

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of May 13, 2007

Editor's note: Last weekend I had computer problems and was unable to send out Voice of Thanksgiving. This week I have taken the marching band of my school to Florida and so I have been slow in getting this out to you. Next week may be late as well.

*Now this is the confidence that we have in Him,
that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.
And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask,
we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.*

1 John 5:14-15 (NKJV)

The Life of Prayer

An Inventory of Prayer

David Williamson

I loved working with my dad at an old fashioned lumber yard when I was a teenager. Old lumber yards had great hardware centers filled with thousands of interesting tools and supplies. Being required to count everything in the store, meaning you had to look at everything, it was a great job! Yes, it is true that some of the counting got to be tedious, but finding new and interesting things more than made up for the monotonous work. This was important work as well as fun. The management needed to know how many of everything they had at hand so they could plan the next year and purchase the items they thought they would sell. Please remember this was before bar codes and computer inventories. So the inventory was the only way to know for sure how the business was doing.

The inventory is important in prayer as well. There are many aspects and practices in prayer. It is easy to forget, to let things slip, or to allow bad practices to creep in and hinder our prayers and prayer life. So I encourage you to take this prayer inventory. It is just for you and you do not have to tell anyone how you do, but it can be a useful tool for you and your prayer trainer (The Holy Spirit). Are there areas where you need to step-up, clean-up, or grow-up?

Faith

Are you pleasing God with your faith, your faith walk, and faith confession?

*But without faith it is impossible to please Him,
for he who comes to God must believe that He is,
and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*

Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV)

Voice of Thanksgiving

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*Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life,
to which you were also called and have confessed
the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.*

1 Tim. 6:12 (NKJV)

Prayer Life

Are you hindering hindrances to prayer or are they hindering your prayers?

*For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh.
For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal
but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,
casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself
against the knowledge of God,
bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,
and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.*

2 Cor. 10:3-6 (NKJV)

*This charge I commit to you, son Timothy,
according to the prophecies previously made concerning you,
that by them you may wage the good warfare,*

1 Tim. 1:18 (NKJV)

*No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life,
that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.*

2 Tim. 2:4 (NKJV)

Lifestyle of Prayer

Is your lifestyle conducive of prayer?

“A desire for God which cannot break the chains of sleep is a weak thing and will do but little good for God after it has indulged itself fully. The desire for God that keeps so far behind the devil and the world at the beginning of the day will never catch up.” E. M. Bounds *Power Through Prayer*

“I ought to pray before seeing any one. Often when I sleep long, or meet with others early, it is eleven or twelve o’clock before I begin secret prayer. This is a wretched system. It is unscriptural. Christ arose before day and went into a solitary place. David says: “Early will I seek thee”; “Thou shalt early hear my voice.” Family prayer loses much of its power and sweetness, and I can do no good to those who come to seek from me. The conscience feels guilty, the soul unfed, the lamp not trimmed. Then when in secret prayer the soul is often out of tune, I feel it is far better to begin with God—to see his face first, to get my soul near him before it is near another.” Robert Murray McChayne

Give heed to the voice of my cry,

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*My King and my God,
For to You I will pray.
My voice You shall hear in the morning, O Lord;
In the morning I will direct it to You,
And I will look up.*

Psalm 5:2-3 (NKJV)

Life in the Prayer-chamber

Our devotion to God is measured in the prayer-chamber. The prayer-chamber requires self-denial. There are hundreds of things we could be doing instead of praying. The flesh wants to do its own desires, it needs rest, it needs fun, it needs recreation, it needs primping, it needs extra time in bed, it needs praise, and it needs recognition and so forth. The prayer-chamber requires time, effort, frequency of visits, and self-denial.

**Then He spoke a parable to them,
that men always ought to pray and not lose heart,**

Luke 18:1 (NKJV)

Are you praying earnest, directed or careless prayer?

Earnest prayer desires and requires answers from God. It will not be satisfied with anything less. Careless prayer just goes through the motions. There is no pressure to get answers, they are nice if they come, but not really expected.

**Elijah was a man with a nature like ours,
and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain;
and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months.**

James 5:17 (NKJV)

**Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.
And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.**

Jeremiah 29:12-13 (NKJV)

Prayers of Faith or Fluff?

Do you lift up prayers of faith or prayers of fluff? Fluff can be just wasted words thrown into the wind, or they can be words of pride and arrogances. Either of these will result in nothing from God. However, prayer lifted in faith gets God's attention and God's results.

**So Jesus answered and said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you,
if you have faith and do not doubt,
you will not only do what was done to the fig tree,
but also if you say to this mountain,
'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' it will be done.**

Voice of Thanksgiving

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Matthew 21:21 (NKJV)

So, how did you do with the test? Well, or not as well as you wish? So do you want to score better? If we practice prayer, making it our desire to make our practices the best they can be, then the Holy Spirit will train us and help us. Our good practices will become our habits.

**But the end of all things is at hand;
therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers.**

1 Peter 4:7 (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 the land of Israel, God is not through with this land or people; pray that His will and plan be fulfilled.

John Coon – Pray for all the arrangements for John's trip to Poland in May. Pray for the hearts of men and women to be warmed to the Gospel message and life in Christ Jesus.

Bernhard and Lisa Prumbach – Pray for the transition of their children to life in Germany be smooth, but that they would continue to grow with favor of the Lord.

Marianne and David Dean – Pray for new contacts and opportunities to share the Gospel.

Jacek Gromadzki – Pray for Jack and his church in Kolobrzeg, Poland. Pray for new opportunities to reach the people of Kolobrzeg with the Gospel message.

Marek Kaminski – Pray for Marek and for plans and provision for this spring and summer. Pray for great outreach to Koszalin and to the rest of Poland. Pray that this nation would have revival.

Joyce Abrahamson – Pray for Joyce and for those who help her in this ministry in Brazil. Pray for provision and protection for Joyce, workers, teachers, students, and families.

DK Limbu Daniel – Pray for Pastor Daniel and the pastors under his care. Pray for new areas of opportunity for the Gospel message. Pray for willing workers to respond to God's call and go to these new areas.

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William Williamson – Bill is a pastor in Eastern Colorado, and a long time member of this company. We have prayed for Bill and the teams he has lead to India for several years. On the night of March 28 the town of Holly, Colorado, where Bill is a pastor, was hit by a tornado. Please pray for Bill, his family, for the members of his church, and for the people of this community.

Pray for the Inntal Prayer Initiative – Pray for new opportunities to share the life of prayer, in our prayer seminars. Pray for our ministry across more of Germany.

The Brotherhood Beyond Boundaries Conference – Pray for the message of the fifth BBB Conference. God has a word for East and West and plans to speak, as He has many times, at this conference. Pray for the deliverance of this message and for the men and women who should be there to hear and receive from God.

Mark Spencer – Pray for clarity of message and vision for Mark and Patty as they minister in Colorado and around the world. Pray for open doors of opportunity, for willing obedience, and for God's provision for walking out all of His will.

Pray for your Home Church – Pray for outreaches for your church. Pray that each member will do the work of the ministry as God gives them the means to do so.

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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

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