

# Voice of Thanksgiving

## Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

Inner Court Ministries

For the Week of May 16, 2004

### *A Call to Prayer*

Holy desire is much helped by devout contemplation. Meditation on our spiritual need, and on God's readiness and ability to correct it, aids desire to grow. Serious thought engaged in before praying, increases desire, makes it more insistent, and tends to save us from the menace of private prayer -- wandering thought. We fail much more in desire, than in its outward expression. We retain the form, while the inner life fades and almost dies.

One might well ask, whether the feebleness of our desires for God, the Holy Spirit, and for all the fulness of Christ, is not the cause of our so little praying, and of our languishing in the exercise of prayer? Do we really feel these inward pantings of desire after heavenly treasures? Do the inbred groanings of desire stir our souls to mighty wrestlings? Alas for us! The fire burns altogether too low. The flaming heat of soul has been tempered down to a tepid lukewarmness. This, it should be remembered, was the central cause of the sad and desperate condition of the Laodicean Christians, of whom the awful condemnation is written that they were "rich, and increased in goods and had need of nothing," and knew not that they "were wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind."

Again: we might well inquire -- have we that desire which presses us to close communion with God, which is filled with unutterable burnings, and holds us there through the agony of an intense and soul-stirred supplication? Our hearts need much to be worked over, not only to get the evil out of them, but to get the good into them. And the foundation and inspiration to the incoming good, is strong, propelling desire. This holy and fervid flame in the soul awakens the interest of heaven, attracts the attention of God, and places at the disposal of those who exercise it, the exhaustless riches of Divine grace.

The dampening of the flame of holy desire, is destructive of the vital and aggressive forces in church life. God requires to be represented by a fiery Church, or He is not in any proper sense, represented at all. God, Himself, is all on fire, and His Church, if it is to be like Him, must also be at white heat. The great and eternal interests of heaven-born, God-given religion are the only things about which His Church can afford to be on fire. Yet holy zeal need not to be fussy in order to be consuming. Our Lord was the incarnate antithesis of nervous excitability, the absolute opposite of intolerant or clamorous declamation, yet the zeal of God's house consumed Him; and the world is still feeling the glow of His fierce, consuming flame and responding to it, with an ever-increasing readiness and an ever-enlarging response.

E.M. Bounds

### *This Week in Prayer*

Please pray, your prayers make a huge difference:

- Pray for the ***Brotherhood Beyond Boundaries*** Conference in June 2004.

- Pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ.
- Pray for Israel.
- Pray for outreaches in your local church or fellowship.
- Pray for one another.

*Wherefore also we pray always for you,  
that our God would count you worthy of this calling,  
and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness,  
and the work of faith with power:  
That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you,  
and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.*  
2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

*Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find;  
knock, and it shall be opened unto you:  
For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth;  
and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.  
Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread,  
will he give him a stone?  
Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent?  
If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children,  
how much more shall your Father which is in heaven  
give good things to them that ask him?*  
Matthew 7:7-11

### **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](mailto:david@innercourt.com)

include the word JOIN in the subject line

To receive **Voice of Thanksgiving** by regular mail:

Voice of Thanksgiving

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