

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of June 15, 2008

I urge upon you communion with Christ a growing communion. There are curtains to be drawn aside in Christ that we never saw, and new foldings of love in him. I despair that I shall ever win to the far end of that love, there are so many plies in it. Therefore dig deep, and sweat and labor and take pains for him, and set by as much time in the day for him as you can. We will be won in the labor.—SAMUEL RUTHERFORD

The Life of Prayer

My Father's Voice

David Williamson

When I was a little boy I lived in a wonderful neighborhood. I had friends to play with and lots of interesting backyards to explore. I was free to roam all over the neighborhood and while I did not think about it at that time, I was safe and protected. My parents knew our neighbors and knew that the neighbors would watch over all of us boys as we played. My parents also knew they could call for me to come home and I would come running. My dad had an unusual whistle; it could be heard all over the neighborhood. When dad whistled, I knew I had to stop playing and run for home. At home my dad would be waiting for me. He would explain the next event of the day, often something like, "David, wash up for dinner" or "Time for bed".

Another great memory of this time of my life; was my dad tucking me in bed at night. I had a great bedroom and playroom in the basement and my dad would come down and sit on the edge of my bed and talk with me. When it was time for me to go to sleep, my dad would sing to me. He has a wonderful voice and I loved to hear him sing. This was a wonderful way to grow up and to enjoy my days. Today I am older, my dad has gone to be with the Lord (I think he still sings every day) and my life is a little more complicated than it was back in those first few years. Although some things have changed, I still long for my dad's voice, but now I enjoy my Father's voice.

Today, the voice I hear is the voice of my Heavenly Father. His voice is the one that affects my life now. My Father's voice comes to me in several ways. First and most common is from the pages of the Bible. Day-by-day He speaks, as He has to millions for centuries. The words of the Bible are more than just words they are the voice of the Father for all who can and will hear Him. Just like when I played as a child and then heard my dad whistle, so my Father's words leap off the page to me. If I will spend time with Him, if I will give Him an opportunity to speak, He will touch my life and situation with His special voice. When I got home from play, dad would hug me and I would know security, comfort, and encouragement. When my Father speaks I know these things and much more. My Father loves me so much and He speaks to the special need of my day. The voice of the Father is the voice of love and comfort.

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When I, as a little boy, bit the girls that lived down the street from us, I knew the voice of my dad as a voice of authority. The moment I got home, I knew that what I had done was wrong and that I would not do that again (and to this day I have not bit a girl since then). My Heavenly Father also speaks with a voice of authority. He makes it clear that I am not to do certain things. When I do He makes it clear that it is wrong and that is not how we do things around here. He corrects me and He may scold me, but there is never any indication that I am not His son. Sonship is forever. Even on the night after I bit the girls, my dad came downstairs to tuck me in. He and I talked and then he sang to me. I knew what I must not do, but I was confident and assured that my dad was my dad and he loved me. My Father assures me daily that I am His son and I am loved, but He is the voice of authority.

In our neighborhood there was a swimming pool. The families of the neighborhood owned the pool and so when it was time for me to have swimming lessons that is where we went. After a few days of lessons my dad took me to the pool to swim. He quickly determined that I did not have confidence in my swimming ability. I would splash around a little in the shallow water, but never far from the edge and security. To help me overcome this fear, dad asked me to swim out to him. He was just a few feet from where I was comfortable, but because this was my dad I started out to him. Unbeknownst to me he began to step back further and further into the deeper water. I swam out to him and was very surprised to find I was out in the middle of the pool and in the deep water, safe in his arms. My Father's voice is like that of my dad, He speaks guidance and direction, of knowledge and understanding. He knows what is best for me and the direction of the route to my success.

I get into trouble when I do not listen to Him. I get the idea at times that now that I am older and "mature" that I know what is best. I think I know what to do, how to do it, and even things like what to pray. I am very sophisticated and as I think this way I flounder around in the water and fail. However, when I stride out in my Father's guidance and with His direction I am able to accomplish great things. I may be in the deep water far from the edge of the pool, but I am safe in my Father's arms. My Father's voice is the voice of guidance and direction, of knowledge and understanding.

So what does this have to do with prayer? Everything! Only those who know the voice of their Heavenly Father can be effective in prayer. We must come to Him and come to know Him, if we will pray. He is the voice of love and comfort, the voice of authority, and the voice of guidance and direction, of knowledge and understanding. Without all of this our prayers will not be the effective, fervent prayers that avail much. We might stand on our own abilities, proclaiming great sounding prayers, but with these we will fail to change the world around us. With my Father, knowing His voice, and daily walking with His voice as my companion, I can walk in victory in prayer. Every day my Father will comfort me. Every day my Father will hold me and my prayers in His authority. Every day He will guide and direct my life and prayers. Success in prayer comes to those who come to know and experience the voice of the Father speaking into their life every day. Power in prayer comes from His authority. Usefulness in prayer comes from His love and comfort given to us. And efficacy in prayer comes from His guidance and direction.

Let us Pray!

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A Call for Prayer

Pray this week for you and me. Pray that we would step into the life of prayer as never before. Today there is great need for men and women of prayer. God has called you to pray; now you need, as do I, help to be all that we can be in Him and in prayer. The success of your venture, secular and spiritual, is bound to the efficacy of your prayers and the strength of your prayer life. As a ship can go no faster than the design of the sail and keel allow, so the minister or laborer, manager or worker, can have no more success than their prayers allow and provide. Pray that we will become a great ship of prayer, able to carry great loads and sail through the waters of life with power, strength, and skill. Pray that we will avail much!

Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. James 5:16 (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

Pray this week for the witnessing to people. Pray for the opportunities to share the Gospel. Pray for open doors. Pray for prepared heart to receive the Gospel. Pray for boldness to share.

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

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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. Now available as a book, ***Prayer: A Force that Causes Change – A Call to Prayer***. To order go to <http://voiceofthanksgiving.com/Book/Book.htm>.

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