

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of May 4, 2008

If some Christians that have been complaining of their ministers had said and acted less before men and had applied themselves with all their might to cry to God for their ministers—had, as it were, risen and stormed heaven with their humble, fervent and incessant prayers for them—they would have been much more in the way of success.—JONATHAN EDWARDS

The Life of Prayer

The Best!

David Williamson

Sometimes we underestimate ourselves. I know there is the other extreme out there; people are filled with themselves. Pride is a sin that many people struggle with or enjoy. The Kingdom of Self is a lonely place, but many people enjoy ruling there. For many people unbelief is a strongly held belief. Doubt and fear are close companions to thousands. Having said that, I repeat that sometimes we underestimate ourselves. If you are a Christian, you are a new creation in Christ Jesus.

When I was in the military I never perceived that I was in the military. It seemed as though I had gone to a strange summer camp (this one was very strange because they held summer camp in the winter). They called it basic training. I did everything that was required of me and was successful, but I never saw myself as a military man. I went to tech school to learn to operate computers and I was then sent to my first duty station, but through these months I still did not perceive I was a military man. It was obvious that I was in the military. I did all the military things, my clothes, my activities, where I lived, all this was military in nature. However, on the inside I still saw myself as a college kid.

Too often we still see ourselves as something we were or something we are not. Many Christians see themselves as sinners. They see the sin that so easily besets them and identify themselves with that sin. It is almost as though they wear a “G” sown to their shirt to signify that they are a gossip or whatever letter represents their sin. They do not wear a “C” for Christian because they do not perceive themselves as a Christian. Their perception has never changed. With this perception it is easy to underestimate oneself. To underestimate oneself is to underestimate ones salvation and limit God’s work in and through you.

This is not a correct perception for the Christian, we are not sinners. We are a new creation in Christ Jesus. We are the righteousness of God. We are sanctified forever. We should wear our “C” proudly! I know that we still have problems to deal with. We have sins at times. However, the reality of the situation for a Christian is far different from what most perceive.

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Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. 2 Cor. 5:17 (NKJV)

By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. Hebrews 10:10 (NKJV)

In the 31st chapter of Exodus we read of the great craftsmen that God gave Moses and the Jewish people for the building of the Tent of Meeting, The Ark of Testimony, The Mercy Seat and the priestly garments of ministry. Bazelel and Oholiah were called out by name as the skilled craftsman who would lead the creation of the magnificent structure, furniture, and tools. With them God put skill in the hearts of the skillful that there would be the other workers for this task.

Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: "See, I have called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. And I have filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship, to design artistic works, to work in gold, in silver, in bronze, in cutting jewels for setting, in carving wood, and to work in all manner of workmanship. And I, indeed I, have appointed with him Aholiab the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan; and I have put wisdom in the hearts of all who are gifted artisans, that they may make all that I have commanded you:

Exodus 31:1-6 (NKJV)

You all have areas of skill that God has placed in your heart. Those of you I know well, I have observed that you have great skills, musicians, administrators, working with cloth, teaching, preaching, sharing the Gospel, caring for others, and raising children just to name a few. You have skill because God has placed this skill in your heart. Just as God declared about Bezalel, He has filled you with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship. For Bazelel it was to design artistic works and all manner of workmanship, for you it is other areas.

For many of you God has filled you with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship for prayer. God has made you to be a man or woman of prayer. Not just to pray as others do, but to be a skilled craftsman of prayer. Unfortunately too many people have a wrong perception of themselves. They see everything except for what God has done. He has made them a new creation in Christ Jesus, but they do not perceive this. He has filled them with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship, but they do not perceive this. So they are left foundering along not fulfilling their calling or destiny.

Today there is more need for prayer than at any time in history. The need is so great that God even needs little old you! He has called to Himself a company of men and women to pray. That is why He has placed in your heart to pray. You may have a job, a career, a family, commitments, and so many things that you must do, but you have been called to pray. With your broken perceiver you have

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failed to understand what God has done for you and what He expects of you. He made you for prayer, He expects prayer from you. Get this down deep in your heart, God has filled you with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship so you can and will pray.

Let this revelation soak through every fiber of your being. Let this revelation permeate your thinking. Let this revelation shape and command your life, actions, and choices. You were called to pray and God has equipped you to pray. So pray! Many of you can respond to this by saying, “I do pray”. I know you do, but God’s call on your life is to be the Bezalel and Oholiah of prayer. You are called to be a great craftsman of prayer, the best! Do not let life and lies limit who you are and what you can do in prayer. Be the best!

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Philip. 4:13 (NKJV)

Let us Pray!

A Call for Prayer

This week I ask you to pray for pastors. There are several who we list here in *Voice of Thanksgiving* and I ask you to pray for them, but also to pray for your pastor. Please pray for wisdom, understanding, and knowledge. Pray for provision and protection, for them and their families. Pray for open doors of opportunity for sharing the Gospel for them and their church. Pray for signs and wonders to follow their preaching of the Gospel. Pray that they will be strong in the Lord and in His power and might.

Pray for:

- DK Limbu Daniel – Pastor of a church in Nepal and church planting among Nepalese people
- 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
- Mark Spencer – Pastor of church in Longmont, Colorado, worldwide ministry, and co-founder and leader of BBB Conference
- William Williamson – Pastor of church in Holly, Colorado
- The pastors of the Churches in Belarus – Growing number of churches in Belarus
- The pastors of the Churches in Lithuania – Growing number of churches in Lithuania
- Pray for your pastor

Basic Prayer Focus

Praying for Israel and the Peace of Jerusalem

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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

Continuing Faithful in Prayer

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

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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