

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

For the Week of January 29, 2006

A Call to Prayer

*When they had come to Capernaum,
those who received the temple tax came to Peter and said,
"Does your Teacher not pay the temple tax?"
He said, "Yes." And when he had come into the house,
Jesus anticipated him, saying, "What do you think, Simon?
From whom do the kings of the earth take customs or taxes,
from their sons or from strangers?"
Peter said to Him, "From strangers."
Jesus said to him, "Then the sons are free.
Nevertheless, lest we offend them, go to the sea, cast in a hook,
and take the fish that comes up first. And when you have opened its mouth,
you will find a piece of money; take that and give it to them for Me and you."
Matthew 17:24-27 (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.

William Williamson – Pray for his trip to India, Bill is a pastor in Eastern Colorado, he and his team will be in India February 14 through 25, 2006. Pray for wisdom and guidance as they complete their preparations for the trip.

Your Home Church – Pray for the leadership of your church.

John Coon – Pray for John who has ministered in Europe and Eastern Europe for more than twenty-five years and his trip to Poland May 1 through 9, 2006. Pray for John's preparations for ministry.

DK Limbu Daniel – Pray for Pastor Daniel and the pastors he works with in Nepal. Pray for opportunities for the spread of the Gospel across this region.

The Inntal Prayer Initiative – Pray for the Pro Christ outreach in cities across Germany March 19 to 26, 2006. Pray for the spread of information about this event. Pray for many to respond. The Inntal Prayer Initiative is an outreach of Inner Court Verein (Inner Court Ministries in Germany).

The Brotherhood Beyond Boundaries Conference – Pray for the men and women (pastors from across Europe) coming to the BBB Conference June 2006 in Poland. Pray for the pastors and their work in spreading the Gospel in their home town and area.

Pray for Israel - This week pray for the safety of the people and wisdom for the leadership. The changes in Palestine make wisdom very important at this time. Pray as well for the Palestinians, they need to come to a saving relationship with Jesus just as everyone else must. The “Muslim Wall” that keeps millions from Jesus must come down, just as the Iron Curtain had to come down.

Joyce Abrahamson – Pray for her ministry in the jungle settlement of Brazil. Pray for the finances to take care of the many requirement of taking care of these kids.

Jacek Gromadzki – Pray for Jack and the church in Kolobrzeg, Poland, pray for the outreaches of this church. Pray for a change of climate in this town that many would seek to know God and His Gospel.

Marianne and David Dean – Pray for wisdom from God as to their next step in God’s plan for their ministry. David and Marianne have ministered in East Asia.

Marek Kaminski – Pray for Marek and his church in Poland, pray for opportunities to share the Gospel.

Mark Spencer – Pray for wisdom and God’s guidance in plans for spring and summer.

Imperative Importance of the Work of Prayer

Possession and Prayer

David Williamson

Many years ago I bought a car. My very tight budget could just barely afford it, but the people who sold it to me really gave me a great deal. It was a car I was pleased to have and drive, so we made the deal and I paid the money, taking possession of the car. Everything was great, I loved the car from the first day and from the beginning it was very reliable and inexpensive to operate car. This was a real blessing from the Lord. I had possession of the car, but I quickly found out that possession also includes responsibility.

Possession is something we all love. Nearly everywhere in the world, there is a plethora of things to buy and enjoy. We like to possess. Advertising campaigns are designed to heighten your desire to possess the advertised product or commodity. Western society, and to a growing measure, in all societies, there is a nearly universal desire to possess things. For some people possessing things has taken control of their life and can be very destructive Possession itself is not a negative, but can be

an unmerciful master if possessions take control of the person. Possession is also a blessing from God; He has provided what men and women need to live and to enjoy His creation. He gave the garden to Adam to enjoy and possess and He gives us possession of homes and cars and many things. There is more to possession than just having things. With the possession of the garden, Adam found he also had responsibility. God required him to tend to the garden. Possession demands responsibility.

The car I bought ran great, I was pleased with my new possession, but there was one concern. The gas gauge did not work. Until I had a feel for how far I could go on a tank of gas and knowledge of how full the tank was, I was in danger of running out of fuel. My possession demanded responsibility. This responsibility was easy, determine the capacity of the fuel tank, and fill it up. After a couple of tanks and some calculations I could tell approximately the number of miles I could go before I needed more fuel.

