

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of February 4, 2007

Here is the secret of prevailing prayer, to pray under a direct inspiration of the Holy Spirit, whose petitions for us and through us are always according to the Divine purpose, and hence certain of answer. "Praying in the Holy Ghost" is but cooperating with the will of God, and such prayer is always victorious. How many Christians there are who cannot pray, and who seek by effort, resolve, joining prayer circles, etc., to cultivate in themselves the "holy art of intercession," and all to no purpose. Here for them and for all is the only secret of a real prayer life—"Be filled with the Spirit," who is "the Spirit of grace and supplication."

Rev. J. Stuart Holden, M.A.

The Life of Prayer

The Riches of Christ

David Williamson

In the book Rees Howells Intercessor, Norman Grubb records an incident that happened early in Rees' life. Writing of the family of eleven, a visitor looking at all the children, exclaimed to Rees' father, "How rich you are!" When Rees asked his father about this later he was told, "Would I sell you for £1,000 or John, David, or Dick for £1,000 each? That's how rich I am!" Many of you could answer with a similar response. With children or grandchildren or even spiritual grandchildren, you are very rich. However, there is much more to your riches.

There is a richness in Christ Jesus that exceeds any riches known to mankind. This is a strong statement when you consider some of the rich people of the world. Forbes magazine every year produces a list of the richest people in the world. Some of the totals of estimated wealth are staggering. And the people of Forbes' list are not the real winners. The Bible describes Solomon as the rich man in the world.

So King Solomon surpassed all the kings of the earth in riches and wisdom.

1 Kings 10:23 (NKJV)

Solomon was rich, but there is richness in Christ Jesus that exceeds even Solomon's.

***To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given,
that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,***

Ephes. 3:8 (NKJV)

This is the unsearchable riches of Christ. Using the meaning of the Hebrew words this could be written as abundance so great that it is beyond finding out its totality. This richness is better than being a rich man's son. This richness is better than having an unlimited credit card. The

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unsearchable riches of Christ is broader than just money, it is more than just wealth, and it is more than just a bestowment or even possessions. This is abundance beyond any need I will ever have.

One time I was in Germany at a seminar, on my day off I went to a store to buy calendars for gifts for my family and friends in the US. I found just the right calendars; complete with beautiful pictures of Germany and Bavaria. I made my selection and went to pay for them. When I gave the clerk my VISA card she would not take it, it was not good in that store. As it turned out I had an American VISA and this store only took European Union credit cards. I had money in my accounts to pay for my purchase, but I could not make the purchase (I did finally make the purchase, but only when I was willing to use Euros). The point is my credit card did not work; it was not sufficient for the need of that moment.

Just as a pocket full of Euros was able to overcome my difficulties buying calendars, so the unsearchable riches of Christ can overcome the problems and needs we deal with in prayer. The money in your personal accounts or even your church accounts is not sufficient for meeting everything we face in prayer. However, we have a greater resource, we have the riches of Christ and it is more than enough. VISA claims to be accepted everywhere, but the riches of Christ is good everywhere and even where it is not accepted!

The riches of Christ is an abundance for meeting the needs of the day. It is unlimited and comes with no drawbacks like high interest rates on credit cards.

***The blessing of the Lord makes one rich,
And He adds no sorrow with it.***

Proverbs 10:22 (NKJV)

It is available for those who will call on the Father.

***For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek,
for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him.***

Romans 10:12 (NKJV)

It is made available by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. He became poor so we can be rich. Do not think just of money here, that kind of thinking is too limiting, think abundance for meeting the needs expressed in all our prayers.

***For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor,
that you through His poverty might become rich.***

2 Cor. 8:9 (NKJV)

To receive a credit card we must apply. We declare our ability to pay for the debits we acquire and willingness to abide by the card company's rules. We receive a card and as long as we abide by their

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rules and continue to pay for the debits, we can use the card. The riches of Christ comes by His work of grace coupled with our eyes being enlightened to an understanding of the His call toward us. This is in part an understanding of His inheritance and the exceeding greatness of His power that backs the riches of Christ on our behalf.

*that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory,
may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him,
the eyes of your understanding being enlightened;
that you may know what is the hope of His calling,
what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,
and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe,
according to the working of His mighty power
which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead
and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,
far above all principality and power and might and dominion,
and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.*
Ephes. 1:17-21 (NKJV)

The riches of Christ is the supply for all our needs. The word, all, used in this next verse (Philip 4:19) in the Hebrew means; all, any, every, the whole, thoroughly, whatsoever, whosoever. If you have a need, the riches of Christ has the supply of answers for that need!

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

If we are to fulfill our call to prayer, if we are going to reach the nations with the Gospel message, if we are going to do all He has called us to do, we must tap into the riches of Christ. It is only through His abundance that the need of this generation and of all the nations can be met. Will you pray? Will you call on God to supply all your need?

*For I want you to know what a great conflict I have for you and those in Laodicea,
and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh,
that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love,
and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding,
to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ,
in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*
Col. 2:1-3 (NKJV)

Let us pray!

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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 Jews to return to their homeland and for the veil that has covered their eyes to be removed so they may see the one whom they have pierced and acknowledge Him as the Messiah.

William Williamson – Bill is a pastor in Eastern Colorado, he and his team have been in India, pray for their safe return to America and to their families and jobs.

DK Limbu Daniel –Pray for the church in Nepal; pray also for Pastor Daniel and his meetings in the United States. 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 the opportunities for sharing the Gospel, include request for hearts open to the message and a willingness to respond positively to God's call.

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)

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 all the arrangements for ministry trips and meetings including the BBB conference and trips to Eastern Europe.

Jacek Gromadzki – Pray for Jacek, pray for the plans and organization of the outreaches this summer.

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

Pray for the Inntal Prayer Initiative – Pray for the prayer seminars and ministry in the Rosenheim area of Germany in the summer of 2007.

Pray for your Home Church – Pray for abundant provision for your church.

*And my God shall supply all your need
according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*

Philip. 4:19 (NKJV)

*Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace,
that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV)

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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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