

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

Inner Court Ministries

For the Week of January 4, 2004

A Call to Prayer

There is another reason for constant, persistent, sleepless, overcoming prayer that seems if possible even more forcible than this, namely, praying is the most important part of the present ministry of our risen Lord. Christ's ministry did not close with his death. His atoning work was finished then, but when he rose and ascended to the right hand of the Father, he entered upon other work for us just as important in its place as his atoning work. It cannot be divorced from his atoning work; it rests upon that as its basis, but it is necessary to our complete salvation.

What that great present work is, by which he carries our salvation on to completeness, we read in Heb. 7:25, "wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, Seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them." This verse tells us that Jesus is able to save us unto the uttermost, not merely from the uttermost, but unto the uttermost, unto entire completeness, absolute perfection, because he not merely died, but because he also "ever liveth" the verse also tells us for what purpose he now lives, "to make intercession for us," to pray. Praying is the principal thing he is doing in these days. It is by his prayers that he is saving us.

How To Pray R. A. Torrey

This Week in Prayer

- Pray for the Jewish people. The circumstances of life bring people to a point of decision, drawn to the Messiah or turning away from Him. Pray for open eyes to see and a soft hearts irresistibly drawn to their Messiah.
- Pray for the ***Brotherhood Beyond Boundaries*** Conference in June 2004. This week pray for the overcoming of circumstances that would arise and keep people from attending the conference. Pray for clearing away every detail that would stop their attendance.
- Pray for outreaches. All around you there are opportunities for the Gospel, pray for the message to go forth, faithful men and women presenting the message. Pray for open hearts to receive the life changing message. One very important key is to pray for faithful men and women. It is easy to give up and quit, but the faithful man and woman will have fruit.
- Pray for the ministries of Inner Court Ministries. Pray for labors, money, opportunities, favor, wisdom and understanding.

Praying Always for You

Pray for one another. Pray that we would pray.

*I thank God, whom I serve with a pure conscience,
as my forefathers did,
as without ceasing I remember you in my prayers night and day,
2 Tim. 1:3 (NKJV)*

*Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another,
that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.
Elijah was a man with a nature like ours,
and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain;
and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months.
And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.
James 5:16-18 (NKJV)*

Imperative Importance of the Work of Prayer

Contagious

Pray for one another. Pray that we would pray. That sounds strange so let me explain. Prayer has great value; it works in many ways. We tend to emphasize the obtaining of answers to prayer. When asked, "Why pray?" we often answer, the answers. This is correct, for God answers prayer, He is moved by prayer; He is seeking those who will pray so He can shower the world with His answers. But there is more, much more to prayer.

Prayer is one of those tools in the hand of the Holy Spirit used to change His children into the image of Christ. The Father sees us as we are, just like His Son, perfect in every way, new creations made in the image of Christ. The Holy Spirit, who resides inside of us, also sees us as we are, falling short of the Glory. The difference between the Father's view and that of the Holy Spirit; is the blueprint for change, the changes each individual needs. To affect the change, to make me like the Father sees me, the Holy Spirit works in many ways. This is the daily dealings in my life. Things like, my family, my job, and my church, are tools used to make me like Jesus. Another tool use by the Holy Spirit is prayer. Prayer is more than asking and receiving, it is relationship. For better or worse, relationship with people changes people. Relationship with God changes people.

As a teacher, I see students who are changed, for better or worse, by relationship with their friends. They spend time with them and become like them. I deal with very smart hard working kids, but every year I have a heart wrenching conversation with a family where the son or daughter has bad grades and has stopped working and caring. The change is so dramatic that I will have teachers who ask, "How did you let this one into this program?" In the conversation with the parents it comes out that this kid has new friends. He or she is spending time with kids who do not care about school, grades, college, or work. Now this student doesn't care about things that were important just a few months before. They changed relationships, now they spend time with kids who do not care and it is contagious.

Prayer is the same, it is relationship and contagious. Those who spend time with the Father, in prayer, become more and more like His son. Those who spend time with the world become more like the world. I am not saying get out of the world; we are to live in the world, but not of the world, I am calling us to prayer and relationship. This call is to spend time with the Father. We build relationship reading and meditating on His Word, fellowshiping with Christians, but a very special relationship grows with prayer. His presence is contagious; we catch more and more of the image and nature of Christ.

Need to be more like Jesus? Spend time in prayer.

Prayer Is Expecting Answers

And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.
2 Cor. 9:8 (NKJV)

God is faithful and delights in answering prayer. He is able to go beyond what we think or expect. We say it, but we often need reminders.

The ***Brotherhood Beyond Boundaries*** Conference is a powerful time of refreshing and building. The second conference will be June 2004 (this conference will include the wives of the pastors). The following is a note, from the *Voice of Thanksgiving* shortly after the 2003 BBB Conference, calling for prayer.

Note: Now that we have connections with the pastors from this conference we have ongoing prayer responsibilities. As we build relationships, we must support them in prayer. They live and work in a hard place, but God's grace is sufficient. He will bring the pastors and the people they minister to through. Finances are very difficult in these areas, so this is another area of prayer (if you would like to be a financial supporter or know someone who would, please contact me for details, David Williamson: david@innercourt.com). Pray for these pastors so they may continue to preach boldly and freely. Pray for hearing of the Gospel message. Pray for reception and application of the life-changing message, wherein there is abundant life.

God has answered our prayers; He has provided the money to cover the basic costs of the 2004 BBB conference!

A second need, a part of our prayers for many years, is transportation in Poland. We have had a need for a van in Poland. It has been difficult for teams, rental companies do not like to send vehicles, especially vans, into Poland, yet we need to move people to and from conferences and other ministries. It would also help to move people around at the BBB Conferences in Koszalin. As ICM expands our ministry in Poland, we must have transportation.

God has answered our prayers; He has provided money for the purchase of a van in Poland!

Keep Praying And Expecting Answers

Joining This Company

All Christians who will pray are welcome. ***Voice of Thanksgiving*** is sent by e-mail or letter to all who will commit to prayer as members 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.

To join send an e-mail with the word JOIN for the subject. 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 e-mail:

Send an e-mail to david@innercourt.com
include the word JOIN in the subject line

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

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