

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of January 28, 2007

“A tourist, in climbing an Alpine summit, finds himself tied by a strong rope to his trusty guide, and to three of his fellow-tourists. As they skirt a perilous precipice he cannot pray, ‘Lord, hold up my goings in a safe path, that my footsteps slip not, but as to my guide and companions, they must look out for themselves.’ The only proper prayer in such a case is, ‘Lord, hold up our goings in a safe path; for if one slips all of us may perish.’”—H. CLAY TRUMBULL

The Life of Prayer

Grace and Prayer

David Williamson

There is a common thread that runs through man people’s lives. Many people face the same problems and challenges; the particular situation may change, but overall they are the same. This is one of the reasons the Bible is so valuable to us as a guide for life. The people and situation presented are real. The people, as revealed by the Bible, are people with problems and concerns, working their way through day-to-day living. The specific situations are different from today in some cases, but the basics are the same. They are dealing with life and so are we.

The people of the Bible and their situation are presented with all their foibles and blemishes. With this we can learn so much from their example. They are a great source for learning to walk with God. Those who were successful learned to walk with God; Paul learned and excelled, developing a close relationship. He went from persecuting the Church to its leading missionary. He went from not knowing Jesus to knowing Him so well he made commitments to Him.

***And he said, “Who are You, Lord?” Then the Lord said,
“I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads.”***
Acts 9:5 (NKJV)

***For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed,
for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded
that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.***
2 Tim. 1:12 (NKJV)

Paul came to understand the secrets of his transformation. The way God took him from the Kingdom of death and translated him into the Kingdom of Life. This transformation happened in a moment, but took a lifetime to walk out. For example he learned about grace and labor.

This has been a struggle for Christians for centuries. People take both words, grace and labor, and turn them way from their proper usage in the Bible. Grace becomes an escape from action. People

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wait for grace to kick in and do the work. The attitude is I do not have to work; I do not need to work, because grace will work for me. Labor is twisted to exclude God. The attitude is I can lift myself up by my bootstraps. If I work hard enough or am smart enough I can do anything. People like these two words in their twisted meanings because it frees some to do nothing; justifying inactions and the second denies the need for God or any obedience to Him.

Paul learned the grace is God's special favor. This is not a favor like an act of kindness, this is a prepared opportunity. God gifted Paul, trained Paul, prepared Paul, empowered Paul and then placed him in opportunities to walk out God's favor. Paul found that he was what he was because of God's grace. This grace sets the stage, for all who will walk in it, for abundant labor.

***But by the grace of God I am what I am,
and His grace toward me was not in vain;
but I labored more abundantly than they all,
yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.***

1 Cor. 15:10 (NKJV)

The word vain in this verse means empty. God's grace for Paul was not left empty; Paul labored in God's grace abundantly.

I like to joke about genes and jeans; I like the verbal twist. I say things like we are who we are by our genes. So I am who and what I am by Levi Straus (a famous jean manufacture); playing on the sounds of the two words genes and jeans. We know from medical science that I am who I am by the combination of genes pass down by my parents. This combination planned and orchestrated by God, who knew me before I was in the womb. He used the gene pool and built me. There is no other person just like me. Therefore I have great worth; I am fearfully and wonderfully made by God, part of His unique creation. Short or tall, I am unique and special. It is the spirit of the world that makes people struggle to look different than they are. It brings a longing to look like everyone else, to be the same, not unique. If I am not unique I have less value. Paul did not fall into the trap of the world that would make us all the same and take all value from each one. He states that the grace that made him, I am what I am, was not in vain. He walked out his uniqueness. He knew what He was and the world was blessed because of it.

Spiritually we are who and what we are by the grace of God. He has poured out on us special favor (grace) that has made us who and what we are. This is wonderful and awesome thing. His special favor makes each of us unique. Just as our gene pool combination makes each of us unique physically; we are each unique spiritually.

We are gifted and empowered by His favor. God has made us to be who He made us to be by this grace and empowered us to do what He has called us to do. All that Paul did, writing, preaching, enduring, leading, chiding, supporting, praying, ministering, everything, he did was because of God's grace; it is special favor on him providing for him to be whom he was. That special favor of God

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that made Paul what God desired; is available for each of us. We can do all things through Christ because of what He has made us to be.

***And God is able to make all grace abound toward you,
that you, always having all sufficiency in all things,
may have an abundance for every good work.***

2 Cor. 9:8 (NKJV)

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 and the peace of Jerusalem –Pray for Israel. Pray for the people, the nation and the land.

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

Isaiah 62:7 (NKJV)

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

DK Limbu Daniel –Pray for the church in Nepal; pray also for Pastor Daniel and his meetings in the United stated. Pray for strength and for safety.

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

Marianne and David Dean –*Pray for a friend of mine from college, Haley Chitty. Her entire immediate family, both parents, and two younger brothers, died in a plane crash. Her father flies his own plane and the family (without Haley) was flying back from a visit with their grandparents. Please, please be lifting her up in prayer. I know that none of us can imagine the kind of pain she is suffering right now, but I know that if I really believe everything I say I believe, God has the power to bring her comfort and strength.*

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 that the road will not flood so we can start school on time Feb. 22. The missions committee at Los Gatos Christian Church met last week and was to consider my extra projects I sent them, at their request. i.e. Remodel the bath houses to children size stools and urinals for the boys side and new tile on the walls etc., screen for the two buildings, and some other repairs and remodeling. (gutters on the buildings too)*

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Mark Spencer – *Pray for clarity in Patty and my hearing the voice of the Lord concerning personal direction, His leading for the church and ministry as well as His provision clearly seen and manifest. Also that we would take full advantage of the Spirit's declaration that the year 2007 would indeed be a year of open doors and of fruitful obedience. Thanks!*

John Coon – Pray for all the arrangements for John's trip to Poland in May.

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

Jacek Gromadzki – Pray for Jacek, pray for direction and success for his 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 2007 outreaches on the streets in Germany. Now is the time for us to begin to prepare for conferences and street ministry.

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

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To receive *Voice of Thanksgiving* the newsletter weekly by e-mail, send an email with the word JOIN in the subject line to dave@voiceofthanksgiving.com

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