

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of March 8, 2009

But above all he excelled in prayer. The inwardness and weight of his spirit, the reverence and solemnity of his address and behavior, and the fewness and fullness of his words have often struck even strangers with admiration as they used to reach others with consolation. The most awful, living, reverend frame I ever felt or beheld, I must say, was his prayer. And truly it was a testimony. He knew and lived nearer to the Lord than other men, for they that know him most will see most reason to approach him with reverence and fear.—WILLIAM PENN OF GEORGE FOX

The Life of Prayer

Through Jesus Christ

David Williamson

When I was a boy we lived in a house that had been a farm. One of the highlights of living there was watering the front lawn. A few times each summer we would have the use of water flowing through the ditch. We would place a canvas barrier; the water would fill the ditch and overflow on to our lawn. This was interesting to do, but the best part was playing in the water as it flowed all over the yard. It was not high tech, but it was effective and great fun. The process was very simple and has been used for centuries; raise the level of the water until it flows down over the edge of the ditch and covers all of the land you want to water. It is very simple and very practical; the water can be directed where it is needed and you could water very deep and effectively.

In salvation and prayer we need this same type of overflowing from God. Like the farmer knowing the need of his crop and bring water to the need, so God saw the need of sinful man and brought His great remedy to this need. He continues to bring remedy to our needs through prayer. The provision for man, for life and prayer, is seen in this prayer Paul has written to the Romans. Paul first brought thanks, his normal and constant starting point for prayer and life. He directs His prayer not to some god who is far off, but to “my God”. His God is his by covenant relationship, personal relationship, eternal election, everlasting love, redemption, surrender, without doubting, hesitancy, or uncertainty, and by practical relationship. In the prayer written to the Romans, Paul presents us with a grand combination, “I thank” and “my God”. What a wonderful union. This union of “I thank” and “my God” is made possible by the work of Jesus Christ. The next words of this prayer are “through Jesus Christ”.

First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world. Romans 1:8 (NKJV)

“Through Jesus Christ” is the most important words in prayer. Paul can write this prayer only “through Jesus Christ” and it is a prayer to the Father only “through Jesus Christ”. Without the work of Jesus there is no effective prayer. Without Jesus Christ we cannot come up to God and He cannot come down to us. Without Jesus there is no fellowship, no communication, and no prayer.

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God is far beyond all we can hope or imagine. His love is beyond all compare. His power far exceeds our greatest fantasy. His mercy is beyond the highest reaches of even the heavens. His faithfulness reaches to the clouds. His righteousness is like a great mountain and His judgments have great depth. The psalmist and writers since have tried, but failed, to fully capture the grander, majesty, goodness, righteousness, and power of God. Only the megalomaniac would presume to be on par with God. The gulf between God and fallen man is beyond imagination, and all efforts to bridge this gap, except through Jesus Christ, fail.

Your mercy, O Lord, is in the heavens; Your faithfulness reaches to the clouds. Your righteousness is like the great mountains; Your judgments are a great deep; O Lord, You preserve man and beast. Psalm 36:5-6 (NKJV)

The other side of the equation “through Jesus Christ” is just as important. Fallen man is trapped in his sin and without remedy to fix his predicament. Without a touch from God, a sinful man must die. Yet to come into the presence of God, as a sinful man, is death as well. If the sinful man sees at all, he comes to the point of desperation, just as Paul wrote to the Romans; ***“O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?”*** (Romans 7:24). This horrible quandary has but one solution, “through Jesus Christ”. Without the work of Jesus Christ a sinful man could not come up to God. Hidden in sin, man has no means of access to God. Except by the way, the life and the truth, that is, through Jesus Christ, no man can come to God.

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. John 14:6 (NKJV)

Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, and having a High Priest over the house of God, 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. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. Hebrews 10:19-23 (NKJV)

If we lose sight of this great truth our prayers will suffer. It is not by happenstance that Paul includes this great phrase in this strategic location in this prayer. Between God and man must always be “through Jesus Christ”. Any effort of man, any prayer of man that does not focus on, does not hinge on “through Jesus Christ” will fail.

If we are going to pray effectively, we must maintain the correct relationship between “my God” and my self. I am always fully dependent on the work of Jesus Christ. I have no standing before God without the efficacy of the blood of the Lamb. His washing and His covering is necessary for my entrance to God. We have been called to come boldly before the throne of God, but this is only possible “through Jesus Christ”. If we come any other way, to be before the throne, is death. Remember the story of Queen Esther, though she was a queen still to go before the king without his

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summons was death. (She willingly offered herself for the Jewish people and by the grace of the king did not die (see Esther chapter 4).

Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Philippians 3:12-14 (NKJV)

It is by the grace of our Father, “through Jesus Christ” that we can come to the Father. This is the upward call of God through Christ Jesus. Through Jesus Christ we can come boldly to the Father and obtain mercy and grace, the help we need. Too few people have taken this bold place. Some have chosen to presume upon God and try to come by their own ways and means. They presume to be holy enough to come before God. They venture to earn their way before God. They rely on their own views, assumptions, and theories to claim access to the Father. Others have thrown in the towel and do not pray, they assume man cannot come before God. Some people even claim to believe there is no God to come before, but their foolishness is manifest.

Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV)

Regardless of the faulty, wicked, lazy, or misguided thoughts of man, the way has been prepared for man to come to God, “through Jesus Christ”. We must take that way and pray because “through Jesus Christ” is the work of God for man. “Through Jesus Christ”, God touches man. God brings His great and awesome power to work on behalf of man. By the prayer of men and women, “through Jesus Christ”, God meets the needs of people. This second part of Paul’s prayer is so powerful that few people believe it is possible. The creative power of God is used for the benefit and assistance of those who will pray.

Once again there are many who do not take the opportunity presented by God. They do not pray expecting God to answer and more importantly, for God to bring His power and might, with and through His answers. Paul when he prays declares that “through Jesus Christ” the power of God is brought down from Heaven and applicable to the needs of man. Like the farmer flooding his field with water, so God floods us with his answers, powerful, timely, and effective answers, if we will come to Him “through Jesus Christ”.

“Through Jesus Christ” prayer is available and powerful. Jesus takes us on the upward call to God. He also brings down the power of God to our prayers. I am blessed “through Jesus Christ” so I can pray. I am powerful “through Jesus Christ” in my prayers. This takes my breath away, what could be better than access to God to pray. And what could surpass the power of God in my prayers.

Let us Pray!

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A Call for Prayer

Pray for the salvation of men, women and children. Pray for ministries, churches, and outreaches. Pray for opportunities for sharing the message and opening of hearts to respond to the Gospel message.

From Pastor Daniel in Nepal - We have good reports to share with you and boost you in the Lord Jesus Christ. The month of January was very busy month for traveling and conferences. We had our annual ministry convention where over 150 leaders and members gathered. We could not continue our Indian mission field because of difficulty in area and finance. But good news is we have expanded in Nepal itself. We could go to west Nepal. We also dedicated new church building in Itahari east Nepal.

We had healing meetings in different areas in February and we have encountered healings, miracles from the Lord causing many souls to come to the kingdom of God. We have traveled to west Nepal mountainous area where we have started a church last year. That church is now growing very fast and reaching other villages. They are going to open 4 new fellowships in new villages. Two students are studying in our Bible School and are ready to minister in their areas. We have dedicated new church building in Joor, Masina, Rolpa. We had healing meeting and many received healing and delivered from sicknesses.

In the past three months more than 120 people received Jesus Christ as their Savior and are attending Church and we have had 35 baptisms through out our ministry. We have begun Radio ministry twice in a week, 'the Message of New Life' reaching Kathmandu valley, and some eastern parts of Nepal.

And now our upcoming programs:

I am traveling to Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand from March 7th-23rd. mainly I will be ministering to Nepalese working there. Our two native missionaries will leave for their mission fields in 15th March one to Everest region and another to Palpa. I have conference for emerging leaders in Bharatpur in March 29-30th.

April is my busy month in the ministry.

8-10th - healing rally in in Pathari, east Nepal.

11-13th - Church building dedication/healing meeting in Yasok eastern mountain, Panchthar.

14-15th - Church dedication/healing meeting in Lalkhola, Ilam, interior parts of foot hills.

16-17th - meetings in Serjung,

19-20th - Namjang, Terhathum, Healing meetings.

23-25th - New Life Women's Fellowship and Church building dedication in Damak. Jhapa.

May 13-16th - prayer conference in Kathmandu.

There are 17 students in our Word to World School pray for the needs because of world economic depression and price hike knocking us. Without your prayers and support these events would not be effective, so I lay burden on you to pray for these ministry events for the anointing and power of the Holy Spirit. Ministering in the human strength and knowledge would not be

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effective. And you are welcome to sow your faith seed in these ministry events, your partnership will help us to go further than what we are looking ahead. Your prayers are appreciated! Surely God will do good to you!

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
- 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
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