

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of July 1, 2007

The ardour of devotion is in prayer. In Rev. 4:8, we read: “And they rest not day nor night, saying, Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.” The inspiration and centre of their rapturous devotion is the holiness of God. That holiness of God claims their attention, inflames their devotion. There is nothing cold, nothing dull, nothing wearisome about them or their heavenly worship. “They rest not day nor night.” What zeal! What unfainting ardour and ceaseless rapture! The ministry of prayer, if it be anything worthy of the name, is a ministry of ardour, a ministry of unwearied and intense longing after God and after His holiness.

E. M. Bounds

The Life of Prayer

Humility and Prayer

David Williamson

We live in a brash generation. Form and substance have fought a duel with deception and charade and lost. This generation is more interested in the appearance of things than in reality. This has brought about a brash generation; who emphasis and applaud the bravado. We have dismissed truth while honoring outward show. While accepted by this generation and appealing to shallow tastes; it does not carry weight with God. He, who knows the end from the beginning and the hearts of men, is not impressed with show, charade, or deception. He only knows truth and reality. This is true in all of life with God and especially true in prayer.

The last few weeks we have been looking at Abraham and Moses as an example of men who pray. They are champions in prayer and a good example for us to study and follow. We are amazed at their boldness before God. We are challenged by their desperation in prayer. We take note of their ability to learn of and pray God’s will. There is still more, much more, we should learn from their example.

These men were very successful men. One was rich and the other had the credentials of a Prince of Egypt. They are two of the great men of the Bible. One is known to this day as “Father Abraham” and the other gave us the Law. It is easy to see why these men could be bold in their prayers to God. They were examples of the greatness of men. However, they were never brash, they were humble.

***Now the man Moses was very humble,
more than all men who were on the face of the earth.***

Numbers 12:3 (NKJV)

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*But Moses said to God,
“Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh,
and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?”*
Exodus 3:11 (NKJV)

*Then Abraham answered and said,
“Indeed now,
I who am but dust and ashes have taken it upon myself to speak to the Lord:*
Genesis 18:27 (NKJV)

One of the keys, a secret, to their success in prayer was humility. Abraham and Moses were humble. Riches and power had not influenced them and made them proud or brash. Abraham knew that God had made him rich. He refused to allow kings to give him goods won in battle; he did not want anyone to claim they had made him rich. Moses refused the position and honor of the throne of Egypt.

*By faith Moses, when he became of age,
refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter,
choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God
than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin,
esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches
than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.*
Hebrews 11:24-26 (NKJV)

Abraham and Moses were humble men and this was a source of their strength in prayer. They walked humbly before God. If we are to learn to pray; if we are to have power in prayer like Abraham and Moses, we must walk humbly before God.

*He has shown you, O man, what is good;
And what does the Lord require of you
But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?*
Micah 6:8 (NKJV)

*Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders.
Yes, all of you be submissive to one another,
and be clothed with humility, for
“God resists the proud,
But gives grace to the humble.”
Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God,
that He may exalt you in due time,
casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.*
1 Peter 5:5-7 (NKJV)

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Peter's command is that we humble ourselves. We are called to do this; it is a choice we make. We are to humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt us in due season. It is important to understand the relationship between humbling and exalted. The two are related; they function as east and west do in direction. If you are humble you are not exalting yourself, if you exalt yourself you are not humble.

Human nature demands that we exalt someone; it is part of our nature. The worldly man exalts himself. This at times is subtle and hidden, but he skillfully exalts self. The call to humble self is a call to reject and fight against the nature of the world found in each man. It is easy for the man attempting to follow this command to fall into hidden and subtle forms of exaltation instead of humbleness. This takes many forms and often we become so skilled in this charade we do not notice it ourselves.

Dealing with humbleness is a common problem; it is so easily hidden from our view that we need help. Of great value in dealing with the humbleness – exaltation conundrum is exalting one who is greater than ourselves, Jesus Christ. We can have a low estimate of ourselves and a high estimate of Jesus Christ. Humbly we seek obscurity by proclaiming His glory. We hide from the public gaze by proclaiming Him before all men. Humility is the absence of pride so we take pride in whom and what Jesus is and has done. We praise Him rather than self. We prefer Him over self. We do not seek our own, way or position, but seek His proper placement before all men.

If we are to be successful in prayer, we must make Jesus first in our thoughts and deeds. We must humble ourselves and exalt Him. He is the answer for the masses, the answer for our cares. He is the source for meeting our every need. He alone is the one who answers our prayer. Abraham and Moses were great in prayer, powerful in prayer, of note as examples in prayer, because they were first and foremost humble men. The man or woman of prayer today will be the humble one.

*Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God,
that He may exalt you in due time,
casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.*

1 Peter 5:6-7 (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)

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Pray for the peace of Jerusalem – Pray for the Jewish people and for Israel and for God’s hand to protect them and that He will reveal to them His Son, Jesus Christ the Messiah.

Prayer report on the Youth Team – The team has returned from their trip to Poland and God worked with them and through them in many ways. Thank you for your prayers for safety and protection as well as for this outreach.

Jacek Gromadzki – Pray for Jack and his church. God is building a church in this city that is strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Pray for revival for Kolobrzeg, Poland.

The Brotherhood Beyond Boundaries Conference – The fifth annual BBB Conference was a great success. God continues to work with pastors from east and west to bring about His plans for countries and ministries. Thank you for your prayers.

Marianne and David Dean – Pray for outreach to the young people of the university crowd. Pray for hearts warmed to the Gospel message and decisions for Christ.

Marek Kaminski – Pray for God’s strengthening and guidance for Marek.

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. Pray for his quick, full, and complete healing.

Pray for the Inntal Prayer Initiative – Pray for Americans in Germany; there have been several reports of possible terrorist attacks on Americans working and visiting Germany. Pray for opportunities to minister in Germany and throughout Europe.

Pray for the church in Belarus and Lithuania – Pray for opportunities for the sharing of the Gospel and the message of hope for the people of these countries.

Joyce Abrahamson – Pray for the Gospel message for the children of the school. Pray that they would come to know Jesus as Lord and Savior.

DK Limbu Daniel – Pray for Pastor Daniel and the work of planting new churches across the region. “Would you pray for our needs as churches are growing we need place for worship. We are going to lease land for the two churches and build temporary facilities. That costs us 1000\$ each. May God bless you, In Him, Bro. DK Daniel”

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.

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Mark Spencer – Pray for guidance for him in response to open doors of opportunity.

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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Voice of Thanksgiving comes in several formats.

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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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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