

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

Inner Court Ministries

For the Week of March 14, 2004

A Call to Prayer

We put it to the front. We unfold it on a banner never to be lowered or folded, that God does hear and answer prayer. God has always heard and answered prayer. God will forever hear and answer prayer. He is the same yesterday, to-day and forever, ever blessed, ever to be adored. Amen. He changes not. As He has always answered prayer, so will He ever continue to do so. E.M. Bounds, *Possibilities of Prayer*

This Week in Prayer

- Pray for Israel. Today it would be easy to sell out for the promise of security. People make promises that they cannot fulfill, but Israel will be redeemed and kept only by the Lord. Pray for Israel to be redeemed.

*Awake, awake; put on thy strength, O Zion;
put on thy beautiful garments, O Jerusalem,
the holy city: for henceforth there shall no more
come into thee the uncircumcised and the unclean.
Shake thyself from the dust; arise, and sit down,
O Jerusalem: loose thyself from the bands of thy neck,
O captive daughter of Zion.
For thus saith the Lord, Ye have sold yourselves for nought;
and ye shall be redeemed without money.*

Isaiah 52:1-3 (KJV)

- Pray for Mark and the trip to Poland in April. This is an opportunity for God to speak to pastors from all over the country. Pray for a spark of revival to burst into flame from these meetings. Pray for the safety of Mark and the pastors. Pray for boldness to speak the message given for them.

*for which I am an ambassador in chains;
that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.*

Ephes. 6:20 (NKJV)

*meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door
for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains,
that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.*

Col. 4:3-4 (NKJV)

***But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel,
even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts.***

1 Thes. 2:4 (NKJV)

- Remember our brothers and sisters who live where Christians live under a sentence of death. When they suffer, we all suffer. The persecution of our brothers is ours as well.

***Remember the prisoners as if chained
with them--those who are mistreated--since
you yourselves are in the body also.***

Hebrews 13:3 (NKJV)

- Pray for the ***Brotherhood Beyond Boundaries*** Conference in June 2004. Pray for the details of the conference and arrangements for the participants.
- 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 who will be working in Germany and Austria on Verein business and preparing for outreaches in late March. Pray for their safe journeys and open doors of opportunity.

***For a great and effective door has opened to me,
and there are many adversaries.***

1 Cor. 16:9 (NKJV)

- 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 will live and work, pleasing in His sight.

***And whatever we ask we receive from Him,
because we keep His commandments and do those things that
are pleasing in His sight.***

1 John 3:22 (NKJV)

Imperative Importance of the Work of Prayer

Ask, Listen and Obey

Today the body of Christ is caught-up in being modern, relevant, valuable, helpful, and a hundred other things. This is a time of feverish activity, but many have forgotten the call to prayer. Prayer is of imperative importance, today more than ever. Many pray, but few really pray.

Prayer changes men and women. It is more than just few words sent heavenward; it is all consuming of those who will give themselves fully to prayer. The Father is looking for men and women of prayer. A simple way to understand what He wants is this phrase, Prayer is asking, listening, and obeying.

Prayer, Asking and Answers

The relationship with the Father has many aspects and is a life time journey. We grow and mature daily with Him. One aspect of this is our prayer life. This also grows and matures. A part of prayer is asking. As a child asks his or her father, so we ask our heavenly Father. He knows our needs, before and better than we, but He has commanded that we ask.

Asking is part of developing the relationship of Father and child. We come to the one we believe can and will answer our request. We come to the one who loves us and will care for us. We come to the one we are close to. Asking is by faith. All we do as His children must be by faith. The natural child comes to his or her mother and asks by faith. "Mom, what is for supper?" is a natural question from a child. It is a faith statement as well; the child knows mom will provide a meal. How do they know, by faith. Mom is a good mom, she loves me, she provides for my care, I know she will provide.

We must have this child like faith. I ask my Heavenly Father and know He will answer. Faith expects an answer to the asking in prayer. People are angry when prayer is compared with asking and answers, but it is the most natural part of a relationship with a parent. Why would it be strange in my relationship with my Heavenly Father? These people are offended because they have made prayer into a religious exercise, with value only in the activity, not in the asking and answering. It is a ritual, not a relationship. If we are going to pray, really pray, prayer must be a relationship with our Father and centered on asking and answers, all by faith.

***And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do,
that the Father may be glorified in the Son.
If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.***
John 14:13-14 (NKJV)

Prayer is Listening

God has always spoken to His people. He speaks to those who know Him, His children. The sheep know the voice of the good Shepard. As children we got into trouble because we did not listen. We wanted to do something and would not listen to our fathers warnings and got into trouble. As adults sometimes we still do not listen. God speaks to us everyday, if we will listen. He speaks through his Word, He also speaks in prayer. He longs to direct our steps. He is willing and able to whisper in our ear, the keys for success, whispering "turn to the right" or turn to the left". This is from the one who know the end from the beginning. It stands to reason He knows the way we should go.

Have you ever watched a mouse run through a maze? It is interesting to see him work hard to find the right way. From our perspective it is so easy, just go that way, then this way and turn there, then here and you are through the maze. Our Heavenly Father has that same outstanding perspective on our maze of life. Wouldn't it make sense to listen?

*To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice;
and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.
And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them;
and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.*

John 10:3-4 (NKJV)

My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

John 10:27 (NKJV)

Prayer Demands Obedience

It is an evil father who does not require obedience of his children. As their father he knows what is best for his children. He must protect them from calamity and injury by demanding obedience. In the hands of a child fire can be very dangerous, so a good father will demand obedience from a child to stay away from fire. Our Heavenly Father would be an evil father if He did not demand obedience from us. Obedience is for our good. Remember, He is a good God, He is only good.

Obedience activates faith. "My Father has said it, so it is so". This is a faith statement. "Father said", is not always the words of a stubborn child, it can be a statement of faith. When we act on what He says and we are acting in faith. No matter what the circumstances seem to say, what our Heavenly Father has said is more true, real, and accurate. I can stand on what He has said through thick and thin. Obedience is the missing ingredient in many people's prayers. They may ask, they may listen, but often they fail to act in obedience to what He has said.

Ask, Listen and Obey

Prayer, born of faith

Prayer, borne along on wings of faith

Prayer bores through waves of obstacles by faith

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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