

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of September 14, 2008

“If Jacob’s desire had been given him in time for him to get a good night’s sleep he might never have become the prince of prayers we know today. If Hannah’s prayer for a son had been answered at the time she set for herself, the nation might never have known the mighty man of God it found in Samuel. Hannah wanted only a son, but God wanted more. He wanted a prophet, and a saviour, and a ruler for His people. Someone said that ‘God had to get a woman before He could get a man.’ This woman He got in Hannah precisely by those weeks and months and years there came a woman with a vision like God’s, with tempered soul and gentle spirit and a seasoned will, prepared to be the kind of a mother for the kind of a man God knew the nation needed.”—W. E. Binderwolf

The Life of Prayer

Good Character and Conduct – Razor Sharp

David Williamson

Last week we looked at one of the essences of an effective prayer life, good character and conduct, but I believe we should return to this topic one more time. For too long we have allowed our expectations concerning good character and conduct to be lowered. In our headlong pursuit of being relevant to the world, so they will listen to us, we have weakened our standards for living life before God (and thus lost our relevance). Too many Christians live their life as though, “good as most, better than some” was okay. If we lived in a Christian society where the general standard was very high, this attitude might not be too bad. But, we don’t, we live in a worldly society where the norm is decadence and evil. To be as “good as most” is to be sinful. Even “better than some” leaves much room for iniquity and decadence. If we are going to have power in prayer we must live to a much higher standard. Power in prayer comes to those who seek God with their whole heart.

In a study of prayer in the Old Testament a peculiar feature is seen; the reaction and actions concerning prayer, of wicked and evil men. Evil as they were, these men believed in the power of prayer. As E. M. Bound writes, “They [the evil men] knew certain men as men of prayer, who believed in God, who were favored of God and who prayed unto God. They recognized these men as having influence with God in averting wrath and in giving deliverance from evil.” When the evil men were in trouble, when there were threats, or evil was upon them, they called on men of prayer for help. Although they had turned from God to do evil, they still saw prayer as a means of deliverance from their troubles and called for prayer from the men of God. They asked for prayers and often got answers from God, through the prayers of these men of prayer.

We see this type of respect for prayer occasionally today, it is still common for people to call from their deathbed for a priest or pastor to come and pray for them. But why does it take the rattle of the death knoll to bring them to request prayer? Could it be the problem is with us? Have we so

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

watered down the efficacy of prayer that there is no reason or perceived necessity, to call for prayer? What is the influence of the church, if there is no reason for people, saint or sinner, to call for prayer?

One part of this problem is the lack of good character and conduct of the church. I am not speaking of the notable case of the down fall of prominent men and women that is paraded before all by the media; this is a problem and a bad situation. However, of more importance is the problem with the church in general and men and women of prayer specifically. If a sinner came to his senses and sought prayer to God, would he know where to go and who to ask for prayer in your town? I do not mean to condemn, but to call us to a higher standard in our prayer life. Shouldn't there be a communication network that knows of a man or woman of prayer. When people, sinner or saint, face trouble and ask for prayer, would people say, "I know a man", or "I know a woman, you can go to. They will pray and reach God for you". If someone asked for prayer in your town would people mention your name?

Oswald Chamber's famous book title sums up the need we have today; it is entitled, "My Utmost, for His Highest". We need to walk with utmost character and conduct so we can reach God for His highest in answers to prayer. It is the man or woman who will seek to be perfect, even in our frailty and failings, before God, so he can pray with power and to great effect, who will have great success in prayer. This is the person the world will seek when they need answers. This is the person God seeks to bring His answers.

When I was a teenager I worked during my time off from school for my grandparents. They ran a gift shop and mail order business. We would send out orders all over America and the world. One very popular item was a small round hand towel with a bow for hanging it on the front of a cabinet. My grandfather and I would cut stacks of terrycloth for workers who would sew a rickrack border and a tie to the terrycloth to complete the towel. My grandfather made an adjustment to a power jigsaw so we could attach a cut-throat razor blade and cut fifty layers of terrycloth in one pass. To use the razor blade it had to be very sharp, so before you could cut you would use a leather strop on the blade. This is where I first saw and practiced sharpening of a blade with a strop.

For centuries men have been getting up every morning and shaving their face whiskers. For years they used a straight razor, sometimes called an open razor or cut-throat razor. A man could get up and splash some soap and water on his face and use the razor to cut off his growth of whiskers. However, this was not the way most men would do it, because this was very uncomfortable and not very safe. The correct way was to strop the blade and make it as sharp as possible. Once the stropping was completed, the man could get a close, safe, and comfortable shave.

We can live like the world, concerning character and conduct, and have weak, anemic prayers, if we pray at all. Or we can allow God to strop us so we are razor sharp. An important part of God's stropping is dealing with our character and conduct. He wants us to be perfect without nick or blemish, ready for powerful, effective prayer. We need to commit ourselves to God and to His

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

working to make us glorious, without spot or wrinkle. He is calling for a holy people fully committed to Him. If we will live day-by-day so He can sharpen us to have great character and conduct, we can be powerful in prayer. He longs for us to be razor sharp for prayer.

that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. Ephes. 5:27 (NKJV)

And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear; knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. 1 Peter 1:17-19 (NKJV)

For every tree is known by its own fruit. For men do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they gather grapes from a bramble bush. A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks. Luke 6:44-45 (NKJV)

Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God. And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. 1 John 3:21-22 (NKJV)

Let us Pray!

A Call for Prayer

Pray for Israel and Jerusalem. Pray for peace and for protect for the land and city. Pray for the Jewish people to see their Messiah, Jesus Christ as Lord.

DK Limbu Daniel – Pastor of a church in Nepal and church planting among Nepalese people asks for special prayer. He asks, would you put these prayer matters in VoT please?

1. We have big problem of flood in east Nepal displaced over 25000 families and relief needed.
2. Our students left today for 1 month mission work; pray for safety, guidance and needs to be met.
3. God's grace for our ministry.
4. We are going to help our 9 churches to build worship buildings; pray for God's provision.
5. We have up coming programs in Oct 2-4, 8-9, Nov. 25-27th, Dec. 16-20th. Pray for the meeting of all needs and the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

Thanks, May God bless you! Deu K. Limbu

Basic Prayer Focus

Pray for Israel and the Peace of Jerusalem

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

Pray for the reaching of Souls from Every Nation

Pray for the government of your country (so we can live peaceably and the Gospel can be preached)

Pray 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

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

Voice of Thanksgiving is published in a weekly version in English. *Voice of Thanksgiving* is also published monthly in German and Polish. 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>.

- ✓ For an archive of past articles, short notes and studies on prayer, and other information go to www.voiceofthanksgiving.com
- ✓ For a shortcut to *Stimme der Dankbarkeit* the German version go to: <http://voiceofthanksgiving.com/SdDPPage.htm>
- ✓ For a shortcut to *Głos Dziękczynienia* the Polish version go to: <http://voiceofthanksgiving.com/VoTPPage.htm>
- ✓ 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