

**Voice of Thanksgiving**  
**Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer**  
Inner Court Ministries

For the Week of May 23, 2004

**A Call to Prayer**

Prayer and a holy life are one. They mutually act and react. Neither can survive alone. The absence of the one is the absence of the other. The monk deprived prayer, substituted superstition for praying, mummeries and routine for a holy life. We are in danger of substituting churchly work and a ceaseless round of showy activities for prayer and holy living. A holy life does not live in the closet, but it cannot live without the closet. If, by any chance, a prayer chamber should be established without a holy life, it would be a chamber without the presence of God in it. E.M. Bounds

**This Week in Prayer**

- Pray for the ***Brotherhood Beyond Boundaries*** Conference in June 2004. This conference is about increase, the increase of God's kingdom. Our meetings, our encouragement of one another, our prayers, and our time together, have as a final goal the increase of God's Kingdom. Pray for increase via this conference and His mighty hand working in us and through us.

*Of the increase of His government and peace  
There will be no end,  
Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom,  
To order it and establish it with judgment and justice  
From that time forward, even forever.  
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.*  
Isaiah 9:7 (NKJV)

*So He said to them, "When you pray, say:  
Our Father in heaven,  
Hallowed be Your name.  
Your kingdom come.  
Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.*  
Luke 11:2 (NKJV)

- Pray for Israel. The strength of the Lord is the safeguard of Israel.

*Awake, awake! Put on your strength, O Zion;  
Put on your beautiful garments,  
O Jerusalem, the holy city!*

***For the uncircumcised and the unclean  
Shall no longer come to you.***

Isaiah 52:1 (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 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 for endurance to run the race. We live in an age where people want everything quick, instant coffee and instant results.

***But he who endures to the end shall be saved.***

Matthew 24:13 (NKJV)

***But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions,  
do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.***

2 Tim. 4:5 (NKJV)

***If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons;  
for what son is there whom a father does not chasten?***

Hebrews 12:7 (NKJV)

### **Imperative Importance of the Work of Prayer**

#### **Celebration Prayer**

There are few things as wonderful as prayer. Given an audience with God, we are encouraged and commanded to pray. He has opened the doors and invited us to enter into His throne room. Who would not be thrilled to have this type of entrance with the President a nation, but this is the entrance to Heaven's throne. The King of kings and Lord of lords has opened the door and waved us in. Wow! The wonderful nature of prayer notwithstanding, prayer is also hard work. It can weigh heavy, with a burden that is all but unbearable. Prayer is a battle. Part of the battle is the nature of the subject.

Prayer involves answers; answers come from questions and needs. It can be hard to pray about needs day in and day out. It is easy to slip into looking at the needs and not the provider. It is easy to grow frustrated, allowing doubt and unbelief to enter the heart. If we are not careful, faithful in prayer becomes just a stubborn repetition of empty words. The faith drained, prayer, becomes just ritual. The emptiness of a ritual often ends even the pretence of prayer. The world around us also contributes to this battle. There are almost constant reports of a world getting worse and worse, all of this is enough to make man or woman wonder, what the value of praying is. These attacks on prayer are a real concern. One sure way to limit the work of the Church is to hinder or stop prayer. The need is for a company of men and women who will pray.

A simple, but effective, remedy to these attacks is celebration prayer. Making celebration prayer a part of the everyday prayer life destroys these attacks. Celebration prayer is the celebration of God the Father, the Lordship of Jesus Christ and the might of the Holy Spirit. Celebration is a powerful reminder of God and His nature and abilities. Nothing takes the props out from under attacks on the efficacy of prayer, like reminders of whom and what God is.

Celebration prayer is a reminder that God hears and answers prayer. The celebration in prayer is to declare who and what He is. We declare, as a statement of fact and a reminder to ourselves, that God hears and answers prayer. He is well able to provide.

***You are my hiding place;  
You shall preserve me from trouble;  
You shall surround me with songs of deliverance.***

***Selah***

Psalm 32:7 (NKJV)

***The Lord has been mindful of us; He will bless us;  
He will bless the house of Israel; He will bless the house of Aaron.***

Psalm 115:12 (NKJV)

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

1 Peter 5:7 (NKJV)

Jesus modeled celebration prayer for us when He taught the Disciples to pray.

***In this manner, therefore, pray:  
Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.  
Your kingdom come. Your will be done  
On earth as it is in heaven.***

Matthew 6:9-10 (NKJV)

Bracketing the request to meet the needs of the day and dealings of life and all its concerns, Jesus celebrates the Father, His kingdom, power and glory.

***For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.***

Matthew 6:9-10 (NKJV)

Daily, as we pray, celebrate God's goodness, provision and care for His children. Destroy fear and unbelief, by celebrating His faithfulness.

***Your faithfulness endures to all generations;  
You established the earth, and it abides.***

Psalm 119:90 (NKJV)

***O Lord, You are my God. I will exalt You,  
I will praise Your name,  
For You have done wonderful things;  
Your counsels of old are faithfulness and truth.***

Isaiah 25:1 (NKJV)

***God is faithful, by whom you were called  
into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.***

1 Cor. 1:9 (NKJV)

***By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed,  
and she bore a child when she was past the age,  
because she judged Him faithful who had promised.***

Hebrews 11:11 (NKJV)

The world may be getting worse and worse, but God and His kingdom shine on, getting brighter and brighter even as the noon day sun. Celebrate Him and His Kingdom.

***But the path of the just is like the shining sun,  
That shines ever brighter unto the perfect day.***

Proverbs 4:18 (NKJV)

Celebrate Him in prayer, along with your petitions. Celebrate to destroy doubts and fears, overcome hindrances and unbelief, everything thing that would drive you from faithful, faith filled prayer.

### ***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  
Inner Court Ministries  
P.O. Box 2125  
Longmont, CO 80502-2125