

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of August 12, 2007

I suspect I have been allotting habitually too little time to religious exercises as private devotion, religious mediation, Scripture reading, etc. Hence I am lean and cold and hard. God would perhaps prosper me more in spiritual things if I were to be more diligent in using the means of grace. I had better allot more time, say two hours or an hour and a half, to religious exercises daily, and try whether by so doing I cannot preserve a frame of spirit more habitually devotional, a more lively sense of unseen things, a warmer love to God, and a greater degree of hunger and thirst after righteousness, a heart less prone to be soiled with worldly cares, designs, passions, and apprehension and a real undissembled longing for heaven, its pleasures and its purity.—WILLIAM WILBERFORCE

The Life of Prayer

To the House

David Williamson

Going to grandmother's house was always a joy for this boy. Her house was filled with wonderful things, smells, and treats. There was so much to look at and play with; it was an adventure every time he was there. Exploring the house filled most of his days, but there also was the yard. Everywhere he looked there was something beckoning to him, calling out, come and explore. As he grew older more and more of the yard submitted to his investigation and came under his scrutiny. As much fun as the house was, the yard was even better.

One day while exploring the far reaches of the yard he saw a house on the other side of the wall. From the moment he saw this house it captured his attention. There was something special about the house. It was big and fancy with ivy growing on the walls; it had trees and shrubs all around. While he would be hard pressed to explain why, the house from the day he first saw it, had a draw for him. It seemed to beckon to him, calling for exploration. Finally, after looking at the house from afar for many days, he decided that he had to have a closer look.

Over the wall he climbed, he had never seen anyone in the yard or anywhere around the house. The yard around the house was interesting with many things to explore, but it was the call of the house that captured his attention and to the house he continued. As he drew near, he noticed that the house was all closed-up; windows and doors, yet from each there seemed to be a glow radiating from the house. It was almost as though inside of the house was a ball of fire, the light of which was so bright that the house could not contain its glow.

Stepping on to the porch he could feel the thrill of discovery, but there was more as well, the glow was not just light, it seemed like a force of great and wonderful power. He was overwhelmed by the

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force of the glow; it was so powerful to be almost frightening. He turned to run back to his grandmother's house, but a few steps off the porch he stopped and looked back. There was something special about this place and the glow emanating from the house. He returned to the porch and reached for the door. However, before he could touch the door it swung open on its own.

Out of the room came a blast of light and power. The glow that had leaked past the window and doors was like a trickle of water compared to a mighty river like the Rhine or the Amazon. He was simply overwhelmed by all he saw and felt. The light and power did not just draw him in, nor did it surround him; it enveloped him, filling every cell of his mind, body, and heart. He was for a moment one with the light, one with the power. This went on for several minutes, then slowly he knew that he had to leave and go back to his grandmother's house. Reluctantly he left the room and stepped down the steps off the porch. When he got to the wall of the yard he turned and looked once again at the house; the door was closed, but the faint glow seemed to call out, return when you can.

A great diamond is cut to reveal the beauty and brilliance of the stone. In the hands of a great craftsman the rough stone can become a thing of great beauty and worth. The stone is cut to make major plane, giving the stone its shape. Then each plane is cut with intricate facets. Each facet reveals more of the beauty of the diamond, its brilliance, color, and unique nature. Looking at one facet of the diamond can be very beautiful, but it is the combination of all the facets and plains that fully describe the wonder of the stone. The diamond is more than any one facet; it is the full package all together that makes the diamond.

God is somewhat like a fine cut diamond. He is overwhelming in His nature and we are captivated by each facet of His love, power, and presence. Often we get caught up in just one facet. However, like the facets on the diamond, God is revealed more and more to us as we see more of His nature. Each facet of Him reveals more of whom and what He is. Like coming over a hill while hiking and seeing a valley spread out before you, so it is when we see a new aspect of God's person.

