

# Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of September 23, 2007

An obedience discovered itself in Fletcher of Madeley, which I wish I could describe or imitate. It produced in him a ready mind to embrace every cross with alacrity and pleasure. He had a singular love for the lambs of the flock, and applied himself with the greatest diligence to their instruction, for which he had a peculiar gift. . . . All his intercourse with me was so mingled with prayer and praise, that every employment, and every meal was, as it were, perfumed therewith.

John Wesley

## *The Life of Prayer*

### **Quality Time**

David Williamson

In our busy lives we face many challenges. There are so many things that need to be done and so little time to do it all. We dream of the good old days when the pace of life was much slower and everyone had time to do things. This view of history makes for good day dreams, but it is not very accurate. Life back then, when ever our view of back then was, was difficult and busy for them just as it is now. Actually most people today have more leisure time, more free time than was true for any generation. In using our time we can waste it or we can use it wisely. A catch phrase for wise use of time is quality time. We long to get the most out of our time and so we talk of have time well spent, producing what we want; efficient, effective, and enjoyable.

We long for quality time in our life and this includes our prayer life. It is easy to slip into a rut and spend prayer time just going through the motions. It is valuable to spend time with God, but quality time is far better than just doing time. Are there times when you have missed out on quality time in prayer? If you see this in your life, then perhaps we should be asking what makes quality time in prayer, so we can pursue corrections and have more quality time. What makes quality time in prayer? There are many areas we can explore; we will look at a couple of verses.

***If you are willing and obedient,  
You shall eat the good of the land;***

Isaiah 1:19 (NKJV)

The willing and obedient have quality time in prayer. Isaiah makes it sound so easy, if you are willing and obedient, but he is right. Quality time begins with our willingness. Are we willing to pray? Are we willing to seek God? Are we willing to do things God's way? Quality time is praying what the Holy Spirit directs us to pray, seeking what God wants for answers. "Father, Thy will be done".

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Isaiah also includes obedience in his equation. He knew that good intentions without obedience will not lead to good results. How often have you come to God and said something like, “What ever you want Father, that is what I will do” only to not follow through. Willingness and obedience tied together bring quality to our prayer times.

***Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying:***

***“Whom shall I send,***

***And who will go for Us?”***

***Then I said, “Here am I! Send me.”***

Isaiah 6:8 (NKJV)

Another factor in having more quality prayer time is a review of what we are seeking. Too often we are just in this for the stuff. We are seeking the things we can get in prayer, instead of our Father. Prayer is asking and receiving from God, but our focus is to be on Him. He adds answers to those who seek Him first. He rewards those who diligently seek of Him.

***But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness,  
and all these things shall be added to you.***

Matthew 6:33 (NKJV)

***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)

Please note another factor mentioned here. God requires diligent seeking. The diligent are characterized by steady, earnest, and energetic application and effort. Does that describe you and your prayer life? This factor of quality time demands day-by-day seeking. It requires earnest (intense and serious state of mind) seeking. It calls for energetic seeking. Lethargy, sloth, and laziness all close the door on diligent seeking and on quality prayer time. Your seeking is a choice, God has prepared for you to come to Him, to seek Him with all of your heart, but you must choose to do so.

Check yourself for last week, how were your prayer times? Did you have quality times? Did you pray? Were your prayer times seeking Him? Was your time best described as seeking, “my will or His will”? The successful Christian life, the life of prayer as well, is made of a string of little obedience. Were you obedient? Were you diligent? Did you steadily, earnestly, energetically seek Him and His Kingdom? Quality time begins with quality decisions. I encourage you to choose this week to have quality time in prayer.

*Let us Pray!*

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## A Call for Prayer

*Now this is the confidence that we have in Him,  
that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.*

1 John 5:14 (NKJV)

**Pray for the peace of Jerusalem** – Pray for the peace of Jerusalem, only God’s peace will bring real and lasting peace to this city and region.

**Mark Spencer** – Pray for effective meetings in Nepal in November. Pray for the preparations for travel and ministry.

*Now this is the confidence that we have in Him,  
that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.*

1 John 5:14 (NKJV)

**Marek Kaminski** – Pray for open doors of opportunity for the preaching of the Gospel. Pray for a breaking down of walls and barriers that hinder.

**DK Limbu Daniel** – Pray for Pastor Daniel and for new opportunities to plant churches. Pray for the opportunities and for men and women who will do the work of the ministry for these churches.

**Jacek Gromadzki** – Pray for Jack and his church to have opportunities to share the Gospel. Pray that many in Kolobrzeg, Poland will respond to God’s call for salvation.

**Marianne and David Dean** – Pray for David and Marianne and for outreach into their community and on the local college campus.

**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.

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that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.*

1 John 5:14 (NKJV)

**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.

**John Coon** – Pray for his health and safety.

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**William Williamson** – Bill is a pastor in Eastern Colorado, and a long time member of this company. 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 protection and provision for the students of the school.

*Now this is the confidence that we have in Him,  
that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.*

1 John 5:14 (NKJV)

**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.

**For a great and effective door has opened to me,  
and there are many adversaries.**

1 Cor. 16:9 (NKJV)

## *Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer*

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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](http://www.voiceofthanksgiving.com)

The *Voice of Thanksgiving Blog* is the newest feature of *VoT*. The blog is available at [www.voiceofthanksgiving.com/blog/](http://www.voiceofthanksgiving.com/blog/)

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