

# Voice of Thanksgiving

## Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

Inner Court Ministries

For the Week of September 25, 2005

### *A Call to Prayer*

The Holy Spirit is not only our Teacher, our Inspirer and our Revealer, in prayer, but the power of our praying in measure and force is measured by the Spirit's power working in us, as the will and work of God, according to God's good pleasure. In Ephes. 3, after the marvelous prayer of Paul for the Church, he seemed to be apprehensive that they would think he had gone beyond the ability of God in his large asking. And so he closes his appeal for them with the words, that God was able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think. The power of God to do for us was measured by the power of God in us. "According to," says the Apostle, that is, after the measure of, "the power that worketh in us." The projecting power of praying outwardly was the projecting power of God in us. The feeble operation of God in us brings feeble praying. The mightiest operation of God in us brings the mightiest praying. The secret of prayerlessness is the absence of the work of the Holy Spirit in us. The secret of feeble praying everywhere is the lack of God's Spirit in His mightiness.

The ability of God to answer and work through our prayers is measured by the Divine energy that God has been enabled to put in us by the Holy Spirit. The projecting power of praying is the measure of the Holy Spirit in us. So the statement of James in the fifth chapter of his Epistle is to this effect: "The fervent effectual prayer of a righteous man availeth much." The prayer inwrought in the heart by the almighty energy of the Holy Spirit works mightily in its results just as Elijah's prayer did.

E. M. Bounds from *Reality of Prayer*

### *Continue Earnestly in Prayer*

Pray for these men, women, and ministries. The Holy Spirit is looking for partners who will join with these ministries in prayer and support to reach nations for Jesus Christ.

**John Coon** – John will be in Austria October 4-12. He will be ministering in churches and with individuals including meetings with Christian businessmen in Innsbruck.

**DK Limbu Daniel** – Pray for Pastor Daniel and his ministry in Nepal. Nepal is in the mist of a great move of God; continue to pray for this land. Pray for pastors, churches, and training schools. Pray for pastors and the work in new areas of Nepal. Pray for protection for Christians and favor with the government.

**Joyce Abrahamson** – Joyce is a missionary working in Brazil. She runs a school for children and a Bible school. Pray for protection, anointing, and provision. Joyce requests prayer for the effectiveness of the outreach and for finances needed for the ministry.

**Marianne and David Dean** – Marianne and David are in school together preparing to return to the mission field. Pray for men and women to embrace their vision for reaching East Asia and support them with finances and prayer. Pray for endurance and energy as they travel around the southeast telling people about what they are doing.

**Jacek Gromadzki** – The church in Kolobrzeg, Poland bought their building in January. They are now restoring the building. They have an opportunity to buy a plot of land next to their property, which would be a great place for children ministry and as a witness to the community.

**The Inntal Prayer Initiative** - Inner Court Ministries e.V. and various Churches of the Rosenheim area sponsored “Rise Up O People of God! – A Seminar on Prayer” June 2005. This seminar called churches of the region together for encouragement and prayer. One result was a renewed and strengthened desire for revival. From Innsbruck to Rosenheim, people are praying for revival, please join in prayer for revival in the Inntal.

**The Brotherhood Beyond Boundaries Conference** - The Theme of the June 2005 conference was “Preparing for Revival”, Pastors and their wives from seven countries (Poland, Germany, Belarus, Lithuania, Latvia, Scotland, and the United States) gathered together to hear from God and be refreshed in His presence. Please join with these men and women in praying for revival.

*O Lord, I have heard your speech and was afraid;  
O Lord, revive Your work in the midst of the years!  
In the midst of the years make it known;  
In wrath remember mercy.  
Habakkuk 3:2 (NKJV)*

**Marek Kaminski** – Marek has responsibilities in many areas as a husband and father, as pastor of his church, as a leader of his denomination in Poland, and as leader of **Brotherhood Beyond Boundaries** and the work with pastors. Please pray that God will direct him and give him wisdom.

*For “who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?”  
But we have the mind of Christ.  
1 Cor. 2:16 (NKJV)*

**Mark Spencer** – Mark has responsibilities in many areas as a husband and father, as pastor of his church, as leader of **Brotherhood Beyond Boundaries** and the work with pastors, and as leader of the German Verein ICM e.V. which is the sponsor of the **Rise Up O People of God! – A Seminar on Prayer**. Please pray that God will direct him and give him wisdom.

*For “who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?”  
But we have the mind of Christ.  
1 Cor. 2:16 (NKJV)*

**Your Home Church** – Pray for your home church, that it would have great fruit in the work of saving people in your city. Pray for your church to be active in the work of saving people. Pray for plans and outreaches for your church for this fall and opportunities for ministry.

