

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

Inner Court Ministries

For the Week of August 8, 2004

A Call to Prayer

There was a great cape at the south of Africa and so many storms and so much loss of life until it was called the Cape of Death. One day in 1789 a bold navigator shoved the prow of his vessel into the storms that thundered around it and found a calm sea. He then named it the Cape of Good Hope. So there is a cape that jutted out from earth into the sea of eternity called death. All were afraid of it. All navigators, sooner or later, must contend with these murky waters. But once upon a time, nearly two thousand years ago, a brave navigator from heaven came and drove the prow of His frail humanity bark down into the gloomy waters of this cape and lay under its awful power for three days. Emerging therefrom, He found it to be the door to endless calm and joy, and now we call it Good Hope.—JOHN W. BAKER

This Week in Prayer

- Pray for Israel. A Presbyterian Church organization has begun to black list companies who trade with Israel. This group may not represent the feelings of most members of the denomination, but it is further evidence of the polarization of people for and against Israel. Nations will be judged by God concerning their treatment of Israel. Pressure will continue to be placed on nations and organizations to turn against Israel, now is the time for us to be fervent in prayer.

***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 outreaches. 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.

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.

Marianne Burns – Marianne 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.

Praying Always for You

Pray for one another. Pray for transformation into the image of Jesus Christ. The world is conformed to worldly ways. The works of the world are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like. Those who are transformed into Jesus Christ put on: love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

***For whom He foreknew,
He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son,
that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.***

Romans 8:29 (NKJV)

***And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed
by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good
and acceptable and perfect will of God.***

Romans 12:2 (NKJV)

Imperative Importance of the Work of Prayer

How would you describe your prayer life? What characteristics depict your day-by-day prayers? If you were to step back and observe your prayers, faith, and Christian life, what would you see? If you logged the hours and minutes of your days and nights how would prayer stack-up? Hmm... But even more than the number of minutes, what is the attitude and action of your prayer life?

The life of Jesus was the life of prayer. There are numerous examples of Jesus and prayer. The disciples go to find Him and He is praying, coming from prayer, or going to pray. A close examination of His ministry years shows more than just these regular times of prayer, He was by attitude and action a man of prayer. Every move He made was initiated and guided by prayer. Jesus was a preacher, teacher, and there are many other aspects to Him, but above all, He was a man of prayer. His words, thoughts, and deeds were outgrowth of His prayers and prayer life.

Jesus' Attitude

***Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying.
And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said,
"Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. And I know that You always hear Me,
but because of the people who are standing by I said this,
that they may believe that You sent Me."***

John 11:41-42 (NKJV)

What a statement of faith and affirmation of prayer. This is the attitude of Jesus. He spent the time required to know that God hears Him when He prayed. He had spent the necessary time to know the Father was listening. He had the active proof of answered prayers to confirm His attitude. Do we have this attitude, can we without bravado, bluster, or pride, say, Father I know You always hear me?

Jesus' attitude of prayer was molded by His time with the Father. He spent time in prayer.

So He Himself often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed.

Luke 5:16 (NKJV)

Jesus' attitude of prayer was molded by His cries and tears with the Father.

***who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications,
with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death,
and was heard because of His godly fear,***

Hebrews 5:7 (NKJV)

Jesus' attitude of prayer was molded by His godly fear.

***who, in the days of His flesh,
when He had offered up prayers and supplications,
with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death,
and was heard because of His godly fear,***

Hebrews 5:7 (NKJV)

Jesus' attitude of prayer was not to do or say anything except what the Father gave Him.

***I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge;
and My judgment is righteous,
because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.***

John 5:30 (NKJV)

Jesus' Actions

He was a man of prayer, but also a man of action. His actions were shaped by prayer, regular constant prayer.

***And when He had sent the multitudes away,
He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray.
Now when evening came, He was alone there.***

Matthew 14:23 (NKJV)

***Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight,
He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed.***

Mark 1:35 (NKJV)

***And when He had sent them away, He departed to the mountain to pray.
Now when evening came, the boat was in the middle of the sea;
and He was alone on the land.***

Mark 6:46-47 (NKJV)

Again He went away and prayed, and spoke the same words.

Mark 14:39 (NKJV)

***Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray,
and continued all night in prayer to God.***

Luke 6:12 (NKJV)

***And it happened, as He was alone praying, that His disciples joined Him,
and He asked them, saying, "Who do the crowds say that I am?"***

Luke 9:18 (NKJV)

***Now it came to pass, about eight days after these sayings,
that He took Peter, John, and James and went up on the mountain to pray.***

Luke 9:28 (NKJV)

***And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw,
and He knelt down and prayed, saying, "Father, if it is Your will,
take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done."
Luke 22:41-42 (NKJV)***

***Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane,
and said to the disciples, "Sit here while I go and pray over there."
Matthew 26:36 (NKJV)***

***He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying,
"O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless,
not as I will, but as You will."
Matthew 26:39 (NKJV)***

***Again, a second time, He went away and prayed, saying,
"O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it,
Your will be done."
Matthew 26:42 (NKJV)***

Jesus was and is a man of prayer. He did nothing without the mantle of prayer. But with that mantle He did much. He was every bit as much a man of action as He was a Man of Prayer. Attitude of prayer and action from prayer, this is an apt description of the The Man.

How are our attitudes and actions of prayer molded and made? When we come to important decisions do we pray? When we come to important times in our life do we pray? Have we come to the place where we can say, Father I know You always hear me?

Jesus was and is the man of prayer, in attitude and action.
How should we then live?

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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