

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

For the Week of January 25, 2004

A Call to Prayer

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:*

Ephesians 1:3

*Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit,
and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;*

Ephesians 6:18

This Week in Prayer

- Pray for Israel. God has promised the boundary line for Israel (for the Palestinians also). Today the lines of the country are not yet His lines. People and nations may say what they will, but His lines, He will set. Pray this week the line will be set at God's set place.

*The lines have fallen to me in pleasant places;
Yes, I have a good inheritance.*

Psalm 16:6 (NKJV)

- Pray for the ***Brotherhood Beyond Boundaries*** Conference in June 2004. This week pray for the labors in the harvest fields, the pastors and wives from Belarus and Lithuania. Pray for God to supply their every need.

*And my God shall supply all your need according to
His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*

Philip. 4:19 (NKJV)

- Pray for outreaches. Pray for Mark, he will be speaking to pastors from across Poland in April. Pray for David, he will be conducting business for the ICM eV (Verein) and working on plans for this summer on a short trip to Germany and Austria. Pray for their safe journeys and open doors of opportunity.
- Pray for the outreaches of your local church or fellowship. Now is the day of salvation, these ministries working to reach your community needs your prayers. Pray for creative ideas for ministry and fulfillment of the job they are assigned.

Praying Always for You

Pray for one another. Pray for endurance. At times the road is long and hard, but those who endure to the end will be blessed.

*Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect,
that they also may obtain the salvation
which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.*

2 Tim. 2:10 (NKJV)

*But you be watchful in all things,
endure afflictions,
do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.*

2 Tim. 4:5 (NKJV)

*If you endure chastening,
God deals with you as with sons;
for what son is there whom a father does not chasten?*

Hebrews 12:7 (NKJV)

*Indeed we count them blessed who endure.
You have heard of the perseverance of Job
and seen the end intended by the Lord--that
the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.*

James 5:11 (NKJV)

Imperative Importance of the Work of Prayer

What do you think?

It is a question to ask yourself. What do you think? In general what do you think? Maybe it would be better to say, how do you think? When you meet someone for the first time, when the phone rings at night, when your boss comes to your office, what do you think? Do you think the worst, oh no here it comes? Or do you think the best?

It is easy to think the worst. It is how the world tries to train us. Everyone talks about the worst. We have hundreds of expression in English to express the worst. Often people don't even know they are saying something that expresses the worst, it is just an expression. But expressions, talk, ads, movies, songs, and hundreds other parts of modern western living, focus on thinking the worst. But we are to think the best. We are especially to believe the best about Christians.

I hope you always believe the best about me. As the editor of the letter of this company of believers, I strive to hear from God as I call you to prayer. I hope that you will hear my heart even if I make a mistake in my writing, some of you are good at pointing out my mistakes, knowing that my intent is good. This is not a request for sympathy; I use myself to make a point. Know that David loves the Lord, know that he longs to have a company of people who pray, know that his intent is for the

best, and then I hope you will believe the best. Sure point out errors and mistakes, I also want to be a better communicator, but do not be offended if I make a mistake. Think the best, not the worst. Think David has made a mistake, not David has turned from the Lord, or David must be in a cult or some horrible thing. Think the best. Now I hope I have made my point, think the best.

With that said, now we can turn to the center of this message; think the best, but pray the Word. As much as I have encouraged you to think the best, when you pray, don't think the best, pray the word. Let's continue to use me for an example. When you pray for me and I hope you do pray for me, but I should be a long way down on your priority list of prayers, your family, your church, your pastor, your prayer calling to a ministry; many things should be higher on the list than me. But, when you pray for me, don't pray based on thinking the best about me. You think the best about me when you read the *Voice of Thanksgiving*; but when you pray, pray the Word. Don't pray, I know David is a good guy, if you read last week's *Voice of Thanksgiving* you should know that I am not a good guy. Think the best, don't pray the best. When you pray, pray what God says. Pray things like, "David has the mind of Christ".

***For "who has known the mind of the Lord
that he may instruct Him?"
But we have the mind of Christ.***

1 Cor. 2:16 (NKJV)

***Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,
Philip. 2:5 (NKJV)***

The key here is not a study on how to pray for David, it is a call for a self-check on your prayers. When you pray do you agree with man, believe the worst, or even believe the best, or do you agree with God. When we pray it is not important if the world or even any of you say David is a good guy, what is important is what the Word of God says. Our prayers are to be with and of His Word. We do not pray that David is a good guy, but our prayer is, "David, as per the Word of God, has the mind of Christ", or "as the Word says, David can do all things through Christ who is his strength", etc. The format is your own choosing, but the key is agreement with God. Prayer in agreement with God, in agreement with His Word, is world changing.

Daniel was a mighty man of prayer because he prayed what God said. It was time for Israel to return to their homeland, the required seventy years accomplished. So Daniel prayed. What did he pray? Israel is your favorite people and they are so good, they are the best, so take them back to their home land. No. He knew they had sinned and turn from God, but He still thought the best, they were His people. He was willing to pray, not because Israel had been good, but because he thought the best, he knew they were God's people. Then thinking the best, he prayed the Word.

***Then I set my face toward the Lord God
to make request by prayer and supplications,
with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes.
And I prayed to the Lord my God, and made confession,
and said, "O Lord, great and awesome God,
who keeps His covenant and mercy with those who love Him,
and with those who keep His commandments,
we have sinned and committed iniquity,***

*we have done wickedly and rebelled,
even by departing from Your precepts and Your judgments.*
Daniel 9:3-5 (NKJV)

Please note this prayer, Daniel 9:3-18.

And then there is verse 19.

*O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and act!
Do not delay for Your own sake, my God,
for Your city and Your people are called by Your name."*
Daniel 9:19 (NKJV)

We live in a time like that of Daniel, the world around us in struggling. People often think and do the worst. The need for God and His salvation is just as prevalent as it was in the Daniel's days of Israel's captivity. To see the people of today delivered from captivity, we must be like Daniel. We must think the best, but pray the Word.

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:

Voice of Thanksgiving
Inner Court Ministries
P.O. Box 2125-80502
Longmont, CO 80502

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