

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of June 3, 2007

How God needs, how the world needs, how the Church needs the flow of the mighty river more blessed than the Nile, deeper, broader and more overflowing than the Amazon's mighty current! and yet what mere rills we are! We need, the age needs, the Church needs, memorials of God's mighty power, which will silence the enemy and the avenger, dumbfound God's foes, strengthen weak saints, and fill strong ones with triumphant raptures. E. M. Bounds

The Life of Prayer

Preparation for Prayer

David Williamson

Life has been known to throw us a curve now and then. We make plans and then something unexpected happens. Without warning we have to make changes or even new plans. Surprises can be difficult to deal with; they throw us off our plans and can make us look foolish. Sometimes we plan for surprises; trying to anticipate what might happen. Often, though, even our best plans are not enough and we get surprised.

God is never surprised. He is prepared for every eventuality. He was ready and prepared when Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden. God was prepared for a new King when King Saul sinned and David was made King of Israel. God was prepared for the crucifixion of Jesus. God is always prepared.

Like His Father, Jesus was prepared. He was prepared when the people gathered, but did not have food to eat. Jesus was prepared when the religious leaders confronted Him. Jesus was prepared when Judas betrayed Him.

We should strive to be like Jesus. This is especially true in our prayer life; we should prepare. We often fall short of our goal when we strive to be like Jesus, but we should still strive to be like Him. The question should be asked, how should we prepare for prayer?

The specifics of preparation will vary from person-to-person and from time-to-time, but there are some basic of preparation that we should review.

As we prepare for prayer we must prepare our heart.

***Lord, You have heard the desire of the humble;
You will prepare their heart;***

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You will cause Your ear to hear,
Psalm 10:17 (NKJV)

John the Baptist prepared the people for the Lord. He called them to repentance. He called them to set straight the paths of their life. If we are to pray effectively, we also must repent and set straight the path we will follow.

***“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord;
Make His paths straight.’”***
Mark 1:3 (NKJV)

By the spirit and power of Elijah, John turned hearts and disobedience. The presence of the Lord was a radical change for the people and so John had to turn them to be ready. Today walking in prayer, prayer like that of Jesus; is a radical departure from the norm, we also must be turned from our common ways. It is only those who have been turned who will be prepared to pray.

***He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah,
‘to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,’
and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just,
to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.***
Luke 1:17 (NKJV)

The man or woman who is prepared for prayer is prepared by the Holy Spirit. The work of the Spirit brings us to opportunities for change. Our preparation must include cleansing of sin and all hindrances to prayer. We must be vessels of honor, sanctified and made useful by the Holy Spirit.

***Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter,
he will be a vessel for honor,
sanctified and useful for the Master,
prepared for every good work.***
2 Tim. 2:21 (NKJV)

Prayer is so simple, yet it demands so much if we are to pray like Jesus. It requires an equipping, as Paul told Timothy, a thorough equipping, is needed to walk in good work. The same is true in prayer we must be equipped to do the work. Day-by-day we are walking out an equipping for prayer. God’s word is teaching, guiding, and directing. Jesus is interceding. The Holy Spirit is guiding and directing. They are working to make complete men and women of prayer.

***that the man of God may be complete,
thoroughly equipped for every good work.***
2 Tim. 3:17 (NKJV)

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Without preparation our prayers will fall short of the goal. With preparation there is no limit for our prayers.

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 Jewish people; pray that they would come to see Jesus as the promised Messiah.

Pray for the Youth Team – Pray for the youth team going from Colorado to Poland, June 14 through June 26. They will have outreach in two Polish cities and various smaller villages.

Marianne and David Dean – Pray for new converts to Christianity. This can be a very trying time for these young people with their friends and family.

Jacek Gromadzki – Pray for Jack and his church in Kolobrzeg, Poland. Pray for revival to come to this city.

The Brotherhood Beyond Boundaries Conference – Pray for the BBB Conference, June 22, 23, 24. Pray for the men and women coming to the conference, that God would touch their heart and guide their ways.

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. You have been praying for the town he lives in, Holly, Colorado, but now please pray for Bill as well. He was in a car accident and has a broken ankle and wrist. He is home from the hospital now, but faces more surgery. Pray for his quick, full, and complete healing.

Pray for the Inntal Prayer Initiative – Pray for outreach to the people of Germany; sharing the Christian life and prayer seminars. Pray for our ministry across more of Germany and Europe. Pray also for Americans in Germany; there have been several reports of possible terrorist attacks on Americans working and visiting Germany.

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Marek Kaminski – Pray for Marek and his continuing work of the ministry across Poland and countries to the East.

Joyce Abrahamson – Pray for the finances of the school and the meeting of the needs of students and staff.

DK Limbu Daniel – Pray for Pastor Daniel and the work of planting new churches across the region.

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

Mark Spencer – Pray for the finances and arrangement to walk through the doors that have opened for sharing the Gospel message.

John Coon – John is back from Poland.

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

The *Voice of Thanksgiving Blog* is the newest feature of *VoT*. The blog is available at www.voiceofthanksgiving.com/blog/

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