

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of December 9, 2007

The cause of God has no commercial age, no cultured age, no age of education, no age of money. But it has one golden age, and that is the age of prayer. When its leaders are men of prayer, when prayer is the prevailing element of worship, like the incense giving continual fragrance to its service, then the cause of God will be triumphant. E. M. Bounds from *Purpose in Prayer*

The Life of Prayer

Relationships

David Williamson

We recently returned from a trip. My boss had given me a couple of extra days for this trip and so the school where I work had been back in session for a few days without me. The first morning I was going back, I was out for my Morning Prayer walk and I got the feeling that I wanted to take something to school to say thank you to the administrative team. So I stopped at the local Starbucks and got coffee and pastries for them. For several members of the team I even knew their favorite drink from Starbucks. I wanted to do something special for them and I knew this was something they would enjoy. I knew this because we had a close working relationship.

A wonderful component of prayer is relationship. Anyone can pray and everyone should pray. However, there is a wonderful world of prayer that most never know or even imagine. In this place of prayer there is a special relationship, Father to son or Father to daughter. In this relationship there is love, trust, and power. It is in the relationship that we grow close to the Father. It is also in this relationship we gain knowledge of God and skill in walking in His power.

Relationship with the Father begins with Love. His nature is love and love is the foundation of all the fullness of God. It is in His love that we are rooted and grounded. All our prayers are better if we are grounded in Him. Without this grounding we drift and are swayed. Every wind of doctrine moves us; every fad and whim shoves us this way and that. However, when we are grounded in His love we can pray focused effective prayer. This is how Jesus prayed; He always prayed the will of the Father.

For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height-- to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. Ephes. 3:14-21 (NKJV)

that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head--Christ--from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love. Ephes. 4:14-16 (NKJV)

And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him. 1 John 5:15 (NKJV)

A quality relationship is built on trust. As our relationship with the Father matures we learn about trust and placing our life fully in His hands. This trust comes to cover every aspect of life and ministry, including prayer.

that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, Philip. 3:10 (NKJV)

By awesome deeds in righteousness You will answer us, O God of our salvation, You who are the confidence of all the ends of the earth, And of the far-off seas; Psalm 65:5 (NKJV)

And we have such trust through Christ toward God. Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God, who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. 2 Cor. 3:4-6 (NKJV)

For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day. 2 Tim. 1:12 (NKJV)

Relationship with God also results in great power. A close relationship of truly knowing Him, leads to knowing His power.

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. Romans 1:16 (NKJV)

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 1 Cor. 1:18 (NKJV)

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For though He was crucified in weakness, yet He lives by the power of God. For we also are weak in Him, but we shall live with Him by the power of God toward you.

2 Cor. 13:4 (NKJV)

Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. Ephes. 3:20-21 (NKJV)

Relationships grow and mature over time; this is true with friends and neighbors and with God. Love, trust, and power are foundational to good relationships. On these a strong, lasting, and effective relationship can be built. A strong relationship with God (and with Christian brothers and sisters) is necessary if we are going to do the job we are assigned. This is especially true in prayer, with a strong and effective relationship with God our prayers will never reach the point of fervency, and effectiveness that we need to get the job done.

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)

Let us Pray!

A Call for Prayer

Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem – Pray for the leadership of the nation of Israel. Pray they will respond to God and His plan for the nation.

Pray for the church in Belarus and Lithuania – Pray for the conversion of men and women in Belarus and Lithuania.

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

Marianne and David Dean – Pray for David and Marianne to receive God's provision for the needs of the work of the ministry.

Marek Kaminski – Pray that God would continue to speak to Marek directing his every step, plan, and decision.

Jacek Gromadzki – Pray for Jack and his church and the completion of their building project. Pray for the supply of the needs for the building and the workers to help with construction.

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

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

DK Limbu Daniel – Pray for Pastor Daniel and his 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. Our goal is plant 100 churches by 2010 and so far we have 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.

Mark Spencer – Pray for God's provision for the completion of the things God has placed in Mark's heart.

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 Prayer Initiative Seminars – Pray for an understanding of God's plan for teaching about Prayer.

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.

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

Read voice of *Voice of Thanksgiving* and past articles at the *Voice of Thanksgiving Website*
www.voiceofthanksgiving.com

For additional information and articles on prayer visit the *Voice of Thanksgiving Blog*
www.voiceofthanksgiving.com/blog/

For *Voice of Thanksgiving* in German read *Stimme der Dankbarkeit*
<http://voiceofthanksgiving.com/SdDPage.htm>

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

Write to me at dave@voiceofthanksgiving.com