

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of February 10, 2008

Let us often look at Brainerd in the woods of America pouring out his very soul before God for the perishing heathen without whose salvation nothing could make him happy. Prayer—secret fervent believing prayer—lies at the root of all personal godliness. A competent knowledge of the language where a missionary lives, a mild and winning temper, a heart given up to God in closet religion—these, these are the attainments which, more than all knowledge, or all other gifts, will fit us to become the instruments of God in the great work of human redemption.

Carrey's Brotherhood, Serampore

The Life of Prayer

How Shall We Pray?

David Williamson

This newsletter is a call to prayer. We seek to learn more about prayer, but more importantly, to learn to pray effectively. We long to improve our prayer life; there are many needs and to meet these needs we must pray. However, it is not enough just to pray, we need effective, fervent prayers.

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)

There is much for us to learn, but step-by-step we are learning. We seek to be better than we were last year and to be better still next year. Many of the articles of *Voice of Thanksgiving* address issues of improving our prayers. That is true about this article as well. One of the keys to success in prayer is the heart.

The heart of prayer is the heart. A key to effective prayer is guarding our heart. This is a call to a life where we make demands on ourselves so we can pray, so we can pray more effectively. We work to keep hindrances from interfering with our prayers. This is not a call to legalism; do this or do not do that, it is a personal response to live our life so as to be effective in prayer. King Solomon wrote,

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

Proverbs 4:23-27 (NKJV)

Solomon knew that the issues of life are important. This importance can be seen in many aspects of Christian life, and they are especially important in prayer. The issues of life determine what we will pray. If we do not guard our heart we limit what we can and will pray. Hindrances cloud the issues. We draw back from prayers that cause real and effective change. Hindrances working in our life

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keep us from boldly coming before God. They separate us from God our source of answers. The issues of life determine how we will pray. The effect of hindrances is on our heart; they limit our faith.

Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV)

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV)

Effective prayer comes from a pure heart. One washed by the blood of Jesus. One washed by the water of the Word of God. God has made provision so we can come to Him in prayer. However, there is a part for us to play as well. We can work to make of full effect cleansing work of Jesus. There is a basic Christian life and there are those who choose to live as disciples.

The disciple chooses to deny himself the things of the world. He chooses to live as close to God as possible, so he can pray. Things that are okay for some are not okay here, they might hinder prayer. If we confess our sins God is willing to cleanse us from all unrighteousness, but the position of effective prayer is to limit the areas where we must ask forgiveness, keeping close relationship with God. We strive not to allow hindrances. One early Christian put the matter bluntly: "There is a distinction between death and death. For this reason the disciples of Christ die daily torturing their desires and mortifying them according to the divine scriptures; for we have no part at all in shameless desires, or scenes impure, or glances lewd, or ears attentive to evil, lest our souls thereby be wounded."

Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, and having a High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. Hebrews 10:19-23 (NKJV)

Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God. And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.
1 John 3:21-22 (NKJV)

The heart of prayer is the heart. What we do with our heart will determine the effectiveness of our prayers. We all can and should pray, but some may be so bold as to determine they will seek God with all of their heart so they can pray boldly and effectively.

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The question is what about you. Would you choose to die daily torturing your desires and mortifying them according to the divine scriptures? Would you have no part at all in shameless desires, or scenes impure, or glances lewd, or ears attentive to evil? Would you live so as to not allow your soul to be wounded? Would you choose this life so you can pray, pray effective, faith filled prayers?

For every tree is known by its own fruit. For men do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they gather grapes from a bramble bush. A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks. Luke 6:44-45 (NKJV)

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 – Pray for Israel that they may be saved.

Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. Romans 10:1-3 (NKJV)

DK Limbu Daniel – Pray for bold proclamation of the Gospel to the Nepalese people in areas of Nepal and beyond.

Jacek Gromadzki – Pray for Jacek and his church, pray that they would be sanctified spirit, soul, and body.

Joyce Abrahamson – Pray for financial provision for meeting the needs of the school and staff.

Pray for the church in Belarus and Lithuania – Pray for opportunities for personal evangelism.

Marianne and David Dean – Pray for new opportunities to share with young people of the region.

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Marek Kaminski – Pray for Marek and his church to continue to grow in the love of the Lord.

Bernhard and Lisa Prumbach – Pray for the supply of the needs of the family in Germany.

Patty Spencer – Pray for her new worship CD. Pray that it will be ready for release very soon and that it will minister life and grace to people around the world.

Mark Spencer – Pray for open doors of opportunity.

John Coon – Pray for his health and safety.

William Williamson – Pray for Bill and his church and new opportunities to share the Gospel.

Pray for Prayer Initiative Seminars and David Williamson – Pray for the completion of his first book on prayer.

Pray for your Home Church – Pray for your church that it would be a church of outreach to the local community and to the people of the world.

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

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

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>

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