

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of June 1, 2008

During the great Welsh Revival a minister was said to be very successful in winning souls by one sermon that he preached—hundreds were converted. Far away in a valley news reached a brother minister of the marvelous success of this sermon. He desired to find out the secret of the man's great success.—He walked the long way, and came to the minister's poor cottage, and the first thing he said was: "Brother, where did you get that sermon?" He was taken into a poorly furnished room and pointed to a spot where the carpet was worn threadbare, near a window that looked out upon the everlasting hills and solemn mountains and said, "Brother, there is where I got that sermon. My heart was heavy for men. One night I knelt there—and cried for power as I never preached before. The hours passed until midnight struck, and the stars looked down on a sleeping world, but the answer came not. I prayed on until I saw a faint streak of grey shoot up, then it was silver—silver became purple and gold. Then the sermon came and the power came and men fell under the influence of the Holy Spirit."—G. H. MORGAN

The Life of Prayer

Time to Upgrade

David Williamson

Have you recently upgraded your phone, your computer, your TV, your sound system, an appliance in your kitchen or some technology in your life? Most people this day and age answer that they just did upgrade or they are just getting ready to do so. Technology today is changing so fast that it is nearly impossible to keep up with what is new and improved. Faster, better, and more features are the driving force behind the desire to upgrade. This can be a disaster, if the pressure to upgrade rules our life. The cost of having to buy something new all the time is too expensive for most people. Constantly moving to a higher standard can be a problem in the world, but in the Christian life a call to a higher standard is an important part of our growth.

Have you noticed that God asks more of you now? This is a common experience in the Bible. In episode after episode in both the Old and New Testament, God asks more and more of men and women. He is bringing us to the fullness of the life He has planned for each of us. Jesus came to bring us life, and not just life but abundant life. God is calling for us to upgrade from the life we are living to the life He has prepared for us.

The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

John 10:10 (NKJV)

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The upgrade in the Christian life is God's call to a higher standard. The salvation we receive when we make Jesus Lord of our life is full and complete in every way, but the life most people live requires many upgrades. God is making us like Jesus, one upgrade at a time. Too often people live far below the high standard of God. It is like using a couple of tin cans and a string for a phone, when God is willing and able to provide us a cell phone and great calling plan. It is time for us to get rid of our cans and learn to use the phone!

Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.

Hebrews 6:1-2 (NKJV)

God's call to His standard, His higher standard for us, is always a call to do things His way. He does not call men or women to man's standard. People have longed for the freedom to walk in their self-selected standards; they long to do their own thing. This is true with living the Christian life. People want to make it a life they live, their way. Try as people may, God does not change and His standard is the same, it does not change.

The key here is the upgrade to God's standard. God is calling us up for our good in every aspect of our life. This includes improvement of our prayer life. The high standard of God calls for effective prayer. He has called us to pray, but now the upgrade to His higher standard calls for us to pray more effectively, prayers that avail much. For too long we have been satisfied with prayer as we have practiced prayer, but now we need to upgrade our prayers and our prayer life. Now the call is out for men and women who will pray the way God directs, using the methods God orders, and seeking what He wants. To complete the task that is before us, we must have prayer at a higher standard, we must be at God's standard.

This week seek God's guidance and direction for your prayer life. What is He saying to you about your daily walk? What is He saying about your prayer life? The Holy Spirit may focus on your prayer habits and practice. He may focus on the direction (or lack of direction) your prayers have been following. He may focus on your Christian life; perhaps a focus on walking holiness or faith. Now is the time for us to respond, the world around us needs men and women who pray. It needs you and me to be the best we can be in prayer. It is time for us to upgrade, it is time to come on up to God's high standard. The standard for great men and women of prayer; His high standard for us!

but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head--Christ--
Ephesians 4:15 (NKJV)

Let us Pray!

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A Call for Prayer

Normally I would give you a new prayer request for this week. I try to hear from God and be responsive to His will; this becomes A Call to Prayer. I am asking you to continue to pray for the same two areas as we did last week. Both of these areas of prayer have great import into the lives of many people. In some situations this is life and death, in others it is an important long term event. In both cases there is great and effective door of opportunity, but we must pray as there are adversaries to overcome.

For a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.

1 Corinthians 16:9 (NKJV)

Please pray for special opportunities for ministry. This summer there are coming many special events. These events are great times to share the Gospel. Some are the aftermath of disasters, such as the one we have been praying for with David and Marianne Dean. Other events are conferences and special meetings. We have been praying for the BBB conference and should continue to pray. There are others special conferences and events, like the Democratic National Convention which will be in Denver this summer. There is the Summer Olympics, and other national and regional events. Please pray for a preparation for the Gospel, that hearts of men and women would be ready to hear and receive the Gospel. That there would be opportunities to minister; this is easier said than done in some places. Pray for labors to prepare to be bold and effective ministers of the Gospel. Pray for meeting the costs in time and money so ministry teams can be effective.

Please continue to pray for David and Marianne Dean. They minister on college campuses in East Asia. They are safe and secure where they live; however, the focus of the world is on the disasters that have hit Asia so hard these last few weeks. There is so much to pray for in these areas, remember the rescue workers, the relief efforts, and provision of supplies for the victims of these disasters; please be lead by the Holy Spirit as to how 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

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

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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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