

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

For the Week of January 1, 2006

**A Call to Prayer**

*Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers:*

Ephes. 1:15-16 (NKJV)

**Continue Earnestly in Prayer**

*And give Him no rest till He establishes  
And till He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth.*

Isaiah 62:7 (NKJV)

Pray for these men, women, and ministries. The Holy Spirit is looking for partners who will join with these ministries in prayer and support reaching nations for Jesus Christ. Pray for open doors of opportunity for the Gospel.

**Joyce Abrahamson** – Pray for laborers to be called to this ministry committed to the vision of sharing Jesus with the poor, neglected children in the jungle settlement of Brazil.

**DK Limbu Daniel** – Pray for Pastor Daniel and the young pastors in his many churches in Nepal.

**John Coon** – Pray for John and his trip to Poland May 1 through 9, 2006.

**William Williamson** – Pray for his trip to India, he and his team will be in India February 14 through 25, 2006. Pray for the finances for this trip.

**The Inntal Prayer Initiative** – Pray for the Pro Christ outreach in cities across Germany March 19 to 26, 2006.

**The Brotherhood Beyond Boundaries Conference** – Pray for the men and women coming to the BBB Conference June 2006. Pray for the arrangements that make their coming to the conference possible.

**Jacek Gromadzki** – Pray for Jack and the church in Kolobrzeg, Poland, pray for the outreaches of this church.

**Marianne and David Dean** – Pray for men and women to embrace their vision for reaching East Asia and support them with finances and prayer.

**Marek Kaminski** – Pray for Marek and his work with pastors in Poland and Eastern European countries.

**Mark Spencer** – Pray for Mark that the Lord would continue to give him boldness to share the Gospel.

**Your Home Church** – Pray for outreach to young people in your church and community.

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

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

**Night and Day**  
David Williamson

One of the most prolific authors of the Bible is the Apostle Paul. His letters contain theology, doctrine, information, and so much more. Paul's works are filled with lists for Christians. The most commonly know list is the Fruit of the Spirit in the Letter to the Galatians. His letter to the Thessalonians contains a list for the last days. Here he instructs them to be prepared for the return of Jesus. If these things were important then think of how important they are for us now; we are much closer to the return of Jesus. One point in his list is the command, pray without ceasing.

Pray without ceasing is an interesting concept, one that has been explored throughout Christian history. Men and women have struggled to understand and fulfill Paul's command. Some have taken the track of making the command a general life plan. They said in effect, as you go through life remember to include prayer, make it a regular part of life. Others have taken the statement and become hermits in the desert or other isolated places, promoting a life of prayer to the exclusion of other things. The context of the command and many other examples from the Bible would tend to suggest that neither of these fulfill Paul's command.

Paul's command is not a general call to prayer, nor is it a call to isolation, but is a command to pray, to pray without ceasing. Paul writes that this was his common practice, he prayed without ceasing, mentioning this to the Romans, Ephesians, Colossians, Thessalonians, and to Timothy. Paul a very busy man; could not in any way be described as a hermit, nor did the context of these statements allow for some general interpretation. Paul was concerned about the churches in these places and prayed fervently for these people. Some have claimed that Paul as one of the Apostles had special power or place from God, but once again the context of the letters makes the prayer life of Paul the expectation for the normal Christian life. He expected Timothy and the others to pray without ceasing just as he did. With this as the command and expectation, how are we to respond, how can we fulfill the requirements to pray without ceasing.

As is true with so many aspect of the Christian life, the fulfillment of this command is a life time activity. This age wants everything, now and is often caught up in instant gratification, but there is no simple seven step plan to bring fulfillment. The training of the Holy Spirit is for a lifetime and often seems so slow that it is hard to perceive progress. The Holy Spirit works with us step-by-step

teaching His many lessons on prayer; one of the very important lessons concerning pray without ceasing, is learning to carry a burden. Paul is a great example of these lessons; he carried a burden for the Romans. Read how he describes his burden.

***For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of His Son,  
that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers,  
making request if, by some means,  
now at last I may find a way in the will of God to come to you.***

Romans 1:9-10 (NKJV)

Paul tells the Romans that he “longs to see you”, “that I may be encouraged together with you”, and he “often planned to come to you”. Paul carried a burden to see the Romans. He prayed without ceasing to have the opportunity to see them.

