

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

Inner Court Ministries

For the Week of April 11, 2004

A Call to Prayer

The process of hindering prayer by crowding out is simple and goes by advancing stages. First, prayer is hurried through. Unrest and agitation, fatal to all devout exercises, come in. Then the time is shortened, relish for the exercise palls. Then it is crowded into a corner and depends on the fragments of time for its exercise. Its value depreciates. The duty has lost its importance. It no longer commands respect nor brings benefit. It has fallen out of estimate, out of the heart, out of the habits, out of the life. We cease to pray and cease to live spiritually.

There is no stay to the desolating floods of wordliness and business and cares, but prayer. Christ meant this when He charged us to watch and pray. There is no pioneering corps for the Gospel but prayer. Paul knew that when he declared that “night and day he prayed exceedingly that we might see your face and might perfect that which is lacking in your faith.” There is no arriving at a high state of grace without much praying and no staying in those high altitudes without great praying. Epaphras knew this when he “laboured fervently in prayers” for the Colossian Church, “that they might stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.”

E.M. Bounds

This Week in Prayer

- Pray for Israel. Many groups and nations would willingly or even gladly sacrifice Israel for gain, land, security, regional control, or national pride. It is imperative that we pray for Israel and against those who would destroy her.

So it was, from the time that he had made him overseer of his house and all that he had, that the Lord blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the Lord was on all that he had in the house and in the field.

Genesis 39:5 (NKJV)

- Pray for Mark and his trip to Poland this week. Will you be responsible for these meetings in prayer? Now is the time for prayer for revival. Please make this a priority in your prayers.

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)

- Stand in prayer with those that stand strong for the faith. This is difficult in many countries, but we can stand with those who are under great pressures for the faith.

***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 these meetings, June 24-27, once again lets rock the status quo in Europe.
- Pray for the ministry of the Word. John is speaking in Austria and Switzerland in April. Mark is speaking at a pastor's conference in Poland in April. These ministries need safe journeys and open doors of opportunity to step through the effective doors.

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

1 Cor. 16:9 (NKJV)

- Pray for outreaches in your local church or fellowship. Your prayers are the difference between success and failure in these ministries. Take responsibility in prayer for the success of the work and then join with them in the work.

Praying Always for You

Pray for one another. Pray that we “walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.”

***For this reason we also, since the day we heard it,
do not cease to pray for you,
and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will
in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;
that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him,
being fruitful in every good work
and increasing in the knowledge of God;
strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power,
for all patience and longsuffering with joy;
giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us
to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.
He has delivered us from the power of darkness
and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,
in whom we have redemption through His blood,
the forgiveness of sins.
He is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn over all creation.***

Col. 1:9-15 (NKJV)

Imperative Importance of the Work of Prayer

Acquainted

When you pray, who do you pray to? A simple question, one most people answer without a thought. To God, of course, is the answer. Take a minute before you answer this time. Who do you pray to? A. W. Pink has written, "an unknown God can neither be trusted, served, nor worshipped." This may come as a shock to some, God is worthy to be trusted, served and worshiped; He is God! But you miss the point of the question, do you pray to an unknown god? Not that God is not who He is, but do you know who He is. Many people never know Him except from afar. You scoff at this notion; you say of course I know Him, I pray to him every day, but do you know Him?

***Thus says the Lord: "Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom,
Let not the mighty man glory in his might,
Nor let the rich man glory in his riches;
But let him who glories glory in this,
That he understands and knows Me,
That I am the Lord, exercising lovingkindness,
judgment, and righteousness in the earth.
For in these I delight," says the Lord.***

Jeremiah 9:23-24 (NKJV)

Paul wrote to Timothy that he knew whom he believed. Paul had become acquainted with Jesus Christ. It was not a theory or belief system, but the person Jesus Christ who he had met. Paul was willing and able to endure great hardship, because he knew this person. He had committed everything to this person.

***For this reason I also suffer these things;
nevertheless I am not ashamed,
for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded
that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.***

2 Tim. 1:12 (NKJV)

If we are to go beyond just superficial prayer, if we are to pray powerful prayers, we must be acquainted with God. We must be like Paul; we must know the one we have believed. We must know the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We must know them with a relationship that is close and complete. A.W. Pink writes, "Something more than a theoretical knowledge of God is needed by us. God is only truly *known* in the soul as we yield ourselves to Him, submit to His authority, and regulate all the details of our lives by His holy precepts and commandments.

***Let us know,
Let us pursue the knowledge of the Lord.
His going forth is established as the morning;
He will come to us like the rain,
Like the latter and former rain to the earth.***

Hosea 6:3 (NKJV)

***Those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flattery;
but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits.***

Daniel 11:32 (NKJV)

The key is that we go beyond theoretical knowledge. It is not enough that we can speak or even write about Him, we must know Him. We must go beyond the opinions and hearsay, we must know Him. The people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits. Today is desperate for exploits.

***For I determined not to know anything among you
except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.***

1 Cor. 2:2 (NKJV)

***that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection,
and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,***

Philip. 3:10 (NKJV)

The road to exploits is the path of obedience. To know God, we must obey Him.

***They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him,
being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.***

Titus 1:16 (NKJV)

***Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.
He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments,
is a liar, and the truth is not in him.
But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him.
By this we know that we are in Him.***

1 John 2:3-5 (NKJV)

Who do you pray to? Will you know God? To know Him is more a journey than a decision, but it begins with a decision. The nation of Israel decided to have Moses talk to God while they stay away. A God of many attributes and facets, to get to know Him is a life time pursuit, but will you draw near or stand far off?

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
Longmont, CO 80502-2125