

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of November 16, 2008

Our sanctification does not depend upon changing our works, but in doing that for God's sake which we commonly do for our own. The time of business does not with me differ from the time of prayer. Prayer is nothing else but a sense of the presence of God.—Brother Lawrence

The Life of Prayer

Forgiveness

David Williamson

When I was a teenager, which was many years ago, I bought some books from a company by mail. It was a program where they sent books and if I like them I could keep them and pay for them. The first books were fine, but then there were some problems and I tried to stop the program. They did not want to stop and it end up as not a good situation. This left a bad taste in my mouth and for years I vowed that I would never buy anything from this company, books or anything else.

A few years ago I was watching TV and notice a commercial for some Christian music CDs. Then I noticed that the CDs were produced by this company I had dealt with many years ago. I changed the channel and then realized that I was still angry with this company. For more than 35 years I had been angry with this company. I had to deal with the anger, but more important I had to forgive.

This was very hard; they had hurt me so bad I was still angry 35 years later. Looking back at this it was not that big of a deal, but once I was hurt, or felt I was hurt, there needed to be forgiveness on my part, for them but to help me. Unforgiveness is like chains keeping us from God and limiting power in prayer. We place ourselves in this situation by not forgiving and without forgiveness we lack the freedom to go to the Father as freely as we should. Unforgiveness is like a wall of separation between us and our Father. Without forgiveness we limit our faith. Just as unbelief limits faith, so does unforgiveness. Unforgiveness opens the door to doubt. One of the key conditions for success in prayer is to keep from doubting.

So Jesus answered and said to them, "Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them. "And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses." Mark 11:22-26 (NKJV)

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When we talk about effective prayer or about conditions for success in long term prayer, we must include forgiveness. Forgiveness is one of the keys to successful, effective prayer. Jesus makes this very clear, however this is one of those things we do not do well, and often it hinders our life and our prayers. If we hold unforgiveness we cannot pray effectively.

Too often we give lip service only to forgiveness. We say, "I forgive you," but in our heart we have judged, found guilty, and are ready to bring the sentence. On the inside we are saying, "God get him". This is not forgiveness and it limits our prayers. True forgiveness is coming to the point where even in our heart we desire blessing on the one who has wronged us. When we can pray with all fervency and honesty for a blessing for the other person, just as we would pray for a blessing for our self, then we have forgiven.

It is important for us to search our hearts, by the guidance of the Holy Spirit to see if we are holding unforgiveness against someone or some group. Forgiveness requires a change of heart (ask the Father for help with this) and it may take action on your part (the Holy Spirit will direct your actions). Break the chains that have held you captive, that have keep you from effective prayer, forgive.

Let us Pray!

A Call for Prayer

Pray for plans for the holiday season. Ask that opportunities to reach out to our communities; would be included in our celebrations. Ask that many people would come to our services. Pray that we would have many opportunities to share the Gospel. Pray that we would boldly proclaim the message as we should.

Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving; meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains, that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.

Col. 4:2-4 (NKJV)

and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak. Ephes. 6:19-20 (NKJV)

Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified, just as it is with you, 2 Thes. 3:1 (NKJV)

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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

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*.

- ✓ For an archive of past articles, copies of the German and Polish editions, short notes and studies on prayer, and other information, or to order copies of *Prayer: A Force that Causes Change – A Call to Prayer* go to www.voiceofthanksgiving.com
- ✓ If you have questions you may email me at: dave@voiceofthanksgiving.com