Look at another example, Anna the daughter of Phanuel. She prayed night and day in the temple (See Luke 2:36-37). She longed to see the Messiah and God answered her prayers; she was there to see Jesus when He was brought to the temple.

***And coming in that instant she gave thanks to the Lord,  
and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem.***

Luke 2:38 (NKJV)

She carried a burden for the coming of the Lord and she saw the answer. Today we need men and women who will carry a burden. Would you pray night and day for years if need be to see answers?

Another example would be Cornelius the centurion. He prayed to God always (See Acts 10:1-2). The Holy Spirit fell on those gathered at his house just as it had fallen on the disciples in the upper room, during the preaching of Peter, because of Cornelius’ prayers. He had a burden for his extended family to receive the blessing of God.

***And when he observed him, he was afraid, and said,  
"What is it, lord?" So he said to him,  
"Your prayers and your alms have come up for a memorial before God.***

Acts 10:4 (NKJV)

Throughout history we read of men and women who have carried a burden in prayer. This burden has varied for each person just as the Holy Spirit wills, but fulfillment of the burden commanded their prayers and life. They learned to pray without ceasing.

Today there is a greater need than ever before for men and women who will carry a burden in prayer. The ultimate carrier of burdens is the Lord Jesus Christ; He is daily interceding for us (See Psalm 2). The Holy Spirit is looking for men and women to join with Jesus praying for the nations willing to join in carrying His burden. Perhaps the Holy Spirit is speaking to you, calling you to learn the lessons of a burden in prayer.

The Holy Spirit’s lessons begin with recognition of the efficacy of prayer, that God can and will work through a man or woman given to prayer. To carry a burden in prayer is nonsense, if God does not respond and work through prayer. This lesson is aided by the recorded examples of men of

prayer, like Muller, Murray, and Howells, the autobiography of George Muller is sub titled, “A million and a half in answer to prayer.” The record of these men encourages us to take our part in carrying the burden. To begin the process we must recognize God calls people to prayer and He responds to those who will carry a burden in prayer, do you recognize His call?

A second lesson is willingness. The Holy Spirit works through willing vessels. Willingness in carrying burdens takes many forms. One is the willingness to be used to bring the answer. When he heard the Lord ask who will go for us, Isaiah said “Here am I! Send me.” This is willingness to be the answer to the problem or need. Another form of willingness is willingness to carry the burden. The answer for many burdens is a long slow process. Are you willing to carry on day-after-day as long as it takes?

A third lesson is responsibility; to carry a burden one must take responsibility for the answer. While it may be true that many others are praying about the problem or need, to carry a burden you must act, think, and pray as though you alone are responsible. Too often the enemy uses the idea that there are hundreds or thousands praying. To take responsibility away from a man or woman, he would whisper in your ear, “Don’t worry about that, many people are praying.” His goal is to take the force from your prayer that comes from taking responsibility for the answer.

If the provision for the answer is all your responsibility you will pray with a great fervency. This is like the power of a mother of a threatened child. She will rise up and protect her young one, because she is responsible. To carry a burden you must come to know that God has made you responsible for the answer. God answers prayer, not you, but you must believe and know that His answer will only come through your prayers, through your carrying of the burden.

Are you willing to carry a burden in prayer? Do you recognize God’s call for prayer? Are you willing to be the instrument of God’s answer to prayer and pray as long as need be? Are you willing to be responsible for the answer to prayer? Will you pray without ceasing?

*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;*  
Col. 1:9 (NKJV)

**Paul calls for praying without ceasing.  
Will you be the one who carries the burden in prayer?**

### ***Home for This Company***

The home of *Voice of Thanksgiving* is at [www.voiceofthanksgiving.com](http://www.voiceofthanksgiving.com). This website has the current and a past issue of VoT and an archive of articles from the section *Imperative Importance of the Work of Prayer*. The monthly issues of *Stimme der Dankbarkeit*, the German monthly version of VoT are also available here. Send correspondence to [dave@voiceofthanksgiving.com](mailto:dave@voiceofthanksgiving.com)

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