

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

Inner Court Ministries

For the Week of April 25, 2004

A Call to Prayer

Prayer has everything to do with moulding the soul into the image of God, and has everything to do with enhancing and enlarging the measure of Divine grace. It has everything to do with bringing the soul into complete communion with God. It has everything to do with enriching, broadening and maturing the soul's experience of God. That man cannot possibly be called a Christian, who does not pray. By no possible pretext can he claim any right to the term, nor its implied significance. If he do not pray, he is a sinner, pure and simple, for prayer is the only way in which the soul of man can enter into fellowship and communion with the Source of all Christlike spirit and energy. Hence, if he pray not, he is not of the household of faith.

E.M. Bounds

This Week in Prayer

- Pray for Israel. Will you pray this Psalm of David for Israel today? The Lord is their strength. Will you pray?

A Psalm of David.

*To You I will cry, O Lord my Rock:
Do not be silent to me, Lest, if You are silent to me,
I become like those who go down to the pit.
Hear the voice of my supplications When I cry to You,
When I lift up my hands toward Your holy sanctuary.*

*Do not take me away with the wicked
And with the workers of iniquity,
Who speak peace to their neighbors, But evil is in their hearts.
Give them according to their deeds,
And according to the wickedness of their endeavors;
Give them according to the work of their hands;
Render to them what they deserve.
Because they do not regard the works of the Lord,
Nor the operation of His hands,
He shall destroy them And not build them up.*

*Blessed be the Lord,
Because He has heard the voice of my supplications!*

*The Lord is my strength and my shield;
My heart trusted in Him, and I am helped;
Therefore my heart greatly rejoices,
And with my song I will praise Him.*

*The Lord is their strength,
And He is the saving refuge of His anointed.
Save Your people, And bless Your inheritance;
Shepherd them also, And bear them up forever.*

Psalm 28:1-9 (NKJV)

- Pray for the ***Brotherhood Beyond Boundaries*** Conference in June 2004. The Conference is just around the corner, the final planning stage is in high gear. Please continue to pray, the meetings are June 24-27. Pastors and their wives are coming from Eastern countries for a time of refreshing and empowering.
- 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 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. We live in a world of cares. There are causes and concerns everywhere. Christians are instructed not to carry our cares, but to cast them on to Jesus. He alone is able to carry our cares. Pray that we will not continue to try to carry our cares, but will cast them on Him who is able to carry them for us.

casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

1 Peter 5:7 (NKJV)

Imperative Importance of the Work of Prayer

Prayer for People

Do you pray for people? Well of course you do. Everyone prays for people. "Bless Aunt Marge," is about the most common prayer, other than prayer just before a test in school. The question is still valid and important. Do you pray for people?

There is a place in prayer for those who will pray, to see results. They are not satisfied with “if prayers”, the, “it is nice if they are answered”, type. Many of the prayers, prayed today are “if prayers” and most of the prayers for people, fall in this category. Most people are convinced people are free agents, able to do what ever they want. If this was true, there would be set limits to prayers for people. This is a strange way to think and disastrous for prayer.

Man is not a free agent, picking what he wants, doing what he wants. He is designed, in both the physical and spiritual realms, to respond to stimuli. The physical senses are well known, they affect us constantly, it is hot or cold, the music is loud or soft, the perfume smells good or bad, the paper is smooth or rough. We often respond without thinking, we slip on a sweater, we shade our eyes, we drink some water, and we scratch an itch. This is how we are made, made to respond.

This is true in other realms as well. We all have had those special moments, moved by the message, the story, the scene, the event. Tears and emotion well up from within and even the “tough” guy among us is moved. This is one of the reasons we love movies, we want to be affected, emotionally moved. That is one of the problems in churches, preaching is a lost art. Yes, many men and women do speak well. They are skilled orators, comparable to the men on the Chautauqua circuits of the late 1800s and early 1900s, when oratory rule as entertainment. But, speaking and preaching are different. Speaking (and that is what most preaching is today) is entertainment. It earns comments like, “I love to hear him when he really gets going,” “I could listen to him for hours.”

Preaching is different, it speaks to the spirit. Anointed preaching is God, via the Holy Spirit, speaking through a man or woman to others. Yes, at times the speaker, the man or woman, may get in the way, but when it is preaching, it is God speaking to you. Much of the speaking in our churches is speaking, not preaching, because it is safer. When God speaks, it might not be comfortable, it might not be fun, it might not rank as entertainment, at least not the type people seem to like. It is safer for the modern minister to be an orator, than risk offending with preaching.

My goal here is not to criticize modern preachers and preaching. The world of stimuli around us moves us, this includes spiritual things. The world influences us everyday; if we let it, and most don't just let, it they welcome it. What would “Blue Monday” be without complaints and problems? Our flesh influences us, and we respond like an addict craving for the next fix. Whatever the flesh wants, the flesh gets. No wonder our world is as it is today, but prayer can influence the world and people.

The world and our flesh affect the way we live, work and play, but prayer can do more. There is pressure on people, pressure to succeed, to get rich, to marry well, and to advance and a myriad of other pressures. Pressure can work to bring out the best in us, but most pressures have a negative effect. Pressure brought by prayer can be a great positive, those skilled in prayer, those willing to work at prayer; can put more pressure on people than anything brought by the world or the flesh. What do I mean, pressure? Prayer can bring people to the place, where it is easier to yield to the Holy Spirit, than it is to resist any longer.

By the lead of the Holy Spirit, we can pray and our prayers need not be “if prayers”, but prayers of faith. Even when we pray for people, we can pray in faith, confident that God is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all we hope or imagine. Not, “wouldn't it be nice for John to get saved?” but, responding to direction of the Holy Spirit, prayer in faith. Prayer that knows John will respond to the Holy Spirit. This is not wistful, “I am sure God will do what He wants”, but prayer

that will stand in the gap for a person, pressing in, until the answer comes. This is prayer of power, power that works in us.

*Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly
above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,
to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations,
forever and ever. Amen.*
Ephes. 3:20-21 (NKJV)

Do you pray for people? Can the Holy Spirit count on you for this type of assignment? Have you studied in the school of the Holy Spirit, until He can speak to you specifics for prayer? Have you labored in training, by the Spirit, until you are “fit for the Master’s use?” Have you been schooled by the Father, in the school of obedience, until you are ready for His assignment? Many people talk about prayer, but most will not study, be trained, nor go to school. For them prayer is just prayer, but God is looking for a few who will pray.

*For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,
that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory,
to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man,
that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith;
that you, being rooted and grounded in love,
may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the
width and length and depth and height—
to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge;
that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.
Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly
above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,
to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations,
forever and ever. Amen.*
Ephes. 3:14-21 (NKJV)

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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