

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of July 22, 2007

It is clear then that God's promise to give the whole earth to Abraham and his descendants was based on obedience to God's law, but on the new relationship with God that comes by faith. So if you claim that God's promise is for those who obey God's law and think they are "good enough" in God's sight, then you are saying that faith is useless. But the law brings punishment on those who try to obey it. (The only way to avoid breaking the law is to have no law to break!)

So that's why faith is the key! God's promise is given to us as a free gift. And we are certain to receive it, whether or not we follow Jewish customs, if we have faith like Abraham's. For Abraham is the father of all who believe. That is what the Scriptures mean when God told him, "I have made you the father of many nations." This happened because Abraham believed in the God who brings the dead back to life and who brings into existence what didn't exist before.

When God promised Abraham that he would, become the father of many nations, Abraham believed Him. God had also said, "Your descendants will be as numerous as the stars," even though such a promise seemed utterly impossible! And Abraham's faith did not weaken, even though he knew that he was too old to be a father at his age of one hundred and that Sarah, his wife, had never been able to have children.

Abraham never wavered in believing God's promise. In fact his faith grew stronger, and in this he brought glory to God. He was absolutely convinced that God was able to do anything He promised. And because of Abraham's faith, God declared him to be righteous.

Now this wonderful truth — that God declared him to be righteous — wasn't just for Abraham's benefit. It was for us, too, assuring us that God will also declare us to be righteous if we believe in God, who brought Jesus our Lord back from the dead. He was handed over to die because of our sins, and He was raised from the dead to make us right with God.

Romans 4:13-25 - New Living Bible

The Life of Prayer

Fully Convinced

David Williamson

Fully convinced, this is a powerful phrase of faith. We act on fully convinced every day. In the normal flow of life there is a wealth of things we give no second thought. It is only when there is a problem, something out of the ordinary happens; we even take note of these things. We use electricity in our home and never give it a thought. However, if we have a power outage we struggle with this loss of power. If there is a major storm in the area or some special problem we might worry about having electricity, but most nights we go to bed without giving electricity in our home a

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second thought. We are fully convinced, even if we do not understand all of the process; that electricity will be waiting to serve us at the flip of a switch.

We seldom use the old expression, “we have faith in electricity” meaning we have faith in the system to supply electricity, but that is what we have. We have faith in many things in life. Things we can see, you could take a tour of the electrical supply system, and things we cannot see, we have faith in the circulatory system to supply blood to every part of our body. We cannot travel through this system, but we have confidence that when our big toe needs the things supplied by our blood that the system will be ready and working. We are shocked and get angry when it does not work.

Isn't it strange that we do not have this same fully convinced faith in our prayer life. We pray and then wonder if God will answer. We pray and doubt the efficacy of our prayers. We pray and doubt the promises of God. We pray and question the value of our prayers. We are not fully convinced in prayer. Our position and faith should be like Abraham's.

***He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief,
but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God,
and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.***

Romans 4:20-21 (NKJV)

All of the indicators of life told Abraham that God's promise was a lie. He knew the facts of life and those facts stated that he and his wife Sara could not have kids. This was the fact of the matter and if God could not comprehend the facts then He must be a liar. This is what life was telling Abraham. This is what was being screamed at Abraham, by his body and mind. There was nothing anyone could do about these facts; this is the way it is.

Every sane man would listen to the facts and understand that promises like those God was making just could not happen. Abraham had misunderstood God, God did not mean what He said, God was insane and did not understand life and facts, or God was a liar. Those were the only options for a man to choose from. However, Abraham chooses another option. Abraham believed God knew what He was talking about, was not insane, that God was not misunderstood, and that God was not a liar. Abraham was fully convinced that what God had promised that He was also able to perform. Abraham refused to let the so called facts of the case change him from believing God. God's promise was more factual than the facts.

***(as it is written, "I have made you a father of many nations")
in the presence of Him whom he believed--God,
who gives life to the dead and calls those things
which do not exist as though they did;
who, contrary to hope, in hope believed,
so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken,
"So shall your descendants be."***

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***And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body,
already dead (since he was about a hundred years old),
and the deadness of Sarah's womb.***

Romans 4:17-20 (NKJV)

We must be like Abraham. There are many areas of the life around us that seem impossible to change. There are problems, needs, hindrance, people, and governments that are the facts of our life. These explain to us day-after-day that there is no hope for us. Our prayers will always be weak and anemic if that is what we continue to believe. However, if we will be like Abraham and be fully convinced that God's promises are greater than the perceived facts, we can become men and women of effective fervent prayer and change the world around us. We can change our life, our family. Lost children can be saved. We can change our church and ministries, lack of increase and failure a thing of the past. Nations fighting against the Gospel and Christ's message, turned and changed, open to the work of the ministry. This is what we long for, this is what we need.

To receive our longing, to receive answer for need, we must be fully convinced. God has made many great and precious promises. Are we convinced He meant what He says? God has declared His willingness to work on our behalf, Is He able? He has stated that prayer can be and must be powerful and bring great change, is He telling the truth?

Certainly not! Indeed, let God be true but every man a liar. As it is written:

***“That You may be justified in Your words,
And may overcome when You are judged.”***

Romans 3:4 (NKJV)

We must change our thinking and actions and come into alignment with what He says; be fully convinced. We must change what we say and say what God says after Him; be fully convinced. We must pray with faith, knowing what He has said He will do; be fully convinced. We must have a new relationship with God, one like Abraham's, not based on law or the so called facts of the world, but one that comes by faith. In this relationship we must be just like Abraham, absolutely convinced that God was able to do anything He promised.

***Confess your trespasses to one another,
and pray for one another, that you may be healed.
The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.***

James 5:16 (NKJV)

***So Jesus answered and said to them, “Have faith in God.
For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain,
‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart,
but believes that those things he says will be done,
he will have whatever he says.***

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*Therefore I say to you,
whatever things you ask when you pray,
believe that you receive them, and you will have them.*

Mark 11:22-24 (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 Jerusalem and Israel – Pray for the leadership of Israel, pray for them to be obedient to God's command.

Marianne and David Dean – Pray for David and Marianne as they spend time this summer working with people of the university towns.

Jacek Gromadzki – Pray for Jack and his church. Pray for the construction and remodeling of their church building and the grounds. Pray for revival for this city and region.

The Brotherhood Beyond Boundaries Conference – Pray for the work of the Holy Spirit going from the BBB Conference to the church and communities of Eastern and Western Europe and the United States. God is building His church, may we work with, not against Him.

Marek Kaminski – Pray for protection and safety as Marek and his family travel in the near future.

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.

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 opportunities to minister in Germany and throughout Europe.

Joyce Abrahamson – Pray for outreach to the families of the region.

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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 a 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.

Mark Spencer – Pray for guidance for him, what he should do and when, in response to the many 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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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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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

Voice of Thanksgiving Correspondance with the editor of the newsletter, blog, or website should be sent to dave@voiceofthanksgiving.com