

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

Inner Court Ministries

For the Week of February 22, 2004

A Call to Prayer

*Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find;
knock, and it will be opened to you.*

Matt 7:7 (NKJ)

This Week in Prayer

- Pray for Israel. With the publicity surrounding the new movie out this month this would be a good week for us to pray for open hearts, Jewish and Gentile, to receive the Gospel of the Messiah.
- Pray for our brother and sisters in regions where free worship is not the norm or even possible. It is easy for us to forget about the other parts of our body who suffer daily for the faith. We are one body and when one part suffers we all suffer. We must be a voice of prayer for those who suffer. This week there was a report of a gunman attack in Pakistan; Gunman entered a Christian church firing semiautomatic weapons. This is far too common in many areas of the world and gunman in attacks like this often are never apprehended or charged, leading to more and bolder attacks. Pray for the Christians and others in situations like this, pray for their safety and continued witness of the Gospel.
- Pray for the ***Brotherhood Beyond Boundaries*** Conference in June 2004. This week pray for travel plans for the conference. Pray for the pastors and wives to be able to travel to Poland.
- Pray for outreaches. These are opportunities for you to be a part of reaching nations with the Gospel. Pray for John who will be speaking in Austria and Switzerland in April. Pray for Mark, he will be speaking to pastors from across Poland in April. Pray for David and Duane, they will be working in Germany and Austria on Verein business and preparing for outreaches. 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 that we would be firmly established in His love and Gospel.

*Now unto Him who is able to establish you
according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ,
according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began,
Romans 16:25 (NKJ)*

Imperative Importance of the Work of Prayer

Super Charged!

Mark Spencer

Do you ever feel like you need your emotional or spiritual batteries recharged? Thank God there is a supernatural way to get a dose of Heavenly power, to get hooked up to His power generation plant. Don't delay any longer, begin now to link up with the Holy Spirit's power source and exercise your faith for remarkable answers to prayer – ***“But you, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost.”*** (Jude 20)

Are you weary, tired and thirsty? There is a refreshing few will ever know and even fewer will experience, but it is freely available to all. ***“Ho! Every one who thirsts, come to the waters; and you who have no money come, buy and eat. Come; buy wine and milk without money and without cost. Why do you spend money for what is not bread, and your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, and delight yourself in abundance. “Incline your ear and come to Me. Listen, that you may live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, according to the faithful mercies shown to David.”*** (Isaiah 55:1-3 NASB)

The Lord never thinks like we do, His ways are higher, His pockets deeper, His provision more abundant and always overflowing! “Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If any man is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, ‘From his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.’ But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.” (John 7:37-39) It is by this simple release of one of our most troublesome members (the tongue) that God's great blessing is manifest within our lives. That “thing” that causes us so much trouble becomes an instrument of blessing and rest. ***“For with stammering lips and another tongue will He speak to His people. To whom He said, This is the rest wherewith you may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing; yet they would not hear.”*** (Isaiah 28:11-12)

This supercharging can not be earned nor can it be won, its coming is by faith. It is so very simple that great scholars and theologians miss its impact. It is a gift of a good Father who delights in giving His best gifts. This gift issues from the very heart of God – the heart of a Father. It is that which is birthed and spoken by the Spirit! ***“Now suppose one of you fathers is asked by his son for a fish; he will not give him a snake instead of a fish, will he? Or if he is asked for an egg, he will not give him a scorpion, will he? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?”*** (Luke 11:11-13).

This simple gift of the Father's Spirit opens up new dimensions of praise and worship to the believer. "What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also; I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also." (1 Corinthians 14:15) This gift brings the essence of our being, the thoughts too deep for words, and the emotions too deep for expression, to bear upon our lives. It opens the heart and mind of God to His people.

"But God has revealed them unto us by His Spirit: for the Spirit searches all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man, except by the spirit of man which is in him? Even so the things of God knows 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 teaches, but which the Holy Ghost teaches; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receives not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."
(1 Corinthians 2:10-14).

