

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of March 30, 2008

Prayer in its highest form and grandest success assumes the attitude of a wrestler with God. It is the contest, trial and victory of faith; a victory not secured from an enemy, but from Him who tries our faith that He may enlarge it: that tests our strength to make us stronger. Few things give such quickened and permanent vigour to the soul as a long exhaustive season of importunate prayer.

E.M. Bounds

The Life of Prayer

God is Able to Perform

David Williamson

Evidence is an important part of our life. We demand it in many areas, court cases, scientific exploration, and important decisions. We use variations on a basic statement, "Look at the evidence." We tend to have the attitude that if the evidence shows there will be a positive result, it is a good plan. If the evidence shows there will be a negative result, it is a bad plan. We tell people they acted foolishly when they did not pay attention to the evidence. We do this a lot with young people. Looking at the evidence is a valued part of society and life. It is a part of maturity and wisdom, but it can destroy faith.

Abraham is a great man of faith, he has been called many things, including, the Father of Many Nations. This is the man who the evidence said could not have any children. Not only had he and his wife not had children, but the time for bearing children had passed. Evidence shows that once this period has passed there is nothing you can do. This evidence often destroys faith. However, God had made a promise to Abraham and this man of faith did not let the evidence destroy his faith. In Romans we read that, Abraham did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief. Abraham looked at the evidence and weighed it against the promise of God and "being fully convinced" that what God promised He would do, Abraham had faith in God. He had faith in God over the expectation of the evidence!

He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform. And therefore "it was accounted to him for righteousness". Romans 4:20-22 (NKJV)

Last week we began to explore faith for effective prayer. Faith for obtaining answers to prayers. Our focus was on the verse from Hebrews that demands two things for faith; believing that God is and believing that God rewards those who seek Him. We touched on believing that God is. This is a difficult part of faith. As we said last week, we can easily believe that God is God at least until we

Voice of Thanksgiving

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face believing that being God means that God can do what He claims He can do. His claims throughout the Bible are amazing. He claims to be able to do all we ask or imagine and then more. He claims to be able to do things that evidence claims cannot be done. Abraham and the birth of his son Isaac is a perfect example of this. It is when God can go beyond the restrictions of evidence that people have trouble believing that God is God. And this destroys their faith.

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)

It is pride that makes believing God is God and able to do the miraculous difficult. We as people are stuck within the confines of time and space. The laws of nature can be tamed, used, directed, and exploited, but these laws still affect us. We can build a jet pack and fly off from the ground, but we have not changed the law of gravity. When the jet pack runs out of fuel you will return to the ground. Science and industry of man is using the laws of nature and their constant application to make useful things for people. We have made some very good inventions and tools, but we still cannot change the laws governing life.

Because of pride we do not want to be bound by these laws or any law. And while at times we love to have the miraculous happen, because of pride, we often do not want God to be able to do miracles. This is because we cannot control Him; if God is God and we cannot control Him, then we are not God. That hurts our pride. Pride wants God to do the miraculous, but only under our control. If we cannot control Him, then we will not allow Him to be a miraculous working God. We claim miracles have passed or explain, by various arguments, that they did not really happen in the first place. This all destroys faith.

The Bible declares, in no uncertain terms, that God is able to work beyond the rules of natural law and the dictates of evidence. The man of faith must have strong faith. He must believe God over the evidence. Abraham knew the evidence. This was not theoretical to him, he lived day-by-day with the evidence. He lived in the body of evidence! He was about a hundred years old and he knew that Sarah's womb was dead. That was the evidence; it would stand up in any court of law. The difference between Abraham, the man of faith, and most people today is that Abraham looked to God over and beyond the evidence at hand.

And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb. He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform. Romans 4:19-21 (NKJV)

Many years ago there was a cartoon that showed two scientists standing in front of a huge blackboard. The board was covered with scientific notation. You could tell that the scientists were

Voice of Thanksgiving

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following through the notation that described some great event or experiment. In the caption one scientist explains to the other, “This happens and then this happens and then something miraculous happens here.” This is a description of faith. There is evidence for this and this, but there comes a time when we cannot explain what happens. When the unexplainable happens, it is God moving miraculously. The problem is too often we do not allow the miraculous to happen. We destroy faith rather than allowing God to move miraculously. We do not believe that God is God.

I have said for years that we must look at the evidence, this is important, only a fool will not look at the evidence. However, we must not let the evidence dictate the end result. We must look at the evidence and treat it like the numbers in an equation. Put all the numbers in a calculator, punch in all the evidence, and then push the special button, the God button. By that I mean, the final result is not just what the evidence says, we must let God move on the evidence and gain His desired result.

He changes times and season, He moves mountains, He melts and molds the hearts of men, He stops the march of mighty armies, and He raises up and cast down nations, so why cannot He move miraculously on behalf of your prayers and mine? Faith comes by hearing the Word of God. Faith that believes God can and will do what He has said He will do. This faith comes by hearing the Word of God. If we are going to pray effective fervent prayers, prayers that avail much, we must build our faith. We must hear what God has been saying, “I am God and I can and will move for those who will by faith believe that I am God. I can and will do what I say I will do”. We must walk in expectation of seeing God move powerfully in answer to prayer.

Father we are not weak in faith, we will not let evidence dictate to us the answers to our prayers. We will not waver at Your promises, we will not let unbelief rule our prayers. We give You all the glory and are fully convinced that what You have promised You are able to perform.

Let us Pray!

A Call for Prayer

Pray for Souls from Every Nation – Pray for labors to go to Indonesia and for the safety of these labors. Pray for effective opportunities for ministry in this heavily Muslim nation.

Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem – Pray for the leadership of the nation of Israel. Pray they will respond to God and His plan for the nation.

Joyce Abrahamson – Pray for protection for the staff and students of the school.

William Williamson – Pray for Bill and his church, a year ago they went through a terrible tornado.

DK Limbu Daniel – Pray for new opportunities for planting of churches in Nepal.

Voice of Thanksgiving

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Pray for the Church in Belarus – Pray for new 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.

Patty Spencer – Pray for the distribution of her new worship CD.

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

Marek Kaminski – Pray for Marek and his church for new opportunities to witness to the people.

Pray for the Church in Lithuania – Pray for a change in the climate, hearts open to the Gospel.

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

John Coon – Pray for his health and safety.

Pray for your Home Church – Pray for your church and outreaches to your community.

Pray for your work in Prayer – Pray for quick obedience to God’s call.

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Voice of Thanksgiving is published in a weekly version in English. There are two monthly versions, one in German and one in Polish. And coming soon is a series of books on prayer. This first book (the first of four) is called ***Prayer: A Force that Causes Change – A Call to Prayer.***

- ✓ For an archive of past articles, short notes and studies on prayer, and other information go to www.voiceofthanksgiving.com
- ✓ For a shortcut to ***Stimme der Dankbarkeit*** the German version go to: <http://voiceofthanksgiving.com/SdDPPage.htm>
- ✓ For a shortcut to ***Głos Dziękczynienia*** the Polish version go to: <http://voiceofthanksgiving.com/VoTPPage.htm>
- ✓ You may write to me at: dave@voiceofthanksgiving.com
- ✓ If you would be interested in hosting a ***Prayer Initiative Seminar*** contact me, Dave Williamson, at dave@voiceofthanksgiving.com