*For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you,  
And in the day of salvation I have helped you.  
Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.*

2 Cor. 6:2 (NKJV)

**Pray for Israel** to see the Messiah who has come. Pray for their eyes to be opened and behold the Jesus Christ, the Messiah.

*From the end of the earth I will cry to You,  
When my heart is overwhelmed;  
Lead me to the rock that is higher than I.*

Psalm 61:2 (NKJV)

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

#### **Testing**

David Williamson

Life is filled with tests. Tests are common in education, and life, the Bible is full of them. Every book of the Bible has a record of tests people faced, some failed, and some were successful. A look at tests can be very revealing. The tests in the Bible are common to everyone, both in Bible times and now. The details of the tests may be unique, but the basics of the tests are the same. Look at a few famous tests. For example, look at Adam and Eve in the garden, the test, obedience, God said not to eat of the one tree. There are many others, Peter stepping out of the boat, the test, faith. Another test, the Hebrew spies, the test, the power of God in the life of men (just for the record two passed this test). Jesus' disciples and the deliverance of the demon possessed man, the test, faith, fasting, and prayer. This list is just the tip of the iceberg, but makes for a very revealing study. Some of these people never rose beyond their failed tests, but others learn from tests and became great men and women of faith.

The question is, how about you? Have you seen burning bushes or fiery furnaces? Have you gone for walks in gardens or on the water? The answer is probably no, but you face tests every day, new format perhaps, but same tests. Everyone faces tests, so let's look at their role in the successful Christian life. How do you respond to tests?

#### **Surprised by tests?**

We should not be, they are the fabric of life and common to all of us. Paul Billheimer in his book, *Destined for the Throne*, explains that we are learning in this life as preparation for eternal life. So this would make tests an expected part of life now. God's promise of help in times of trials only can be in this life. In Psalms 23, God sets a table for us in the presence of our enemies; this must be now in this life as our enemies will not be with us in heaven. This is very important to understand for our success in tests. Surprise makes tests harder. You may have a test from an unexpected happening, but you should expect tests. This is not expecting bad to happen, but looking for opportunities to succeed in tests, knowing they are coming. Don't let a test be a double problem, know they are coming; this is life. Knowing tests will come; you prepare to walk with God through the test.

### **Angry with tests?**

Tests tell a story. In education they are designed to tell about student progress, how the mind and the abilities of the student has matured and developed. In the Christian setting, and all of life is the Christian setting, “what will you do with Christ”, is the theme of all tests. These tests are designed to reveal maturity and development. Christians who gauge for themselves how they are doing, will always be deceived, this is why we are so often shocked when we fail a test. We think we are doing pretty well, and then wham there is a messy revealing, our personal gauge of the condition of our heart was wrong. By the test, the Lord reveals the true state of the heart.

### **Refuse tests?**

People try to set their lifestyle to exclude tests from their life. If I am rich enough, if I live in a remote place, if I live in the right country, or some such plan, are attempts to avoid testing. But testing follows people; no matter where you go or do, testing will be waiting for you. All tests are custom fit for you, designed just for your heart. Why refuse just what you need. Take the test reveal your heart, and then what is revealed can be dealt with.

### **Tests always come at “bad times”.**

The Bible has many classic examples of people tested at “bad times”. King Saul could not wait for God (or His representative Samuel), Jonah and his, I would rather not attitude, or Ananias and Sapphira who knew that money could be a problem, they all attempted to end or avoid tests because they thought it was a bad time. But timing is a part of the tests; we are to be ready in season and out.

### **Embracing tests is best.**

At first this seems scary, “embrace another test?” But this is what the “greats” do. Instead of a “let a sleeping dog lie” attitude, they seek to reveal and deal with more and more of their heart’s attitudes. They seek to be like Jesus, so every test that will reveal their weakness, fears, doubts, or sin, is to be sought. “Holy Spirit, reveal my heart, give me a test, so I may know how I really am and change to be like Jesus”.

**Where are you on the question of tests, embracing or testy?**

### **Joining This Company**

All Christians who will pray are welcome. *Voice of Thanksgiving* is available by e-mail to all who will commit to prayer as members of this company. *Voice of Thanksgiving* 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. Also, tell your friends and prayer partners about *Voice of Thanksgiving*. We are gathering a company of believers who will pray. Together we will reach nations for Jesus Christ.

To receive *Voice of Thanksgiving* Send an e-mail with word JOIN in the subject line to [david@innercourt.com](mailto:david@innercourt.com)

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