

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of November 12, 2006

Bear up the hands that hang down, by faith and prayer; support the tottering knees. Have you any days of fasting and prayer? Storm the throne of grace and persevere therein, and mercy will come down.—JOHN WESLEY

The Life of Prayer

Prayer a Mighty Force

David Williamson

What can we say about the state of prayer in the church today? How often and how well do we pray? How often it is easy to measure. During a great revival, Horace Greeley, the newspaper editor, once sought to know how many men were praying in New York City. He sent a man in a buggy around to the various churches to count the number of men and women praying on their lunch hour. There were so many the man could not get to all the churches. We can do similar counts today and there are several ministries and polling places that do counting.

The second question is a bit more difficult to determine, how well do we pray. In various circles the measurement of how well will be different. There are many measures, but there should be only one measure of how well we pray. It is much more than the number of men and women who pray, or even the men and women who have a prayer habit. Those who pray well command the power of God in prayer. They are men and women with whom prayer is powerful. They are able and regularly do move heaven and earth by prayer.

With this as a measure, how do we measure up? E.M. Bounds describes the measure of prayer as, “men with whom prayer is a mighty force, an energy that moves heaven and pours untold treasures of good on earth”. Are our prayers a mighty force? Are our prayers an energy that moves heaven and earth? Have you been praying and by your prayers pouring out treasure of good on earth?

If we do not measure up to this standard, what can we do to change? There are many possible answers, but one fundamental answer that we must investigate. We must check ourselves and see if we meet God’s standard of personal purity. Too often people are comfortable creating their own personal standard. However, we are people of His covenant or we are not, we cannot change the terms and conditions to suit our wants and desires. We are bought with a price and if we claim to be His, if we long to have His power in prayer, then we must meet His requirements.

While he wrote a hundred and fifty years ago, E. M. Bounds captures the problem we too often face today.

Voice of Thanksgiving

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The age of Church organization and Church machinery is not an age noted for elevated and strong personal piety. Machinery looks for engineers and organizations for generals, and not for saints, to run them. The simplest organization may aid parity as well as strength but beyond that narrow limit organization swallows up the individual, and is careless of personal purity; push, activity, enthusiasm, zeal for an organization, come in as the vicious substitutes for spiritual character. Holiness and all the spiritual graces of hardy culture and slow growth are discarded as too slow and too costly for the progress and rush of the age. By dint of machinery, new organizations, and spiritual weakness, results are vainly expected to be secured which can only be secured by faith, prayer, and waiting on God.

The man and his spiritual character is what God is looking after. If men, holy men, can be turned out by the easy processes of Church machinery readier and better than by the old-time processes, we would gladly invest in every new and improved patent; but we do not believe it. We adhere to the old way—the way the holy prophets went, the king's highway of holiness.

There is a path for us to walk, a way of holiness. If we are to measure up in prayer, we must walk in His way.

*A highway shall be there, and a road,
And it shall be called the Highway of Holiness.
The unclean shall not pass over it, But it shall be for others.
Whoever walks the road, although a fool, Shall not go astray.
No lion shall be there, Nor shall any ravenous beast go up on it;
It shall not be found there.
But the redeemed shall walk there, And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,
And come to Zion with singing, With everlasting joy on their heads.
They shall obtain joy and gladness, And sorrow and sighing shall flee away.*
Isaiah 35:8-10 (NKJV)

*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God,
that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God,
which is your reasonable service.
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 12:1-2 (NKJV)

*Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved,
put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;
bearing with one another, and forgiving one another,
if anyone has a complaint against another;*

Voice of Thanksgiving

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*even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.
But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.
And let the peace of God rule in your hearts,
to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.
Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom,
teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,
singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.
And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God the Father through Him.*
Col. 3:12-17 (NKJV)

Let us be holy even as He is holy, so we can pray.

A Call for Prayer

*Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance,
And the ends of the earth for Your possession.*
Psalm 2:8 (NKJV)

Pray for Israel and the peace of Jerusalem – Pray for God’s protection of the land and for the peace of Jerusalem.

*Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
May they prosper who love you.*
Psalm 122:6 (NKJV)

Pray for the Inntal Prayer Initiative and Mark Spencer – Mark has returned after a great trip. Pray for Mark’s ministry at home in Colorado.

DK Limbu Daniel – Pray for the pastors of Nepal, pray for protection and provision so they can complete all of God’s call for their life.

Thank you for praying for us. May God bless you, Pastor DK Daniel

*Epaphras, who is one of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you,
always laboring fervently for you in prayers,
that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.*
Col. 4:12 (NKJV)

Marianne and David Dean – Pray for provision for Marianne and David

Thanks so much to all of you for your prayers, your love and support! You really have no idea how much it means to us!! - Marianne

Voice of Thanksgiving

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

Marek Kaminski – Pray for open doors of opportunity for the Gospel, for the lost to be saved, for the saved to be healed, delivered, guided and completed in the will of God.

*Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely;
and may your whole spirit, soul,
and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*
1 Thes. 5:23 (NKJV)

Jacek Gromadzki – Pray for the people of Kolobrzeg, Poland. Pray for an open hearted response to the Gospel.

Joyce Abrahamson – Pray for the students in the school, pray that they would respond to the Gospel message.

Pray for your Home Church – Pray for outreaches to your community.

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