

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of November 9, 2008

I desire above all things to learn to pray. We want to sound the reveille for the Christian warriors. We desire to find truth of the lack of real praying. What is it? Why is it? Why so little time spent in prayer when Christ, who had command of His time, chose to spend great part of it in INTERCESSION? "He ever liveth to make intercession for us." We believe the answer to be the desire is in the heart, but the will is undisciplined, the motive is present, but the affections have not melted under hours of heavenly meditation; the intellect is keen, yet not for hours of tireless research. The intellect and the affections have never been linked together by the sealing of the blessed Holy Ghost to do or die for God's glory in the secret places, with doors shut, lusts crucified.

Homer W. Hodge

The Life of Prayer

Will

David Williamson

There is a story told about a little boy having breakfast with his father. You may have heard this story or a version of it, but it is a great story to help illustration our article today. In this story the little boy is standing in his chair. His father has fixed him a bowl of cereal and he wants the boy to sit down and eat. The little boy says no he will not sit down. The father repeats his command, "Sit down." The little boy again refuses. The father, in his commanding voice says, "Sit down!!!!!!" The little boy sits down, but says, "I may be sitting down on the outside, but I am still standing on the inside."

One of the keys to success in prayer and an important ingredient in long term prayer is our will. One of the problems that often hinder prayers is lack of will to pray. People choose not to pray, people do not make prayer a high priority, and people are casual about continuing in prayer if they begin. For these and many other reasons people by their will, or lack of will, do not prayer or fail to be effective in prayer. We use our will every day. It is a key to living life. We must make choices and decisions and often these are reflections of our will in our life. I want this, or desire this; these are a result of the expression of our will. We will to buy a new car. We will to change jobs. We will to eat healthy. I will pray.

The man or woman who will be powerful in prayer must make a choice of the will to make what they will become a reality and not just a wish. I will pray. I will make time to pray. I will read and study my Bible so I will have faith for prayer. I will be faithful in prayer. I will believe God in prayer. I will, becomes an important key to an accomplishment in prayer. Without a strong will to do things and to do them God's way, we will not pray effective, fervent prayers that avail much, nor will we pray long term. You must set our will to do the correct things and then do it.

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As important a key as this is in prayer, this is not what I want to look at in this article. For long term and effective prayer we must deal with the problem of the will. What I am talking about is the conflict between, my will and God's will. The battle of the will is one of the most fundamental for success in life and in effective prayer. From the time of The Fall in the Garden men have been rebellious; seeking to run their life as they please.

This was the final temptation for Jesus. In the Garden of Gethsemane, as He prayed the question of will came up. No sane man would want to go to the cross, especially if they knew what to expect as Jesus did, (it was spelled out in prophecies in the Bible). In the Garden of Eden, Adam decided on his will over God's will. In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus decided on God's will over His own.

And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and prayed, saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done." Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him. And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. Luke 22:41-44 (NKJV)

And He took Peter, James, and John with Him, and He began to be troubled and deeply distressed. Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch." He went a little farther, and fell on the ground, and prayed that if it were possible, the hour might pass from Him. And He said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will." Mark 14:33-36 (NKJV)

We face this same battle, the battle of our will. This battle is fundamental to success in life and effective prayer. As long as we choose our will over God's will we are limited and hindered in all we do. However, we can and should win this battle; we should yield our will to God's will. When we were born again we became a new creation in Christ.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. 2 Cor. 5:17 (NKJV)

We are a new creation and have a new life. However, the flesh does not know when it is dead. It continues to attempt to foster mutiny. It uses every opportunity to bring rebellion; trying to assert personal will over the will of God. Jesus battled and won and we must also, will our will rule over God's will or will we yield to His will? To win this battle Jesus willingly went to the cross. He was obedient to God's will. We must go to the cross as well.

I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. Galatians 2:20 (NKJV)

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Crucified with Christ is the first step in this battle. Without this, the battle of the wills is lost. With this, the will of God can and should be victorious. However, every day the flesh will try again to take control. The Devil will come to tempt us. We must present our bodies as living sacrifices to God, and a key and basic part of this is submitting our will to God's will.

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. Romans 12:1-2 (NKJV)

The battle of wills is a key to success in life and effective prayer. Today, it is a well hidden secret for most people; there are so many other more glamorous things to talk about and do. This is why much of what we try to do is weak and ineffective. The anointed power of prayer comes to the man or woman praying the will of God. This is what is desperately needed by the Body of Christ. Will you join with Jesus and declare, "Not my will but Your will be done".

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)

Let us Pray!

A Call for Prayer

Pray for the President Elect of the United States, Barack Obama. Pray for wise counselors and wise decisions as he prepares to become President in January.

Basic Prayer Focus

Pray for Israel and the Peace of Jerusalem

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

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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

Lori Farquhar – Children’s Ministry Director

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 Cedaredge, Colorado

Charles and Janice Wilson – Pastors in Wyola, Montana

David Williamson – Editor of *Voice of Thanksgiving*

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Voice of Thanksgiving is published in a weekly version in English. *Voice of Thanksgiving* is also published monthly in German and Polish and is available in book form, *Prayer: A Force that Causes Change – A Call to Prayer*.

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