

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

Inner Court Ministries

For the Week of July 25, 2004

A Call to Prayer

What is this prayer to which men are called? It is not a mere form, a child's play. It is serious, difficult work, the manliest, the mightiest work, the divinest work which man can do. Prayer lifts men out of the earthliness and links them with the heavenly. Men are never nearer Heaven, nearer God, never more God-like, never in deeper sympathy and truer partnership with Jesus Christ, than when praying. Love, philanthropy, holy affiances,—all of them helpful and tender for men—are born and perfected by prayer.

Prayer is not merely a question of duty, but of salvation. Are men saved who are not men of prayer? Is not the gift, the inclination, the habit of prayer, one of the elements or characteristics of salvation? Can it be possible to be in affinity with Jesus Christ and not be prayerful? Is it possible to have the Holy Spirit and not have the spirit of prayer? Can one have the new birth and not be born to prayer? Is not the life of the Spirit and the life of prayer coordinate and consistent? Can brotherly love be in the heart which is unschooled in prayer?

E. M. Bounds

This Week in Prayer

- Pray for Israel. Men may fight about walls, but the Lord is the wall for Israel. Pray for the physical wall which has made things safer; and for the Lord's wall and true safety.

***For I, saith the LORD,
will be unto her a wall of fire round about,
and will be the glory in the midst of her.***
Zechariah 2:5

- Pray for the leaders of your country and those in authority over you. Pray for them wisdom and understanding from the Lord.

***Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people,
that I may discern between good and bad:
for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?***
1 Kings 3:9

- Pray for outreach. Now is the time to pray for your church, fellowship, or ministry plans for the fall. Pray for outreach in your local community.

***And the hand of the Lord was with them:
and a great number believed,
and turned unto the Lord.***

Acts 11:21 (KJV)

Continue Earnestly in Prayer

God continues to open new doors of opportunity to this ministry and our friends. This section is a place to report specific request for prayer. Please continue earnestly in prayer for these friends and their ministry.

Marianne Burns – Marianne (Pat Lockridge's niece) is a missionary to China with Campus Crusade for Christ. She is working with students at a university in China. This summer Marianne is at a training conference and preparing for continued ministry in the fall. Pray for God's continuing preparation and provision for His servant. Pray for a safe trip back to China and pray for the harvest field of China, fields white unto harvest.

John Coon – John and Helen have been working with pastors and others in Europe for more than 20 years. As missionaries they worked from Austria with Christians behind the Iron Curtain. John will be in Poland October 14-21, 2004 and he and Helen will be in Albuquerque, New Mexico in September. Pray for these trips and ministries.

Jacek Gromadzki – Jack and Agnes are a young couple who pastor a church plant in a town about 30 or 40 minutes from Koszalin, Poland. Jack writes:

We, and our church, are waiting for decision about a building for our church. We need to pray about favor in office's hearts for our ideas (*Editor's note: office's are the city officials*). Our church is in a place where we're working on the change of our mentality. Polish mentality is full of complains and negative things. We don't want to live in it. Please, pray also about new souls who will be saved for Christ in our town. We're working to grow. We're going to have 20 members; (or more!), saved and baptized, by the end of the year. God bless you!

Jack and Agnes.

Praying Always for You

Pray for one another. Pray for wisdom and spiritual understanding.

***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;***

Col. 1:9-10 (NKJV)

Imperative Importance of the Work of Prayer

My God

A couple of friends were talking a few days ago. In the conversation one lamented to the other, “why don’t people pray?” the other shared many things, but the thrust of the answer was very simple, “prayer is work”. E.M. Bounds explains:

“What is this prayer to which men are called? It is not a mere form, a child’s play. It is serious, difficult work, the manliest, the mightiest work, the divinest work which man can do. Prayer lifts men out of the earthliness and links them with the heavenly. Men are never nearer Heaven, nearer God, never more God-like, never in deeper sympathy and truer partnership with Jesus Christ, than when praying. Love, philanthropy, holy affiances,—all of them helpful and tender for men—are born and perfected by prayer.”

There is so much to prayer. A lifetime will not be sufficient to plumb its depths, thus eternity is required. Yet so often we are struck down and fail to pray. It is after all work. But when we make time, when we overcome our hesitance, when we pray the blessing of God rush in and overwhelm our every complaint. People get hung up on prayer. Maybe it is because they don’t know where to start. So today let’s have a simple little prayer. Simple, yet powerful, let’s pray.

For our prayer today, simple and profound, take a verse from Philippians. ***And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Philip. 4:19 (NKJV)***

My God

Two simple words, but are the basis for all prayer. My God is the foundation of prayer. No man can pray but he comes to the Father. People reach out to the unseen and unknown, but we must reach out to the one we know, to our Father. When Jesus taught on prayer, He began with this all important ingredient, the starting place for prayer.

Prayer is a solemn service due to God, adoration, worship, an approach to God for some request, the presenting of some desire, the expression of some need to Him, who supplies all need, and who satisfies all desires; who, as a Father, finds His greatest pleasure in relieving the wants and granting the desires of His children. Prayer is the child’s request, not to the winds nor to the world, but to the Father. Prayer is the outstretched arms of the child for the Father’s help. Prayer is the child’s cry calling to the Father’s ear, the Father’s heart, and to the Father’s ability, which the Father is to hear, the Father is to feel, and which the Father is to relieve. Prayer is the seeking of God’s great and greatest good, which will not come if we do not pray.

E. M. Bounds

Shall

The Bible is filled with powerful words, words that overwhelm our doubts and fears, words like love, faith, and grace. One of these words, often overlooked, is shall. Shall is so powerful, it is not might or could. When joined with God, shall, is a force to be reckoned with. Shall is the reason to pray, My God shall, speaks of the power of the almighty, the creative force behind the universe, the

driving force of change. Prayer is all about MY God Shall. ***But Jesus looked at them and said, "With men it is impossible, but not with God; for with God all things are possible." Mark 10:27 (NKJV)***

Supply

Supply is a heart word; with it we are satisfied and content. Without it we are desperate and in need. Men work for supply. Men steal for supply. It is a driving force. For everyone who knows God, His nature and ability, knows He supplies. The driving force behind prayer, God is able to supply.

Prayer is an ardent and believing cry to God for some specific thing. God's rule is to answer by giving the specific thing asked for. With it may come much of other gifts and graces. Strength, serenity, sweetness, and faith may come as the bearers of the gifts. But even they come because God hears and answers prayer. E.M. Bounds

All Your Need

The cry of a child to a parent, "but you don't understand" is often heart wrenching and difficult to answer. To the child it at least appears that you do not know about the little one's world or needs. The implication is that if you knew you would help. In prayer this is so important. Even if God can supply things, what good is it if He doesn't know or understand my need? But, and this is the good news, God does know and He does understand.

Prayer is no petty invention of man, a fancied relief for fancied ills. Prayer is no dreary performance, dead and death-dealing, but is God's enabling act for man, living and life-giving, joy and joy-giving. Prayer is the contact of a living soul with God. In prayer, God stoops to kiss man, to bless man, and to aid man in everything that God can devise or man can need. Prayer fills man's emptiness with God's fullness. It fills man's poverty with God's riches. It puts away man's weakness with God's strength. It banishes man's littleness with God's greatness. Prayer is God's plan to supply man's great and continuous need with God's great and continuous abundance. E.M. Bounds

So our simple prayer, ***And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*** Philip. 4:19 (NKJV)

Let's pray, My God...

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