check your prayer life; examine it well. Where do you stand on positive and negative impossible. If these have become twisted in any way make changes now. The positive must all be in place; God must be fully the God revealed in His Word, impossible in the most positive ways. And we must hold fast to faith proclaiming He can, has and will do the impossible.

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 an email with the word JOIN in the subject so I know you would like 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 join this company 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