

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of November 11, 2007

He who would pray, must obey. He who would get anything out of his prayers, must be in perfect harmony with God. Prayer puts into those who sincerely pray a spirit of obedience, for the spirit of disobedience is not of God and belongs not to God's praying hosts.

An obedient life is a great help to prayer. In fact, an obedient life is a necessity to prayer, to the sort which accomplishes things. The absence of an obedient life makes prayer an empty performance, a mere misnomer. A penitent sinner seeks pardon and salvation and has an answer to his prayers even with a life stained and debauched with sin. But God's royal intercessors come before Him with royal lives. Holy living promotes holy praying. God's intercessors "lift up holy hands," the symbols of righteous, obedient lives. *Necessity of Prayer* E M Bounds

The Life of Prayer

Persistence

David Williamson

Time is an interesting thing. We are in a hurry for things to happen. We cannot wait for some things to come to pass. Other things are rushing at us too fast. Fast or slow time moves on. One of the keys to success in prayer is dealing with time.

In prayer, dealing with time is dealing as God wills. God has dealt with man in many ways; it is easy to see that often His ways are not our ways. An example is Abraham. God made promises to him, but year after year nothing came to pass. It would have been easy for Abraham to give up, however the record we read in the Bible is that he did not give up, through faith and patience he inherited the promise of God.

***For when God made promise to Abraham,
because he could swear by no greater,
he sware by himself, Saying, Surely blessing I will bless thee,
and multiplying I will multiply thee.
And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.***

Hebrews 6:13-15 (KJV)

Abraham patiently endured, he stayed the course. He heard from God and then he walked day-by-day in faith until he received the promise. We need to learn to walk like Abraham, in our prayers. Prayer is easy when the answers come fast, but if we have to wait on an answer, it is much harder to pray. Just as it was with Abraham, God's timing often seems different from ours. When this happens it is much easier to make excuses, rather than being persistent and staying the course.

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Persistence is relentless and unshakeable. Persistence can be just stubborn or it can be an act of faith, as it was for Abraham. We need to pray, this is our call, and to do this we must be persistent. Do we believe that God answers prayer? If we are answering yes to this question, then we must stay on the course of – God answers prayer.

To stay the course in prayer we need to regularly review the promises God has made to us. He has promised to listen to our prayers and answers. We can stand on His promises, but we must keep them before our eyes lest we forget.

***This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth,
but you shall meditate in it day and night,
that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it.
For then you will make your way prosperous,
and then you will have good success.***

Joshua 1:8 (NKJV)

Our efforts to staying the course will face problems and hindrances. The man or woman of prayer will face tribulations. We must work through these obstacles to receiving answers when we pray. When we are tested, will we offer up our prayers? Success in prayer requires persistence in working through problems and hindrances.

***And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations,
knowing that tribulation produces perseverance;***

Romans 5:3 (NKJV)

***For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world:
and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.***

***Who is he that overcometh the world,
but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?***

1 John 5:4-5 (KJV)

***By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac,
and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son,***

Hebrews 11:17 (NKJV)

Finally, if we are going to stay the course in prayer we must be obedient. Look at this section on obedience from *The Challenge Series!*

***Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you
an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God;
but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today,"
lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.***

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***For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold
the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end, while it is said:
“Today, if you will hear His voice,
Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.”***

Hebrews 3:12-15 (NKJV)

Eternity stands before us. Our decisions today do have an effect upon eternity. Our obedience or our disobedience to the Lord's promptings are without question of eternal consequence. This type of obedience can be seen in Abraham's life as He obeyed God, left his homeland and became the father of many nations. It was through Abraham's obedience that a doorway was opened for Messiah to come to redeem and restore Man. Conversely, the present conflict in the Middle East can be traced to Abraham's impatience and his disobedience with his wife's handmaiden Hagar!

Moses, through his obedience, stands for all time as an example of God's grace and power over the enemy. And of course, the Lord Jesus Christ, who

***though He was a Son,
yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.
And having been perfected,
He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,***

Hebrews 5:8-9 (NKJV)

Obedience is a learning quality, and much of the time it is developed by those things suffered. This suffering of which Jesus endured is the same suffering that the believer must endure. It is a suffering of not yielding to the wants and cries of the lower nature of human flesh but choosing to obey the Spirit's promptings irregardless of the cost. Mark Spencer

Persistence, a key for prayer, can describe our prayer life. It is a choice we make day-by-day. The effective fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much, but to receive this availing we must persevere.

Let us Pray!

A Call for Prayer

***Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me,
and I will listen to you.***

Jeremiah 29:12 (NKJV)

Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem

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*Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you.
Peace be within your walls, Prosperity within your palaces."
For the sake of my brethren and companions,
I will now say, "Peace be within you."
Because of the house of the Lord our God I will seek your good.*
Psalm 122:6-9 (NKJV)

Bernhard and Lisa Prumbach – Pray for the supply of every need.

Editor note an answer to prayer: *The best news is-Bernhard got a job!!!!!! It is with Netto, he will train for two months in Wedemark and then he will work in either Hambühren or Wietze. He starts Nov. 15. Praise God!*

Our next big prayer is for a car ASAP, Bernhard especially needs it for work.

Jacek Gromadzki – Pray for Jack and his church, pray for opportunities to share the Gospel message.

Pray for the church in Belarus and Lithuania – Pray for opportunities for the open and free preaching of the Gospel.

Marianne and David Dean – Pray for David and Marianne and their work with young believers and making disciples.

*If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother,
wife and children, brothers and sisters,
yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.
And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.*
Luke 14:26-27 (NKJV)

Marek Kaminski – Pray for opportunities for sharing the Gospel.

DK Limbu Daniel – Pray for Pastor Daniel and work in and around Nepal.

1. *Pastors and Leaders Conference and Healing Rallies* from 9-21st December. This will be held in different parts of east Nepal and mid central Nepal. Pray for the peace and security and for a mighty manifestation of the power of the Holy Spirit. We need God's favor for this great work to take salvation, deliverance and healing to the people.
2. At the last but not least; our goal is plant 100 churches by 2010 and so far we are coming up with 42 churches and fellowships. Please pray that things in the world may not distract us from our goal and that the needs and areas of lack may not derail us from our trek to our goal.

Joyce Abrahamson – Pray for supply of daily needs for the students of the school.

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Mark Spencer – Pray for continued faithful obedience to God’s call and command.

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.

Pray for William Williamson – Pray for the continued growth of his church and maturing of the believers in faith and service.

Pray for the Inntal Prayer Initiative – Pray a new understanding of God’s plan for the Inntal Prayer Initiative in Germany and throughout Europe.

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.

*And my God shall supply all your need
according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.
Philip. 4:19 (NKJV)*

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Write to me at dave@voiceofthanksgiving.com