One area where we see this revealing of God's nature is in prayer. God calls us to come to Him in prayer. Like the boy in our story we come to grandma's house; we come and pray. In this place we enjoy God and His answers to prayers. Many people know of this place of prayer. Some go there often, others go less frequently, but they go.

***Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication,
with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;
and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,
will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.***

Philip. 4:6-7 (NKJV)

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There comes a time when we notice that there is more to prayer. Like our boy exploring the yard at grandma's house, we find that there is more. There is the discipline of a regular prayer life. There is joining with other Christians in prayer. There is exploration of the combination of prayer and fasting. Once again there are some people who join in these areas of prayer with their full heart and others who are more reserved, but do enter in.

*Again I say to you that if two of you
agree on earth concerning anything that they ask,
it will be done for them by My Father in heaven.
For where two or three are gathered together in My name,
I am there in the midst of them."*

Matthew 18:19-20 (NKJV)

*Peter was therefore kept in prison,
but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church.*

Acts 12:5 (NKJV)

*So, when he had considered this, he came to the house of Mary,
the mother of John whose surname was Mark,
where many were gathered together praying.*

Acts 12:12 (NKJV)

The boy in our story found that there was more to explore beyond the wall of his grandmother's yard. There was the other house. In a similar way we can go to a place in prayer beyond the prayer meeting and practice of private prayer. This is not a hierarchy of one aspect of prayer being better than the other, but is like the facets on a diamond the fullness of these brings completeness to the beauty of the stone. The various aspects of prayer bring fullness to a prayer life and there is yet another facet of prayer.

Jesus is calling for intercessors to come and join Him in prayer. This is a place like the house the boy visited, where we come into the presence of God. He overwhelms us with His glory and majesty. In this place of prayer God's glory overcomes our hindrances. This is a place for great power in prayer. Here the prayers of Jesus and those who will join Him to turn the course of nations and peoples. Our boy was overwhelmed by the glory, but the glory also entered in within him. Those who join with Jesus in intercession become enmeshed in Him. Prayer becomes a labor with Jesus. It is Jesus and me in the yoke together plowing the field where the Father directs. It is Jesus and me in the yoke together working the field that is white unto harvest. It is Jesus and me in the yoke turning nations to the light.

*I have set watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem;
They shall never hold their peace day or night.*

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*You who make mention of the Lord, do not keep silent,
And give Him no rest till He establishes
And till He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth.*

Isaiah 62:6-7 (NKJV)

Let us add each and every facet of prayer to our prayer life. Let the Holy Spirit call and draw us to the special places of prayer; where He can teach and train us to pray. Let Him fulfill in us the fullness of God's plan for our life.

Let us Pray!

A Call for Prayer

*Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me,
the works that I do he will do also;
and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.
And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do,
that the Father may be glorified in the Son.
If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.*

John 14:12-14 (NKJV)

Pray for the church in Belarus and Lithuania – Pray for opportunities for the church in these countries that it would serve this generation and fulfill all of the call of Christ Jesus.

Jacek Gromadzki – Pray for Jack that the [fire of the Holy Spirit will fall within his life and church.](#)

Marek Kaminski – Pray for the Kaminski's time in Mexico and then in Colorado, USA.

John Coon – Pray for his health and safety.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem – Pray for the leadership of Israel, pray for them to be obedient to God's command.

Mark Spencer – Pray for the Holy Spirit's preparation for ministry that is coming soon in a new and exciting part of the world. The invitation is in hand, now God must make a way and prepare His servant. Pray also for meetings in Nepal in October and November.

Patty Spencer – Pray for completion of a new worship CD. Pray for the details of mastering the final product and the finances to get it produced.

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Bernd and Heike Pastor – Pray for Heike’s time of therapy this month.

Joyce Abrahamson – Pray for provision for the school and ministry.

DK Limbu Daniel – Pray for Pastor Daniel and the new churches they have planted. Pray for the new leaders of these churches.

Bernhard and Lisa Prumbach – Pray for continued success in making arrangement for the family and opportunities to minister.

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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