

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of March 16, 2008

The story of prayer is the story of great achievements. Prayer is a wonderful power placed by Almighty God in the hands of His saints, which may be used to accomplish great purposes and to achieve unusual results. Prayer reaches to everything, takes in all things great and small which are promised by God to the children of men. The only limits to prayer are the promises of God and His ability to fulfill those promises.

Prayer should be the breath of our breathing, the thought of our thinking, the soul of our feeling, and the life of our living, the sound of our hearing, the growth of our growing. Prayer in its magnitude is length without end, width without bounds, height without top, and depth without bottom. Illimitable in its breadth, exhaustless in height, fathomless in depths and infinite in extension.

Homer W. Hodge

The Life of Prayer

Big Prayers

David Williamson

In the world of prayer there are choices. We all face choices in everything we do in life. With choices we face two options, wise and foolish. The choice between wise and foolish reaches into every corner of life. For example, the foolish rejects God and His salvation, the wise hear and are saved.

In prayer we face wise and foolish choices as well. First and foremost people face a choice concerning whether they will pray. Jesus when teaching His disciple to pray said "When you pray". This was not an option, but a command, yet many people do not obey His command. They do not pray. They have made a choice that limits their life and the effectiveness of all they do. However, choices in prayer go far beyond this initial choice. We can pray big or small, this is a choice. Let me explain what I mean by this.

If you lived in a kingdom, a kingdom with a good king, and one day you happened to find the young prince far from the castle. He was lost and away from his family and care givers. If you cared for him and returned him to the king, what would the response of a good king be? Surely he would offer to you any request. He might say something like, "Ask for anything you want, even to half my kingdom, for you have returned my son who was lost." What do you suppose his response would be if you asked for \$10? He would be disappointed, for he longs to express how much the return of his son means to him. He might respond and say, "No, that is not enough, ask big!" Asking for \$10 from a king is asking small. Far too often we have settled for asking small of God.

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Our Father is better than any earthly king and we did not return His Son to Him, but if we have received His Son as our Lord and Savior, then our Father longs for us to ask big. Look at a few of the ways our Father says to us, ask big! He says, “Whatever things you ask when you pray... you will have them”. That is asking big! He says, “The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.” That is asking big! We can and should ask big. Our prayers should be praying big!

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)

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)

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)

The Father even invites us to join with His Son and to pray big. We are to pray for nations and for laborers to bring in the harvest.

Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession. Psalm 2:8 (NKJV)

Then He said to them, "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.

Luke 10:2 (NKJV)

Big prayer can be for one person or one need, but we must not continue to pray small. The needs around us today are desperate for big prayer. Today praying for \$10 may be big prayer for you, but we must come to the place where we can pray much bigger than this.

Big prayer may be praying for a sum of money to meet a need or praying for one person to be saved. Big prayer could be like Rees Howells and his team praying that they would have enough money to pay the bills every week when they were feeding people at the mission. Each week God provide and they had enough, often to the penny what they needed. Big prayer could be like the prayers for the woman who was the leader of a group against the revival in Wales. Without any contact with this woman he prayed for her salvation and saw her turn from her evil ways to Jesus. We need be about

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the business of winning souls from every nation, one person at a time. Howells' prayers for this woman were a big thing for her.

Big prayer can also be on a larger scale. God is calling for prayer for nations. Big prayer would take on the responsibility for praying for a nation. This is a big job and demands much prayer, effective, fervent prayer. Big prayer prays for the hearts of the people of a town of this nation to be softened and warmed so they will respond to the Gospel. Big prayer prays for the government and governors that they would provide a place where people can hear and respond to the Gospel. Big prayer prays for the destruction of hindrances to the proclamation of the Gospel.

Big prayer prays for open doors of opportunity for the Gospel message to be preached. Big prayer prays for labors for this harvest field; men and women willing to pour out their life for the people they are ministering to. Big prayer prays for clarity of the message, focused on the Gospel. Big prayer prays for the defeat of Satan who would keep the Gospel from these people if he could. Big prayer prays for the growth of the ministry. Big prayer prays for the finances to bring the Gospel message to a growing number of people. Big prayer prays for the discipline of the people to the faith. Big prayer prays for the establishment of a church for the town. Big prayer prays for a people to grow in this church with love in their heart for the lost of this town. Big prayer prays for outreach and opportunity to spread the Gospel.

