

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of April 20, 2008

E. M. Bounds writes in his book *The Essentials of Prayer*. At one time, John Wesley saw that there was a perceptible decline in the work of holiness, and he stopped short to inquire into the cause, and if we are as honest and spiritual as he was, we will now see the same causes operating to stay God's work among us. In a letter to his brother, Charles, at one time, he comes directly to the point, and makes short, incisive work of it. Here is how he begins his letter:

“What has hindered the work? I want to consider this. And must we not first say, we are the chief. If we were more holy in heart and life, thoroughly devoted to God, would not all the preachers catch fire, and carry it with them, throughout the land?

“Is not the next hindrance the littleness of grace (rather than of gifts) in a considerable part of our preachers? They have not the whole mind that was in Christ. They do not steadily walk as He walked. And, therefore, the hand of the Lord is stayed, though not altogether; though He does work still. But it is not in such a degree as He surely would, were they holy as He that hath sent them is holy.

“Is not the third hindrance the littleness of grace in the generality of our people? Therefore, they pray little, and with little fervency for a general blessing. And, therefore, their prayer has little power with God. It does not, as once, shut and open heaven.

“Add to this, that as there is much of the spirit of the world in their hearts, so there is much conformity to the world in their lives. They ought to be bright and shining lights, but they neither burn nor shine. They are not true to the rules they profess to observe. They are not holy in all manner of conversation. Nay, many of them are salt that has lost its savour, the little savour they once had. Wherewith then shall the rest of the land be seasoned? What wonder that their neighbours are as unholy as ever?”

The Life of Prayer

The Millionaire

David Williamson

When I was a little boy there was a TV show we watched called the Millionaire. Each week Mr. Malone would deliver a check to a person. The check was for one million tax free dollars. The program was based on following what would happen to the recipient of the money. The show was popular because you did not know how it would turn out. Some weeks the money caused a good turn around in the person's life. There was some form of the rags-to-riches story and it was a feel good show. Other weeks the money would destroy the person's life. The hatred, anger, jealousy, pettiness, and other evil, would dominate the person or those around them and the result was bad. Nearly all of the people visited by Mr. Malone were unprepared for his visit and the money. They had to scramble to decide what they would do with the money. Some made good choices and others poor choice.

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What would you do if Mr. Malone came to your door today? In the TV show he brought one million dollars, but adjust this for inflation, now he is bringing 20 or 30 million, what would you do? “Here is a check from an anonymous donor.” What would you do? Would you pay off the mortgage on your house? Pay for your cars? Give money to family members? Are you prepared with a plan in place of what you would do? Would you be able to handle this sudden wealth or would evil desires overwhelm you and cause you to fall into problems?

There is one standing at your door, He is far greater than the anonymous donor who sent Mr. Malone. He is knocking at your door. He comes with His great and precious promises. These promises are His commitment to do more than we can ask or imagine. These promises are a promise to answer our prayers. These promises are backed by God who states that all the silver and gold is His. These promises are to supply for our every need. These are great promises, far better than any check Mr. Malone could bring. The promises of God are better than currency in hand. And the blessing of God comes without sorrow.

The blessing of the Lord makes one rich, And He adds no sorrow with it.

Proverbs 10:22 (NKJV)

So what would you do if God sent Mr. Malone to you today? What would you do? Would you pay off the mortgage on your house? Pay for your cars? Give money to family members? What would you do? Are you prepared to receive from Him? Our answer is yes I am ready. But are we? What would happen to you if you suddenly had millions of dollars? Would you still walk your Christian life? Would you give to the poor or hoard to yourself? Would you live in your own economy hiding away so no one could steal from you, hiding away from all those people and problems? Are there thing in your heart that would rise up and make life with you a living hell? This is what happened some weeks on the TV show. So are you ready? Are you prepared?

But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work. Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife. 2 Tim. 2:20-23 (NKJV)

The second question is what promise has He made to you? People enjoyed the TV show. It was popular, but people saw it as unreal because they claimed that nothing like that every happened to them. The same is said by many concerning the promises of God. Those people in the Bible had those promises, but not me. The promises of God remain, but they are waiting for someone to answer the door and receive them. He is knocking are you going to the door? God has not changed, He is the same yesterday, today, and for every. His promises are available to us today, for the meeting of needs around us. He is waiting, but few people even come to the door. Will you answer the door? Will you claim the promises of God and let Him work in your life and in your prayers?

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Finally, you have a ministry in prayer. You are called to pray for the needs of people around you, to pray for the success of your church, to pray for your government and nation (to allow living in peace and for the spreading of the Gospel), you are to pray for labors to go to the harvest fields, and much more. You are called to pray. Your prayers can be a practice of frustration, where nothing happens. Or you can pray effective, fervent prayers that avail much. You can pray prayers that move mountains and turn the course of nations. These prayers must be prayers, prayed in faith. Without faith nothing will happen. In the Bible the men and women of faith were those who believed the promises of God.

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)

We need to have specific promises from God. Promises we hold tightly to, believing that God will faithfully do what He has promised. These promises are ours for the taking and for believing. God is looking for men and women who will believe Him. Men and women who will pray in faith believing He is faithful and true to His word. Men and women who will go to the door, receive His promise and pray through to completion the fulfillment, the manifestation of His promise. Will you pray?

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)

Blessed be the Lord, who has given rest to His people Israel, according to all that He promised. There has not failed one word of all His good promise, which He promised through His servant Moses. 1 Kings 8:56 (NKJV)

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

Let us Pray!

A Call for Prayer

This week let us be true to our call to prayer. Let us be faithful, we know that God is faithful, let us meet Him day-by-day to pray.

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 the 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

Pray for the spread of the Gospel in Belarus. Pray for men and women laboring in difficult areas, pray for safety and provision. Pray for opportunities to share the Gospel. Pray for the growth of churches and the planting of new churches.

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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>
- ✓ For a shortcut to ***Głos Dzięczynienia*** 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