

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of April 27, 2008

“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

The Refreshing Promises

David Williamson

Recently I went through a long and tiring week. We have these, the work is hard, the days are long and by the end of the week you are not just tired but worn out. On Friday of that week as I began to walk across the parking lot to go to work, I noticed one of the younger teachers of the school. The thing that caught my eye was the bounce in his step. He was up for the day and ready to go. I thought back to the days when I was like that. It was encouraging and refreshing for me to see him and remember. The promises of God are to be like this; they are encouragement and refreshing for all who will hold on to them.

One summer while working with a mission team, a group of us went to the beach along the coast of Wales for a picnic. We had a grand time and on the way back to our cars, we crossed a large expanse of beach that had been mostly covered with water when we had walked to our picnic location. On this return trip the tide was out and we found a spring bubbling up clear cold water. This had been completely covered before, but now we could see the water. Our host suggested that the water was fresh and clean enough to drink so we tried it. The water tasted wonderful and was very refreshing. Sometimes in our daily walk we need times like this of refreshing.

Having times of refreshing is important. In the Christian life and in the life of prayer we face tough periods at times. The nature of the world we live in and the efforts of the Devil work against us. This makes for times when we struggle with our daily walk and with our faith. There is nothing wrong with God’s side of faith. He has made provision for us. Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith.

looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12:2 (NKJV)

Voice of Thanksgiving

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Jesus' work has not changed, He authors, that is starts and defines our faith, and He completes our faith. The problem in our daily walk of faith is the area of the "and". Between Jesus' start of our faith and the finish of our faith is that time when we can grow weary. This is usually when the Devil attacks. He cannot face up to Jesus. The Devil lost the battle with Jesus, so he must attack us instead. He works to make us weary. He works to make us lose sight of the great and precious promises of God. Then he works with unbelief to make our faith fail. We have many recorded examples to show us this problem. The Old Testament records times when the Jewish people lost sight of the promises of God and their faith failed. A great example is the return of the spies who had gone to scout out the Promised Land. This land was called the Promised Land because God had promised the Jewish people to take them into this land. This was a great promise of God. Caleb and Joshua had their eye on the promise of God. They were ready to go and take the land. They were ready to stand firm in faith on the promise of God.

Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, "Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it." Numbers 13:30 (NKJV)

Unfortunately the other spies and the people did not keep their eye on the promise. They saw the problems and hindrances that would defeat them, not the promises of God. Their faith failed. The question today is what about us. Will we be like Caleb and Joshua and keep our eye on the promises of God or will we be like the people. It is relatively easy to say we will be like Caleb and Joshua, especially when we are with God, such as in church or a time of worship. However the problem is when we are in the tough time. When we are facing the issues of life and the problem thrown at us that are intended to kill, steal, and destroy our life and faith.

Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it. For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it. Hebrews 4:1-2 (NKJV)

Since therefore it remains that some must enter it, and those to whom it was first preached did not enter because of disobedience, Hebrews 4:6 (NKJV)

Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience. Hebrews 4:11 (NKJV)

We can do better than the Jewish people out there in the desert. We can keep our eye on the promises of God and be successful in our faith. We can be like Caleb and Joshua and take the land. The author of Hebrews makes this clear.

But, beloved, we are confident of better things concerning you, yes, things that accompany salvation, though we speak in this manner. 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

Voice of Thanksgiving

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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. For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, "Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you." And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. Hebrews 6:9-15 (NKJV)

We can patiently endure the hard times. To make it easier we need to keep our eye on the promises of God. With the promises of God we are well able to overcome any obstacle the Devil can throw in front of us. Caleb saw the Promised Land and the promise of God and He was fully persuaded that God was able to go before them and take the land. We must have our eye on the promises of God. What has He promised you concerning your prayers? What has He said He would do? Then keep your eyes on Him and see Him do great and mighty things.

After all the people except for Caleb and Joshua had died in the desert, after they became older men. God did just what He had promised He gave them the Promised Land. Caleb was right God could and would do what He said. Although he was much older he never took his eyes off the promise and he saw God's promise fulfilled. We can and should do the same. God has promised so let's walk with Him, keeping our eye on Him and His promises and see Him do for us.

Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise: "For yet a little while, And He who is coming will come and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him." But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.

Hebrews 10:35-39 (NKJV)

Let us Pray!

A Call for Prayer

This week ask according to God's will.

Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. 1 John 5:14 (NKJV)

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

Voice of Thanksgiving

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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 opportunities for **David and Marianne Dean** to meet young men and women who will respond favorably to the call of God for salvation.

Pray for **Jacek Gormadzki and his church** to have new opportunities and great boldness to share the Gospel in Kolobrzeg, Poland.

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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
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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