

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of January 6, 2008

Be sure you look to your secret duty; keep that up whatever you do. The soul cannot prosper in the neglect of it. Apostasy generally begins at the closet door. Be much in secret fellowship with God. It is secret trading that enriches the Christian. Pray alone. Let prayer be the key of the morning and the bolt at night. The best way to fight against sin is to fight it on our knees.—PHILLIP HENRY

The Life of Prayer

Hedges and Walls

David Williamson

When I was a boy I played football (American football) at the neighbor's house. Their yard was not very big but it worked for the games we played. The yard had a hedge around it and the ground was covered with grass so it was a nice place to play. As we got older and faster, the space was more and more inadequate for our games, but we made it work. One of the tricks you learned quickly was where the hedge was solid and where there were gaps you could run through. Pass patterns were run so you could catch the ball and then go through a gap.

The hedge was used in agriculture for centuries. It along with sections of walls, were the fences around fields and vineyards to keep out animals and problems. The value of the estate was based in part on the hedge and wall and other preparations made for protection. Destruction was sure and swift for the farm without well kept hedges. One of the key jobs for the farmer was maintenance of the hedge. A good hedge will last for many years, but it needs upkeep or it will begin to have gaps. Just like the hedge we played in when I was a boy. The hedge was okay but the constant destruction caused by boys playing had developed into gaps. The same thing happens in the fields, no there are not boys playing football, but there are small animals and the weather causing problems that will become gaps if the farmer is not careful.

The hedge and wall is a good picture of the care that is needed for the protection of the heart. Just like the vineyard that is not protected so the unprotected heart will have problems. The heart is very important. The book of Proverbs has dozens of verses about the heart. It speaks of the great value of the heart and its importance. Success in the Christian life comes in part from the careful care and feeding of the heart.

***Keep your heart with all diligence,
For out of it spring the issues of life.***

Proverbs 4:23 (NKJV)

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Danger comes when the hedge and wall is damaged or inadequate. The Devil is looking for ways to attack Christians and destroy their work and testimony. He is searching for gaps in their hedge.

***The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy.
I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.***

John 10:10 (NKJV)

***Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion,
seeking whom he may devour.***

1 Peter 5:8 (NKJV)

Too many Christians struggle with dealing with attacks of the Devil. They work to walk through life, but too often there is an attack. When Jesus was tempted by the Devil, Jesus overcame the Devil by the Word. Matthew's Gospel mentioned that after he had tempted Jesus, the Devil left Him until an opportune time. Christians with gaps in their hedges, with parts of their walls down, present opportune times to the Devil. He always is finding openings through which to attack them. We need to fill the gaps and build up our walls. We can limit his attacks by guarding our heart. We must not be like Israel and fail to deal with our hedge and walls.

***You have not gone up into the gaps to build a wall for the house of Israel
to stand in battle on the day of the Lord.***

Ezekiel 13:5 (NKJV)

Success in prayer requires our dealing with the hedge and wall around our heart. We must make sure we protect our heart. A strong and effect hedge around our life and around our heart will give us opportunity to effectively pray.

***Now may our God and Father Himself, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way to you.
And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all,
just as we do to you,***

***so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness
before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.***

1 Thes. 3:11-13 (NKJV)

***For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness,
who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God
in the face of Jesus Christ.***

2 Cor. 4:6 (NKJV)

Part of the prayer ministry is to stand in the gap for the land. This is ministry that is so needed and so important today. Unfortunately few are able to stand in the gap. Like the man without a belt, having to hold up his pants, it is hard to stand in the gap for the land, if we are constantly attacked

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through the gaps in our life. Until we deal with the gaps in our hedges and walls, we limit our effectiveness in prayer.

*So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall,
and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land,
that I should not destroy it; but I found no one.*

Ezekiel 22:30 (NKJV)

Today is the day to check your hedge. Is it solid? Are there gaps that need repair? Do what you must do to make repairs. Make your hedge secure and strong.

Let us Pray!

A Call for Prayer

*Call upon Me in the day of trouble;
I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me. "*

Psalm 50:15 (NKJV)

Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem – Pray that many in Jerusalem and throughout Israel will find the Messiah.

DK Limbu Daniel – Pray for continuation of the exciting, powerful ministry across Nepal. In Nepal they have seen mighty miracles, blind eyes were opened, and eye sights were restored, deaf heard, dumb spoke, crippled walked, stomach problems were healed, backaches were healed, and demons possessed were delivered. Many people have accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. We had favor of God and people.

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.

Bernhard and Lisa Prumbach – Pray for provision for Bernhard, Lisa, their children, and their ministry.

Pray for the church in Belarus and Lithuania – Pray for these churches that they would stand perfect and complete in all of God's will.

Marek Kaminski – Pray for Marek and his church to have supply for the work of the ministry.

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Jacek Gromadzki – Pray for Jacek and his church to have new opportunities and great boldness to share the Gospel in Kołobrzeg, Poland.

Mark Spencer – Pray for God’s provision for meeting the requests to minister.

John Coon – Pray for his health and safety.

William Williamson – Bill is a pastor in a small town in eastern Colorado, pray for Bill and his church that they would stand perfect and complete in all of God’s will.

Joyce Abrahamson – Pray for the salvation of the boys and girls (and their families) of this 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 Prayer Initiative Seminars and David Williamson – Pray for opportunities to minister on prayer.

Pray for your Home Church – Pray for your church that it would stand perfect and complete in all of God’s will.

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New for *Voice of Thanksgiving!*

Głos Dziękczynienia w języku polskim: <http://voiceofthanksgiving.com/VoTPPage.htm>

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

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