

# Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of June 22, 2008

“It takes more of the power of the Spirit to make the farm, the home, the office, the store, the shop holy than it does to make the Church holy. It takes more of the power of the Spirit to make Saturday holy than to make Sunday holy. It takes much more of the power of the Spirit to make money for God than it does to make a talk for God. Much more to live a great life for God than to preach a great sermon.”—E. M. BOUNDS

## The Life of Prayer

### **Building Character Reference**

David Williamson

When I was in my 20s I enlisted in the US Air Force. After my basic and technical school training, I was sent to a base in Germany. I was scheduled to run a computer, but I did not have the security clearance that I needed for the data on the computer. So my commander had to ask for a background check by the FBI. While I was at home on leave, I visited my grandmother, and while there she received a call from an agent checking references (I had worked for my grandmother for a couple of summers). The first question was do you know David Williamson? We laughed for a long time at the agent's response when she said, "I know him and he is sitting here in my kitchen". The agent was very surprised to find I was in the States.

I relate this story because I still enjoy remembering the look on my grandmother's face and the laugh we had after she was finished with the agent. I also relate this story to make a point. To do the job I was asked to do I had to establish my character reference to the satisfaction of the FBI. If they were satisfied that I was a safe security risk, then I could do my job. The same is true in prayer. No, you do not have to have a FBI background check, but you need to build your character references. Let me give you an example of a character reference question. Luke in his book, Acts, tells of a time when the lack of character reference made men flee, naked and wounded.

***Now God worked unusual miracles by the hands of Paul, so that even handkerchiefs or aprons were brought from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out of them. Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists took it upon themselves to call the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, "We exorcise you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches." Also there were seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, who did so. And the evil spirit answered and said, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?" Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, overpowered them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. This became known both to all Jews and Greeks dwelling in Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified. Acts 19:11-17 (NKJV)***

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Many people cannot relate to this story; there is nothing they are doing that threatens the evil spirits or the Devil. So there is very little reason for them to be attacked. The Devil can just harass them as he sees opportunities; but he is under no pressure from them. However, there are others who work to make things better for others, they share the Gospel, they minister to the needs of others, and they work at living the Christian life, they are a threat to our enemy. Some people even pray; they pray effective, fervent prayers that avail much, now these people are a major threat. Without good character reference these people run the risk of being treated as the men in the story. If you are working for the Kingdom, especially in prayer, you do not want to be asked, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know, but who are you". We need to be identified as Christ's. There is no other identity by which we can stand and work. We must be in Him, this is our identification (the old man died!), this is our life, and it is in Him that we have strength and power to minister and pray.

***for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.'*** Acts 17:28 (NKJV)

So how do we build character reference? First and foremost is a relationship with Christ. We must be born again. There is no Christian except for those who are saved by faith in Jesus Christ. We become new creations. When the FBI did a background check on me for my job in the military, my character reference began with my nationality. If I was from the Soviet Union there is no way they would have given me clearance. Success in prayer requires a character reference of a Christian, there is no need to go further if this is not true.

There are other character references for prayer. Read through this list and see how you stack-up. If the Holy Spirit checked your references for prayer would you get clearance to pray?

Do you seek God with all your heart?

***Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.*** Jeremiah 29:12-13 (NKJV)

Do you pray in faith?

***So Jesus answered and said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but also if you say to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' it will be done. And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive."*** Matthew 21:21-22 (NKJV)

***And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.*** James 5:15 (NKJV)

Do you pray according to God's will?

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***Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.*** 1 John 5:14-15 (NKJV)

Are you abiding in Christ?

***If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.*** John 15:7 (NKJV)

Do you humble yourself so you can pray?

***if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.*** 2 Chron. 7:14 (NKJV)

***When He avenges blood, He remembers them; He does not forget the cry of the humble.***  
Psalm 9:12 (NKJV)

Are you walking in the righteousness of Christ?

***The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their cry.***  
Psalm 34:15 (NKJV)

***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)

There are more areas of the Christian life and prayer life that we could examine, but this is a good start. You might want to share the results of these questions with your personal prayer trainer, the Holy Spirit. You and He could determine if there are areas where you need to step-up, clean-up, or grow-up? Also remember that there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. We learn from this and grow from this, but it does not condemn us.

*Let us Pray!*

## **A Call for Prayer**

Pray this week for finances for the end time revival outreach to the people of the earth. There is coming soon an outreach such as the world has never seen; people from every nation hearing the Gospel. This will be a huge effort and will require finances for much of this ministry. Pray this week for the finances to meet this coming need.

## **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

## Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

*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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