

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of August 17, 2008

Satan dreads nothing but prayer. The Church that lost its Christ was full of good works. Activities are multiplied that meditation may be ousted, and organizations are increased that prayer may have no chance. Souls may be lost in good works, as surely as in evil ways. The one concern of the devil is to keep the saints from praying. He fears nothing from prayerless studies, prayerless work, prayerless religion. He laughs at our toil, mocks at our wisdom, but trembles when we pray. Samuel Chadwick

The Life of Prayer

Fervency

David Williamson

I worked with a man who was fervent. He had been a marine and I knew him as a football (American football) coach. I lived and breathed football. I love working with the boys, love planning, practice, and the games. He loved every aspect of football especially winning. We coach the junior varsity team together for one year. At the beginning of the year we were not a very good team. We lost each game. After one of the losses this man just was so upset. We began to talk about what to do and he finally had had enough. He called a special practice for that Saturday. That practice was when his fervency came out. He was all over the practice field talking to everyone, pushing boy to work harder. He did not yell, but he was so fervent that everyone responded; even the other coaches were better. Boys who had been a rag tag group of boys became men in one practice. By the end of the practice we were a team and ready to take on anyone. We did not lose another game the rest of the year!

What makes for a meaningful prayer life? Last week we took a quick look at desire. Desire is on E. M. Bound's list for essentials of a meaningful prayer life. The others are faith, trust, fervency, persistence, good character and conduct, obedience, and vigilance. Desire is important, but it needs to be tied to another essential to be powerful in a prayer life. In last week's issue we noted how men had tapped into the power of steam. This power was harnessed to make the locomotive for moving materials and people. The power comes from steam; fire and water are the ingredients of steam. In much the same way fervency and desire are key ingredients of power in prayers. Together they bring great power to our prayer life.

Mid way through the football season my friend, the football coach, allowed the power of his fervency for football and for winning change our team. He had never coached a team that did not have a winning season and he was not about to start. Beginning with that special practice he changed us to a winning team. From that moment on it did not matter who we played against we were going to win. We all became fervent in our attitude about football, we were going to win. It was not mental assent, we knew deep in our heart that we would win.

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We need desire to have our prayers answered, that is required for a powerful prayer life. We must couple that desire with a fervency that knows that our prayers are answered. Many people do not have desire, because do not understand the power of prayer. They fail to believe God's promises. Others desire answers, they hope for answers. This is a positive step toward a powerful prayer life, but it is not enough. Desire must be coupled with fervency.

Desire and fervency together make the power for answers to our prayers. They work together by faith. All of the essentials work by faith. We must believe that God is and that He is a rewarder. We believe that desire for answers coupled with fervent expectation of answers brings our faith into focus to receive God's reward, answers to prayer. It is a formula for a successful prayer life.

Do you desire to have answers to your prayers? If you answered that question with a yes answer, that is good. Now mix fervency with your desire. Are you willing to do this? I believe you are, but you may be asking, where does fervency come from? Fervency is caught. It comes from drawing close to God. It comes from building a close relationship, and catching the fire of God's fervency.

But it is good for me to draw near to God; I have put my trust in the Lord God, That I may declare all Your works. Psalm 73:28 (NKJV)

let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Hebrews 10:22 (NKJV)

God is fervent about our prayers and the success of our prayer life. He has chosen to have men and women move his hand by their prayers. We see His fervency in the sacrifice of Jesus for our sins. God was so fervent about His love for mankind that He gave His best, His Son for us. The flames of His fire of His fervency still burns bright. If we will draw near to Him, His fervency will leap onto our heart and burn hot and strong, causing fervency that will transform prayers from ritual to resolve. This is the fervency that brings about effective prayers that avail much.

The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. James 5:16 (NKJV)

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 in Longmont, Colorado, worship leader, and artist with a great new CD

William Williamson – Pastor of church in Holly, Colorado

Charles and Janice Wilson – Pastors in Wyola, Montana

David Williamson- Editor of *Voice of Thanksgiving* and author of books on prayers

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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