

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of January 13, 2008

Bear up the hands that hang down, by faith and prayer; support the tottering knees. Have you any days of fasting and prayer? Storm the throne of grace and persevere therein, and mercy will come down. John Wesley

The Life of Prayer

What Is That In Your Hand?

David Williamson

The rod is a commonly mentioned tool in the Bible. One famous example is the rod of Moses. When Moses met God at the burning bush, the Lord said to Moses, "What is that in your hand?" This is the rod that became a serpent and was the tool in Moses' hand when he confronted Pharaoh. Just a Shepherd's staff, this rod became the touchstone of God's power and authority.

So the Lord said to him, "What is that in your hand?" He said, "A rod."

Exodus 4:2 (NKJV)

In another amazing example, the people of Israel were complaining to God. God had had enough of their complaining and set out to settle the issues at hand. He had the head of each tribe bring their rod, write their name on the rod, and place it in the Tabernacle for the night. The next morning the rods were brought out. Aaron's rod had sprouted and put forth buds, had produced blossoms, and yielded ripe almonds. All this in one night!

***So Moses spoke to the children of Israel,
and each of their leaders gave him a rod apiece,
for each leader according to their fathers' houses, twelve rods;
and the rod of Aaron was among their rods.***

***And Moses placed the rods before the Lord in the tabernacle of witness.
Now it came to pass on the next day that Moses went into the tabernacle of witness,
and behold, the rod of Aaron, of the house of Levi,
had sprouted and put forth buds, had produced blossoms and yielded ripe almonds.***

Numbers 17:6-8 (NKJV)

In a teaching called the Season of Aaron's Rod, Mark Spencer teaches about the time when we will see this type of manifestation of God in our life and ministries. Toward the end of the last days, the time I believe we are in, we will see God move powerfully and quickly. This will be a time when the words of Amos will be seen.

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***“Behold, the days are coming,” says the Lord,
“When the plowman shall overtake the reaper,
And the treader of grapes him who sows seed;
The mountains shall drip with sweet wine,
And all the hills shall flow with it.***

Amos 9:13 (NKJV)

The Season of Aaron’s Rod will be a time when we will plant seeds and see the harvest at the same time. This is when the final harvest of souls from every nation will rapidly take place and the finances to reach all these people with the Gospel will be available as needed. There is a great deal more to this teaching, but this serves as an introduction or reminder of the basics for us.

These verses about the rod leave us with a question, an important question for those who will move on with God in their prayer life, “What is that in your hand?” God asked this of Moses and then use the rod of Moses to change the situation for the Jewish nation; a change from bondage to freedom. If God asked you today what is in your hand, what would you answer? Would you have to admit that you had the TV remote control in your hand, in other words you had nothing to offer for God to use? Or would you be able to present the rod of your ministry and work?

The readers of ***Voice of Thanksgiving*** come from many different walks of life; we have doctors and teachers, we have soccer moms and ministers, there are labors and business owners. In each of our lives God has called us to work. Moses was a Shepard. Aaron was a priest. Regardless of the work God has called us; we also are called to the work of the ministry.

***for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry,
for the edifying of the body of Christ,***

Ephes. 4:12 (NKJV)

As saints we are called to the work of ministry. We are to be about our Father’s business, which first and foremost is reaching the people of the world with the Gospel. We are called to do our part in the effective working of the body, every part doing its share.

***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. 4:16 (NKJV)

One part of this effective working is prayer. We need to be working at prayer. This is a rod we can present to God for His blessing. This is a rod we need to bring to the Tabernacle to have it blessed as God blessed Aaron’s rod. If we are just going through our days without purpose, we are not working at prayer. We should be working at prayer projects that God can bless. Listed in ***Voice of Thanksgiving*** are people and ministries that are prayer projects for many of us. They are listed as

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reminders and as examples. They are reminders for those who have committed to the work of prayer in these areas. They are also listed to encourage us to explore God's guidance in the work of prayer. What does He want us to do? We may be working in prayer for these listed ministries, but what else does He want us to be doing.

God wants to ask us, "What is that in your hand?" He knows what we have, but He is looking for a rod in our hand to bless. It is not enough to say, "I pray". What is in your hand for God to bless? What will you place in the tabernacle for God to cause to sprout, put forth buds, produce blossoms, and yield ripe almonds?

Let us Pray!

A Call for Prayer

*Epaphras, who is one of you, a bondservant of Christ,
greet 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)

Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem – Pray for the return of Jewish from around the world to Israel.

DK Limbu Daniel – Pray for new opportunities for planting of churches in Nepal and other regions with Nepalese speaking peoples.

Pray for the church in Belarus and Lithuania – Pray for these churches, pray for opportunities to share the Gospel.

Marianne and David Dean – Pray for opportunities to meet young men and women who will respond favorably to the call of God for salvation and to be a light to their families and communities when they go home.

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

Marek Kaminski – Pray for Marek and his church to have new opportunities to witness to the people of Koszalin, Poland.

Bernhard and Lisa Prumbach – Pray for their ministry in Germany.

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

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John Coon – Pray for his health and safety.

William Williamson – Pray for Bill and his church that they would stand perfect and complete in all of God's will.

Joyce Abrahamson – Pray for the supply of the needs of 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 Prayer Initiative Seminars and David Williamson – Pray for the completion of new materials on prayer.

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

Pray for your work in Prayer – Pray that God would bless these areas where you are responsible in prayer.

*So the Lord said to him,
“What is that in your hand?” He said, “A rod.”
Exodus 4:2 (NKJV)*

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New for *Voice of Thanksgiving*, a monthly issue in Polish!

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