

# *Voice of Thanksgiving*

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of December 3, 2006

***But certainly God has heard me;  
He has attended to the voice of my prayer.***

***Blessed be God,  
Who has not turned away my prayer,  
Nor His mercy from me!***

Psalm 66:19-20 (NKJV)

## ***The Life of Prayer***

### **Excuses**

David Williamson

Excuses, excuses, excuses, too much of our life is shaped by excuses. One year when I was coaching American Football, the popular phrase of the season was “My bad”. It was an excuse for everything and it was used as a means to remove all blame. It was if, a player could say “My bad” and suddenly he had not made an error. After saying it, he had not made an error so there was nothing to fix, nothing could be done to improve the player or team. So instead of getting better he said, “My bad.” As coaches, we got so frustrated we finally banned the use of that phrase by everyone on the team.

Too often we do the same in our religious life. We have excuses for everything and are responsible for nothing. However, popular this is, it is not right. We can be, should be, and must be responsible for what we say and do. This is especially true in our Christian ministry. When I say Christian ministry I am referring to the ministry all of us have been called to, the day-by-day walking out of our faith before the world, the being a priest and king for our family, community, and nation. Too often we refuse to take this job, make excuses. We claim we cannot do anything. We claim it is not our responsibility; we are quick to make excuses. We claim the absolution just as my team did, we just say, “My bad”.

Peter preaches a great sermon as recorded in Act chapter 10. This sermon is very powerful and informative and it destroys the “My bad” type excuses people use.

**Then Peter opened his mouth and said:  
“In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality.”**

Acts 10:34 (NKJV)

Right from the beginning of his message Peter destroys excuses. He claims, by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, that God shows no partiality. Not only is God, the same yesterday, today, and forever,

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he offers the blessings of the Gospel to all. Here the Gospel message, the blessing from God, was given to the Jews, but it is for the gentiles also.

***The word which God sent to the children of Israel,  
preaching peace through Jesus Christ--He is Lord of all--  
that word you know, which was proclaimed throughout all Judea,  
and began from Galilee after the baptism which John preached:***

Acts 10:36-37 (NKJV)

***“Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized  
who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?”  
And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord.***

***Then they asked him to stay a few days.***

***Now the apostles and brethren who were in Judea heard  
that the Gentiles had also received the word of God.***

Acts 10:47-11:1 (NKJV)

This God, who shows no partiality, has done great things. Look what he did for Jesus, God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power.

***how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power,  
who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil,  
for God was with Him.***

Acts 10:34-43 (NKJV)

This was God anointing a man, the man Jesus of Nazareth. Please note this is God anointing a man. Jesus was and is fully God and He was and is full man. The incarnation is God became man. Easton's Bible dictionary defines the word incarnation as; that act of grace whereby Christ took our human nature into union with his Divine Person; became man.

Jesus the Divine Person did not need to be anointed by God. Jesus of Nazareth, the man, needed to be anointed and He was anointed by God. This is very important for us because this same anointing is available for us today. We should not try and cannot successfully complete the job God has given us to do if we do not receive and respond to the anointing of God, just as Jesus was anointed.

Jesus was anointed by God with the Holy Spirit and with power. Have you been anointed? The man or woman of prayer is unable to pray effectively and powerfully as they should without His anointing, the anointing of the Holy Spirit and power. Prayer is not the saying of a few words, it is not a ritual, it is not a mantra to be chanted, and it is not a religious duty. Prayer is using the anointing of God, the anointing with the Holy Spirit and power for the work of the ministry. What ministry you may ask? The ministry of “Give us this day our daily bread” and “Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on Earth as it is in Heaven”. This is the ministry of the Church, we are to pray and receive answers for the needs of people and answers for the needs of nations. We are to pray for

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the bringing of God's kingdom, His provision, and His will, to the earth. You and I cannot do this without the anointing of the Holy Spirit and power.

Peter explained that when Jesus was anointed He went about doing good. This is what we need today. When Jesus was anointed He went about healing all who were oppressed by the devil. This is what we need today. When Jesus was anointed He went about doing His work because God was with Him. This want we need today.

The anointing of Jesus was just what Jesus needed and God anointed Him. This same anointing is what we need and God is not a respecter of persons, so what He did for the man Jesus of Nazareth, God will do for us. We can have the anointing of the Holy Spirit and power, just as Jesus was anointed.

Let us 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** –Pray for leaders of the nation that they will hear from God and respond to His will.

**DK Limbu Daniel** –Pray for revival in this nation. There are so many who still need to hear the Gospel message and respond to God's call. Pray for Christians to be willing and able to share the Gospel.

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

**Jacek Gromadzki** – Pray for the church in Kolobrzeg, Poland. Pray for obedience to God's will and direction for individuals and the church life.

**Marianne and David Dean** – Pray for a positive response to the presentation and demonstration of the Gospel. Pray for open doors of opportunity, open hearts to receive God's Word, and willingness to go deeper into spiritual things.

*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*

**Joyce Abrahamson** – Pray for the student of the school, there is pressure on young people that often is not conducive to safety and Christian life.

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**Marek Kaminski** – Pray for his church and their continued response to God’s will and direction.

**Mark Spencer** – Pray for provision for the work of the ministry.

**The Brotherhood Beyond Boundaries Conference** – Pray for the plans for the fifth annual BBB Conference.

**Pray for the Inntal Prayer Initiative** – Pray for our outreaches in 2007 in Germany. Now is the time for us to begin to prepare for conferences and street ministry.

**William Williamson** – Bill is a pastor in Eastern Colorado, Pray for their plans and commitments for this trip to India in January of 2007. Pray for this trip and the ministry in India.

**Pray for your Home Church** – Pray for provision for the outreaches of your church.

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The *Voice of Thanksgiving Website* has current and past issues of **VoT**. There is an archive of past issues and a search feature to assist you in finding specific information. Visit **VoT** at [www.voiceofthanksgiving.com](http://www.voiceofthanksgiving.com)

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