

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of April 13, 2008

Obedience is love, fulfilling every command, love expressing itself. Obedience, therefore, is not a hard demand made upon us, any more than is the service a husband renders his wife, or a wife renders her husband. Love delights to obey, and please whom it loves. There are no hardships in love. There may be exactions, but no irk. There are no impossible tasks for love. E. M. Bounds

The Life of Prayer

Great Promises

David Williamson

Most people who pray do so seeking results. We are looking for answers to prayer. Most people who pray would like to have good results. They want an abundance of answers, timely answers, and powerful answers to prayer. This is expressed in God's statement about the results obtained by a righteous man who prays effective, fervent prayers. His prayers avail much (James 5:16). The question is what can we and what should we do to pray effective, fervent prayers that avail much.

How can we make progress toward this goal? We know that all progress in the Christian life is by faith. So to make progress in prayer, it must be by faith. We can and must show our faith by our works. It is the coupling of these two, faith and work, which bring success to prayer.

Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? James 2:22 (NKJV)

The last few weeks we have been exploring faith and prayer. We have been exploring verses from Romans about Abraham and his faith. Abraham did not waver at the promise of God. He knew that God could and would do what He had promised.

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 4:20-21 (NKJV)

The key for Abraham was that he believed the promises of God. The promises of God are very powerful. The promises of God are beyond compare. Peter calls them the exceedingly great and precious promises.

by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. 2 Peter 1:4 (NKJV)

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That is high praise for these promises of God and well deserved praise. It is important if we are going to progress in our prayer life that we come to more fully recognize the promises of God for what they are and what they mean for us. God's promises are directly related to answers to prayer, the answers we seek and need. The fulfillment of God's promises is answers to prayer. When Paul states that God will do exceedingly abundantly more than we can ask (see Ephesians 3:20) He is telling us that God's promises are the answers to prayer that we are asking for and much more.

The word translated promise in this verse of 2 Peter 1:4, means a self-committal by assurance of conferring some good. Peter is telling us that God has committed Himself to bestow good on us. The promises of God are His commitment to you and to me, a commitment to do good. I have worked with some good bosses in my various jobs. One of the reasons these people were good is their commitment. When they said they would do something it was as good as done. You could go about your business knowing that what they said they would do they would do. It was great to work hard for them, you could work with confidence. These people were just people; there were times when they could not do what they said. There were times when things changed, but you knew that if they could they would. How much more can we have confidence in God. He has promised, and He cannot lie. Nothing is going to surprise Him. You can have confidence in His promises. This makes his promises very valuable; yes they are exceedingly great and precious promises.

It is great, we can have confidence in God and His promises, however there is more. His promises are powerful. He keeps His promises and He has exceeding great power. The promises of God are promises of life changing, yoke destroying, mountain moving, and covenant fulfilling power. He is the God who is able to do! He is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think.

the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power Ephes. 1:18-19 (NKJV)

Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, Ephes. 3:20 (NKJV)

We can have confidence in God's promises. He is faithful to what He promises.

By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised.
Hebrews 11:11 (NKJV)

Blessed be the Lord, that hath given rest unto his people Israel, according to all that he promised: there hath not failed one word of all his good promise, which he promised by the hand of Moses his servant. 1 Kings 8:56 (KJV)

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There are several keys to obtaining the promises of God, chief among these is faith. Our progress in our prayer life must be by faith. We must carefully watch over what we say. The confession of our mouth states what we think of the promises of God. If we pray, claiming to believe the promise, and then go about all day wavering on this belief, saying things that deny our belief, we will not receive answers to our prayers. We must diligently labor on in faith and guard against becoming sluggish. The faithful through faith and patience inherit the promises of God. We must do the will of God and continue in His will with endurance.

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. Hebrews 10:23 (NKJV)

For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister. And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises. Hebrews 6:10-12 (NKJV)

For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise: Hebrews 10:36 (NKJV)

Meditate on the promises of God, this week as you read and study the Bible look for the promises of God. Make note of his great promises. Invite the Holy Spirit to show you God's promise that deals with areas of need you are actively in prayer seeking Gods answer that avails much. Confess this promise, let nothing cross your lips that denies, rejects, modifies, or counters your belief that God is faithful to His promise and able to do what He has said He would do. Act on His promise and do not let anything keep you from His promise.

Let us Pray!

A Call for Prayer

Every week we renew our call for prayer. Faithful in prayer is a choice, we choose to pray or allow hindrances to our prayers keep us from being faithful. Pray for our on going basic prayer focuses. These areas are on going prayer needs that will be with us until the return of Christ.

Basic Prayer Focus

Praying for Israel and the Peace of Jerusalem

Praying for the reaching of Souls from Every Nation

Praying for the government of your country (so Gospel can be preached)

Praying for your home Church

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Faithful Prayer Focus

Pray for these ministers and ministries. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide and direct your prayers.

Joyce Abrahamson – Head of school in Brazil

John Coon – Ministry in Europe and the USA

Churches in Belarus – Growing number of churches in Belarus

Churches in Lithuania – Growing number of churches in Lithuania

DK Limbu Daniel – Pastor of a church in Nepal and church planting among Nepalese people

Marianne and David Dean – Missionaries on college campuses in East Asia

Jacek Gromadzki – Pastor of a church in Kolobrzeg, Poland

Marek Kaminski – Pastor of church in Kaszalin, Poland, leader in Polish churches, and co-founder and leader of BBB Conference

Bernd and Heike Pastor – Ministry in Germany

Mark Spencer – Pastor of church in Longmont, Colorado, worldwide ministry, and co-founder and leader of BBB Conference

Patty Spencer – Pastor of church in Longmont, Colorado and worship leader

William Williamson – Pastor of church in Holly, Colorado

Special Prayer Focus

Please pray for the **BBB Conference June 20-22, 2008**. Pray for the arrangements and planning of this year's conference. Pray for the finances for the conference. Pray that God would meet every need for running the conference and the transportation of people to and from the conference.

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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/SdDPage.htm>
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- ✓ 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