

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of August 2, 2008

I suspect I have been allotting habitually too little time to religious exercises as private devotion, religious meditation, Scripture reading, etc. Hence I am lean and cold and hard. God would perhaps prosper me more in spiritual things if I were to be more diligent in using the means of grace. I had better allot more time, say two hours or an hour and a half, to religious exercises daily, and try whether by so doing I cannot preserve a frame of spirit more habitually devotional, a more lively sense of unseen things, a warmer love to God, and a greater degree of hunger and thirst after righteousness, a heart less prone to be soiled with worldly cares, designs, passions, and apprehension and a real undissembled longing for heaven, its pleasures and its purity.—William Wilberforce

The Life of Prayer

Trust

David Williamson

Many years ago, in the days of 29¢ a gallon gasoline, there was a gas company that touted their reliability and expertise in providing good gas that would help your car. The symbol of this company was a big red star. They said, “You can trust the Man who wears the star...” Few people would make that kind of claim for a gas company today, and we can debate the efficacy of the claim then, but trust was the big sales point. For me, growing up, the man who wore the star of trust was my dad. I knew that I could count on whatever he said, it was true, it was correct, and it was what he would do. Working with him in business confirmed what I had believed for years. Dad would do what is right, even to his own hurt. Dad was a great model of God for me. He was a man and so he fell short of the perfection of God, but in the area of trust he was outstanding. I could trust my dad, but of far greater trust is our Father, God. He alone is always faithful, there is never a time when we cannot trust Him.

Trust should be the nature of a man of God as it is the nature of God. Jesus demonstrated this, He was trust worthy and He fully trusted God. In everything He did He placed Himself fully in God’s hands. As a result of Jesus’ trust, God was able to do great things with Him. For example, He heard Jesus’ prayers and always answered them. Trust was one of the keys to Jesus’ success walking as a man here on earth. Trust is an essence of the nature of God and the life of Jesus. It is also an essence of a powerful prayer life.

E. M. Bounds suggested a list of essentials for a meaningful prayer life. This is what he saw as the essence of prayer. He gave the following as, “The essentials of a meaningful prayer life are: faith, trust, desire, fervency, persistence, good character and conduct, obedience, and vigilance.” The first essence is faith, the essence of everything in the Christians life begins with faith, the second essence, trust, is close behind.

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Trust begins by knowing the other party. We trust those we know are reliable. The same is true in the Christian life and in the prayer life, we can trust because of who God is. He is always reliable. His nature never changes and He cannot lie. What He has said He will do, He does and He has made many wonderful promises to us.

For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day. 2 Tim. 1:12 (NKJV)

Trust grows with relationship. I cannot remember a time when I did not trust my dad, but my trust was strong because it had grown with our relationship. The longer I knew my dad the stronger the trust. I had seen him in tough places and knew from experience that I could trust him. This should also be true with our trust of God. By definition of whom and what God is, we can trust God, but we must also know we can trust Him by experience. David had experienced trusting in God.

I have been young, and now am old; Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, Nor his descendants begging bread. Psalm 37:25 (NKJV)

Trust comes from knowing God and from experiencing His trustworthy nature; we also have His word on it. The Bible is filled with examples of trusting God and in each one the man or woman was wise to trust Him. Recorded in the Bible are also His promises supporting our confidence that we can trust Him.

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. Hebrews 10:23 (NKJV)

Behold, this day I am going the way of all the earth. And you know in all your hearts and in all your souls that not one thing has failed of all the good things which the Lord your God spoke concerning you. All have come to pass for you; not one word of them has failed. Joshua 23:14 (NKJV)

Blessed be the Lord, who has given rest to His people Israel, according to all that He promised. There has not failed one word of all His good promise, which He promised through His servant Moses. 1 Kings 8:56 (NKJV)

God is trustworthy, but how does this translate into one of the essence of a powerful prayer life. Knowing God can be trusted we can draw close to Him and learn to trust. We learn by developing and practicing a close relationship with God in worship and prayer.

saying with a loud voice, "Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water." Rev. 14:7 (NKJV)

Voice of Thanksgiving

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And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life. 1 John 5:20 (NKJV)

We also grow in trust as we read and study the things God has done for other men and women. We are reminded that there is nothing new under the sun. The temptations, trials, and tribulations that have tried us have been conquered by others. They have walked closer and closer to God and come to trust Him with their family, possessions, ministry, and even their life. We can trust Him with all we have as well. We can even trust Him to bring answers to our prayers.

Prayer must be about trust; we trust God to save us, we trust God to deliver us, and we must trust God to answer our prayers. This trust grows from building a relationship with God. Trust is cultivated by knowing His nature and His promises. It matures by experience, trusting Him in difficult times and places. Our trust becomes strong by knowing He has been trustworthy to many people before us and knowing He will be trustworthy for us. As trust, one of the essences of a powerful prayer life, grows we can pray with great confidence. We move a little closer to being like Jesus. When He prayed He knew God heard Him and answered. We can trust Him to bring us to this same place in prayer.

O Israel, trust in the Lord; He is their help and their shield. O house of Aaron, trust in the Lord; He is their help and their shield. You who fear the Lord, trust in the Lord; He is their help and their shield. Psalm 115:9-11 (NKJV)

Let us Pray!

A Call for Prayer

Pray for Israel. The situation is dangerous and may soon be desperate for this land, nation, and people. They face the scorn and condemnation of the world. They stand nearly friendless and without reliable help. They also are blind to the true answer to their plight, the Messiah Jesus Christ. We are to be watchmen on the walls praying for Jerusalem, Israel, and for the return of these people to God. Please pray for Israel, remember, if we will be about His business, He will watch over ours.

I have set watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; They shall never hold their peace day or night. You who make mention of the Lord, do not keep silent, Isaiah 62:6 (NKJV)

Also, I set watchmen over you, saying, 'Listen to the sound of the trumpet!' But they said, 'We will not listen.' Jeremiah 6:17 (NKJV)

For there shall be a day When the watchmen will cry on Mount Ephraim, 'Arise, and let us go up to Zion, To the Lord our God.' Jeremiah 31:6 (NKJV)

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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

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

Charles and Janice Wilson – Pastors in Wyola Montana

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Voice of Thanksgiving is published in a weekly version in English. *Voice of Thanksgiving* is also published monthly in German, Polish, and coming soon in Russian. You may want to read the new book on prayer, based on articles from *Voice of Thanksgiving, Prayer: A Force that Causes Change – A Call to Prayer*. To order go to <http://voiceofthanksgiving.com/Book/Book.htm>.

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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