In this case responsibility had a funny twist. I went to the gas station, but I could not find the opening to the gas tank. I tried and tried, but I could not find it. I began to feel very foolish. I had been at the gas station for many minutes and I still was not pumping fuel. So I finally got in my car and drove home. This was an older car and the tank opening was hidden in the taillight, but I did know that. At home I finally found it and was able to return to the gas station and fill the tank. I was able to be responsible for my possession.

Prayer comes with possession and responsibility. Effective prayer comes from a man or woman who takes possession of a problem or need and is responsible for obtaining an answer. God answers prayer, not man. However, He asks us to take possession and responsibility for answers to prayer as though we were going to produce the answer. Possession is a step of faith. The problem or need is real and I make it my problem or need. Sometimes we have problems possessing problems that possess us. This is why praying for personal healing or other personal need is often hard. When the problem or need is personal it is difficult to take a faith step. I already have possession; I do not need faith to take possession. Thus to receive and answer to pray for personal things you must find ways to activate and apply your faith. When you pray for the needs of others, taking possession is a step of faith. Possession is more than seeing or hearing about the problem. It is actively pursuing the answer by faith in prayer

Possession requires responsibility. In prayer this means a commitment to be responsible for obtaining the answer. That need is mine and I will pray, getting the answer from God. To be responsible nothing can stop you. When I could not find my gas tank, I came home and tried everything I could to find that opening. At one point I became convinced that the opening was in the taillight, but it would not open. There was a part that seemed as though it might twist, but I did not want to break my new car. What if I was wrong and broke the taillight? However, I was responsible, so I kept trying. I came to the place where I said to myself, I am going to twist this part even if I damage it because I am responsible for getting gas in this car. I twisted it hard and it popped open.

I laughed about my moment of “responsibility” nearly every time I filled the tank for the years I had that car. The car could have sat in my driveway, unused for years, because it had no gas, but I was responsible enough to risk damage to be able to get gas into the tank. I could have checked a book on cars or asked someone who knew how to open it, but my point here is about taking responsibility, not my failure to ask questions.

Are you willing to take possession of a prayer need? Will you take possession and responsibility, until the answer comes? If a prayer burden is yours, if you are responsible for the answer, faith will flow through your prayers. Spend time this week and talk with the Father about your commitments. Are there areas where you know of need for answers? Ask the Father if He would have you take possession and responsibility in prayer for this need. This should not be a conversation about generalities, but specifics, areas where you can and will take possession.

Are you willing to take possession in prayer? First you will need to apply faith to possess the prayer need. The enemy will whisper to you that the problem is not your problem, many people are praying, it is not a problem worthy of your time, you are not ready to pray like this, or some of the many other lies he uses to stop most people from prayer. Without faith it is impossible to please God, without faith it is impossible to take possession of a prayer need.

Second, once begin you will need to apply faith to maintain your prayer to the end, until the answer comes. The enemy will whisper to you everything he can to make you stop before the answer comes. He even tries tricks like giving partial answers. When we possess the prayer need we must continue in prayer and faith until the Father has completed the prayer with His full and complete answer. If the prayer need is \$1000 then \$100 is not the answer. It may be a start or a tool for the full answer, but it is not \$1000.

Third you will need faith throughout your prayer and in your prayer. God often likes to work through the one who prays to meet the need. "God, I am responsible for the cost of the conference, it will cost \$2000". God's answer may come as something like, "Okay, I will provide for the conference. I want to work through you. Send a check to the organizers." God will provide and here He is using you as part of the delivery of His answer. It takes faith to positively respond to this kind of challenge.

Possession in prayer is very powerful. The faith of taking possession initiates a powerful platform of faith for gaining answers to prayer. Possession with responsibility is a very powerful tool for the man or woman of prayer. Yet it sits on the shelf of most prayer closets, never used, just gathering dust. Will you take possession (be responsible for answers)?

Possession and Prayer

Home for This Company

The home of ***Voice of Thanksgiving*** is at www.voiceofthanksgiving.com. This website has current and past issues 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

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