

# Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of December 16, 2007

Jesus closes His life with inimitable calmness, confidence and sublimity. "I have glorified Thee; I have finished the work which Thou gavest me to do." The annals of earth have nothing comparable to it in real security and sublimity. May we come to our end thus, in supreme loyalty to Christ.

E. M. Bounds from *The Reality of Prayer*

## *The Life of Prayer*

### **The Will of God**

David Williamson

Success in prayer can be measured in many ways. There are the physical measurements, where we are more like Jesus in our practice. He prayed regularly, fervently, consistently, and these are good measures of our prayer life. We can measure the prayers of Jesus by answers to prayer. We know the Bible record that His prayers were answered. We also know that He prayed according to the will of God. How do we match up to His standard? Do we pray regularly, fervently, consistently? Is the record of our prayers filled with answers to prayer? Do we pray prayers according to the will of God?

This last point is so important for our life of prayer. Praying in the will of God is a key to success in prayer. Regular, fervent, consistent prayer is important, but even the heathen do this. I can pray wrong every day and my prayers are still wrong. I can pray with world class fervency, but if I pray amiss I will not have success in my praying. Just as Jesus did, so I must pray the will of God.

***Now this is the confidence that we have in Him,  
that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.  
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 5:14-15 (NKJV)

This is an incredibly powerful verse, if we pray according to God's will, He hears our prayer. If He hears us, we have the answer we ask. Whatever we ask! This is like telling your employee that they can spend all the money they want and do whatever they want, in any way, as long as it is for the good of the company. The phrase often used is *carte blanche* (a blank document), you have full discretionary powers. The only caveat is that you must ask according to His will. This is amazing power in prayer God has given to His children.

It seems that success in prayer has many components, but chief among these is learning to pray according to God's will. We can be foolish and pray whatever we want. We can waste our time or

# Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

we can redeem our prayer time, making it productive and valuable time. It seems it would be wise to know and understand the will of the Lord.

***See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise,  
redeeming the time, because the days are evil.  
Therefore do not be unwise,  
but understand what the will of the Lord is.***

Ephes. 5:15-17 (NKJV)

King David was a great man of prayer. We can learn much from the study of his prayers. He knew the importance of having prayer answered. He knew that he could not lead his people without God's answers to his prayers. His prayer was, "Hear my prayer, O Lord, give ear to my supplications! In your faithfulness answer me, and in your righteousness." (Psalm 143:1) This is our cry as well, Lord please hear me and answer me when I pray.

Later in this same Psalm, David made note of this key in prayer. He knew that the will of God was a door that opened into God's provision for every aspect of his life. He knew he had to live, and move and exist in God; especially in God's will. David asked God to teach him to do God's will. This is what we need in prayer. God please teach us thy will!

***Teach me to do Your will,  
For You are my God; Your Spirit is good.  
Lead me in the land of uprightness.***

Psalm 143:10 (NKJV)

We can and must know the will of God. A great man of prayer, Epaphras, prayed for the Colossians, the Laodiceans, and for Christians in Hierapolis. Paul wrote that Epaphras prayed with great zeal for these people. (How would you like for the Holy Spirit to record for all generations to see, that you pray with great zeal!) His prayers for these Christians were that they would stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. That is a very tall order for God, but one we all need fulfilled in our life. Success in prayer comes from standing perfect and complete in all the will of God.

***Epaphras, who is one of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you,  
always laboring fervently for you in prayers,  
that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.***

Col. 4:12 (NKJV)

David said teach me, Epaphras prayed stand perfect and complete, both saw the need for the will of God in our life. How do we accomplish this? How do we know and pray the will of God? One key is that we be free from the present evil age. The world around us can cloud, muddy, and pollute our thinking. We must be free from the influence of this age. This age is noted for its doubts and it has an overwhelmingly capability of producing fear. This age is noted for its excesses and dalliances with

# Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

evil. If we walk as the world walks we cannot pray. The mentality and actions of this age destroy faith. To pray the will of God, we must be delivered from this present evil age. We can be and must be transformed by the renewing of our minds. We cannot think like the world thinks and pray in the will of God.

*Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age,  
according to the will of our God and Father,  
to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.*

Galatians 1:3-5 (NKJV)

*And do not be conformed to this world,  
but be transformed by the renewing of your mind,  
that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

Romans 12:2 (NKJV)

Praying the will of God transforms our prayers in form and substance. It takes us to the throne of grace with boldness and power. We come like Jesus; fully confident of the resulting answers because we come confident that God hears us, and we have His answers. With this confidence we can pray. With this confidence we can stand in faith, firm until we see the manifestation of God's answer. Having prayed His will we can stand, not to be moved by circumstances or condition. Waves of current thinking or even doctrine cannot sway us. We can confidently boast; I know that God hears me and if He hears, I have His answers to my prayers!

*For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God,  
you may receive the promise:*

Hebrews 10:36 (NKJV)

*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing,  
in everything give thanks;  
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*

1 Thes. 5:16-18 (NKJV)

*Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead,  
that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,  
make you complete in every good work to do His will,  
working in you what is well pleasing in His sight,  
through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.*

Hebrews 13:20-21 (NKJV)

*Let us Pray!*

# Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

## A Call for Prayer

*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.  
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)

**Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem** – Pray for the people of Israel to come to know Jesus as their Messiah. Pray that their eye would be open and hearts soften so they will receive Him as Lord.

**Pray for the church in Belarus and Lithuania** – Pray for revival to come to these nations. Pray for the free and effective presentation of the Gospel message.

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

**Marianne and David Dean** – Pray for David and Marianne to meet young men and women open to the Gospel. Pray that these people will respond favorably to the call of God for salvation and to be a light to their families and communities when they go home.

**Marek Kaminski** – Pray that Marek would be guided by the will of God for his congregation and that God would continue to supply their every need for reaching their community, nation, and the world with the Gospel.

**Jacek Gromadzki** – Pray for Jack and his church to have opportunities to share the Gospel in Kolobrzeg, Poland.

**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.

# Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

**Bernhard and Lisa Prumbach** – Pray for safety and health for Bernhard, Lisa, and their children.

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

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

**William Williamson** – Bill is a pastor in Eastern Colorado, pray for opportunities to share the Gospel. Pray for those who hear him, ask for soft hearts receptive to the Gospel.

**Joyce Abrahamson** – Pray for the salvation of the boys and girls (and their families) coming to the school.

**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.

**Pray for your Home Church** – Pray for outreaches for your church. Now is the time to be praying for plan for the spring and summer.

*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)

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

For additional information and articles on prayer visit the *Voice of Thanksgiving Blog*  
[www.voiceofthanksgiving.com/blog/](http://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](mailto:dave@voiceofthanksgiving.com)

Write to me at [dave@voiceofthanksgiving.com](mailto:dave@voiceofthanksgiving.com)