It is the submission of the most unruly member of the body (the tongue) to the Holy Spirit's control and leading. ***"But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison."*** (James 3:8) It is the falling of the Heavenly upon the earthy, the supernatural upon the supernatural, and the greater upon the lesser. ***"And when the Day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from Heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them, and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."*** (Acts 2:1-4) This is the empowering for service! ***"But you shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you; and you shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."*** (Acts 1:8)

The Holy Spirit's presence is the believer's evidence that Jesus is the Resurrected One and that He has been exalted and is seated at the right hand of the Father. This gift of the Father is our surely that Jesus can make good His promises! ***"Nevertheless I tell you the truth; it is expedient for you that I go away; for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send Him unto you."*** (John 16:7)

As we speak in other tongues we are speaking directly with the Creator! The secrets of our hearts and the secrets of His heart may be exchanged. ***"For he that speaks in an unknown tongue speaks not unto men, but unto God; for no man understands him; howbeit in the spirit he speaks mysteries."*** (1 Corinthians 14:2) It is in this closet of prayer that we lend ourselves to the Lord for Him to pray perfectly through us – we become channels of His perfect intercession and vessels of His great blessing! ***"Likewise the Spirit also helps our infirmities; for we know not what we should pray for as we ought; but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groaning which cannot be uttered. And He that searches the hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God."*** (Romans 8:26-27)

Of course, the Holy Spirit is more than we can ever adequately comprehend or understand for He is Himself wholly and completely God! He is far more than merely a simple gift operated through the

mouths of earthen vessels, He is the One who is in manifestation every time the believer begins to pray or worship by speaking with other tongues! And it is the Holy Spirit Who is releasing the mind and will of God to His people as we pray in the Spirit.

And yes, as we pray in the Holy Spirit, we find a new encouragement, a new empowering, a fresh recharging of our spiritual batteries and our emotional gas tanks! Unless we have found the Refreshing, unless we are filled with the Spirit, unless we are encouraged and built-up, what do we have to offer others, but our own dried out wisdom and human cisterns full of emptiness and vanity? To be a blessing, we must be full and overflowing with the Blessing ourselves! ***“He that speaks in an unknown tongue edifies (builds up) himself.”*** (1 Corinthians 14:4)

But, how do I receive such a gift? First, you must repent and believe upon the Lord Jesus Christ. Secondly, you must see that it is Jesus Who is the Baptizer in the Holy Spirit. Just as He uses men as channels to proclaim His most wonderful gift of redemption, so He often uses men to impart the gift of the Holy Spirit. ***“Wherefore I put you in remembrance that you stir up the gift of God, which is in you by the putting on of my hands.”*** (2 Timothy 1:6) While men may often be channels of His blessing, it is the exalted Christ alone who bestows His gift! ***“I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance; but He that comes after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear; He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire.”*** (Matthew 3:11) Ask Jesus expectantly! Wait for Him eagerly! Seek Jesus diligently! Look to Jesus and not the gift. You will never be disappointed! ***“The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger; but they that seek the Lord shall not want any good thing.”*** (Psalm 34:10) ***“Ask, and it shall be given you; seek and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For everyone that asks receives and he that seeks finds; and to him that knocks it shall be opened.”*** (Matthew 7:7-8)

The Scriptures command us to ***“provoke one another to love and to good works.”*** (Hebrews 10:24) Why not challenge your believing friends and family in a godly way to “out do” one another in praying in the Holy Spirit!? The Apostle Paul made quite a statement when he said, ***“I thank God, I speak with tongues more than you all.”*** (1 Corinthians 14:18) What a challenge! What answers to prayer are waiting for our yielding to the Holy Spirit’s prayer in us and through us?! What untold blessings are waiting to issue forth from our mouths and flow from our lives to changes men and women’s circumstances and to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ? Super charged indeed!

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

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