Big prayer prays for the resources for the spread of the Gospel to reach far and wide. Big prayer prays that this spread of the Gospel will reach beyond this town and reach it to neighboring villages and towns. Big prayer prays that churches would be planted in these neighboring towns. Big prayer prays for these churches to also grow and mature and begin to carry out the work of reaching souls from every nation, one person at a time. And if that was not enough, big prayer prays for the million and one details that goes with all of that!

The choice between praying big or small is not an easy one, but it is within the grasp of us all. Jesus prepared the way, now we can walk in His steps. It is a choice. Choosing to pray big prayers is really a series of good choices. We must walk through these choices day-by-day. Each choice is just that, a choice and we can choose wisely or foolishly. However, we can choose to get help with these choices. There are ways to make wise choices easier.

The first step toward consistent wise choices is to pray. Ask our Father to help you make wise choices. This is His will and He is willing and able to help us. He has sent the Holy Spirit to reside with us and helps us. So ask for help. Second, practice obedience. The Bible lays out for all who will receive it a good plan for life and living. If we work at following that plan we will have far fewer problems making wise choices. Third, learn to know and listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit. He walks with you and will whisper in you ear the best way to go.

The fourth step toward consistent wise choices is where you make your choices. I work with young people and to often I seen young men and women who have made wrong choices, most of the time

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these choices were made in places where it is very hard to make wise choices. When the world and its ways are pressing in on every side, it is hard to make wise choices. When evil is all around you luring you to its dainties, it is hard to make wise choices. And by contrast in the presence of the Lord, in a time of worship, or Bible study, wise choices are easier. If we are to be wise and make wise choices consistently, we need to build into our life times and places for wise choices. A key to success here is to build good habits. If you build into your life daily time reading and meditating on the Bible, then you will have Bible study times in which to make wise choices. It is hard to start a good habit in the mist of a crisis when you must make a choice. So start the good practice before you need it. The same is true for prayer time, worship time, and fellowship time. These need to be made regular habits so you have a time and place for wise choices.

Fifth step is to set our course and be faithful and not turn back. Make a commitment and stick with it. It may take weeks, months, years, or even a lifetime, but will you still pray? The choice is yours. Even if no one goes with me, still I will pray. I will pray and pray big. I will see big answers to my prayers. I will walk with my Father and see souls from every nation, won to Christ, one soul at a time. I will pray big!

Let us Pray!

A Call for Prayer

Pray for Souls from Every Nation – Pray for outreach in areas predominately neglected in the past. Pray for labors to answer the call of God to go to these areas.

Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession. Psalm 2:8 (NKJV)

Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem – Pray for protection from those who would partition Israel.

Marianne and David Dean – Pray for students returning home after the term in college. Pray for them to be strong in their new found faith and to have opportunities to share their faith.

Pray for the church in Belarus and Lithuania – Pray for the planting of new fellowships in towns with little or no Gospel message.

Marek Kaminski – Pray for the growth of his church and the successful working of their ministries and outreaches.

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

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Jacek Gromadzki – Pray that Jacek and the people of his church in Kolobrzeg, Poland would prosper even as their souls prosper.

DK Limbu Daniel – Pray for new opportunities for planting churches and the means of doing so. Pray for the reaching of young people in these new areas.

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 plans for outreaches and trips this spring and summer. Pray for his ministry with young people.

John Coon – Pray for his health and safety.

William Williamson – Pray for Bill and that he would be free from pain from the accident involving his ankle many months ago.

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

Pray for 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 young people of the world.

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

Host a Prayer Initiative Seminar. You can do something special for your church, fellowship, or community in the area of prayer, offer a Prayer Initiative Seminar. If you would be interested in hosting a Prayer Initiative Seminar contact David Williamson, at dave@voiceofthanksgiving.com

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

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

For *Voice of Thanksgiving* in German read *Stimme der Dankbarkeit*
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