

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of June 14, 2009

The clear and oft-repeated language of the Bible is that prayer is to be answered by God; that God occupies the relation of a father to us, and that as Father He gives to us when we ask the things for which we ask. The best praying, therefore, is the praying that gets an answer.

E. M. Bounds from *The Reality of Prayer*

The Life of Prayer

Open Door of Opportunity

David Williamson

General Washington finally saw his opportunity. The war had dragged on and on, campaign-after-campaign, year-after-year. Throughout the dark days of Valley Forge, the desperate days when survival was all that could be hoped for, survival was the subject of daily prayers. The prayers had been answered, and the army had come out of those dark days. Now prayers were for a way to win the war. The question was how; winning seemed as impossible as survival had seemed, just a few years before.

For years Washington had been looking for a way to strike a decisive blow against the British. While there now were several victories and fewer defeats, there just was never an opportunity to have a big win, one that could lead to final victory. Now it seemed the moment was at hand. Washington has well-trained troops available and able to travel quickly. They were prepared to fight and win against British troops. He also had, for the first time, the possibility of using a large contingent of the French navy. With the French navy, Washington could remove the last factor, the British navy, that had always made the British able to overcome Washington's plans for victory.

Washington took the open door of opportunity. He sent army troops to pin the British commander and his army at Yorktown. He sent other troops to complete the encirclement of the area. He commanded the French navy to take up position forcing the British navy to leave the area. The result was the British commander had to surrender. This was the last great battle of the war and America was able to break free from Great Britain and become an independent nation.

An important component of successful prayer is the open door. Much of what happens in Christian life concerns doors, open or closed. The function of a door is simple; you can go through it if it is open and cannot pass through if it is closed. With an open door you face a choice; you can enter through the door if you choose. Salvation itself is based on the open door of opportunity. Jesus lived, died, rose again, and overcoming death, presenting an open door of opportunity for men and women to be saved. Salvation is an open door inviting all who will, to enter.

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Praying for open doors is a key in successful prayer. We pray about a need and with an open door the answer can come through. This is true for access to the Father or answers from the Father; with an open door there is access and answers. Praying for closed doors is equally a part of prayer. An open door can give access to evil as well and so there are times and places where it is imperative to pray a door shut. Prayer is asking for open doors where needed and closed doors where required. Successful prayer is hearing from God, as to the correct position for the door, open or closed and by faith petitioning for the continuance, or change to the status of the door. This is true in praying for individuals, groups, and nations; we need to pray for the opening or closing of doors.

This seems so simple, but there are problems that must be overcome. First we must hear from God. This is fundamental to all prayer. We can throw any request at God, but effective prayer is praying God's prayers after Him. One of the secrets to Jesus' success in prayer was praying the will of the Father. Our success comes the same way; when we pray the will of the Father, we are assured of great answers to prayers. His children know His voice and walk close to Him, but sin and the noise of the world try to keep us from hearing the Father. They try to separate us from Him and plug our ears to His voice, thus limiting or stopping our prayers.

Next, the Bible tells us that faith comes; this also means that we must come and get it. With a constant inflow of the Word of God, we can build our faith and continue to have faith for daily living and for our prayers. Success in prayer demands faith and building deep faith that God can use for prayers of any type or size. Blowing open doors of opportunity demands faith and bolting closed doors equally requires faith.

Also there are many adversaries that must be overcome to open doors. The Devil likes to barricade doors. He knows he is defeated, but he works with shadows and bluster to try to have his way. He cannot withstand the power of prayer, so he must try to keep people from prayer. These adversaries must be removed or overcome. At times this means we must pray open the doors of our life so we can effectively pray for others. The amour of God is for doing battle and daily we must battle against the shadows and bluster of the Devil so we can pray. Then we can pray for the adversaries that hinder people and nations can be overcome or removed.

For a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.

1 Corinthians 16:9 (NKJV)

There are three basic components of praying for open doors. First we pray for the person, ministry, or nation to be in the right place at the right time. An open door is of no value if you are not in the place you need to be to step through the opening. If you are not where you ought to be, you miss the opportunity. This is not just the physical location, nations do not move, but that we are in a place to walk through the door. The nation with a leader, who politically cannot move through a door, is not in the right place. So political, social, religious, economic factors may have to change so the nation is in the right place and can take advantage of the open door. There are factors like this that affect the opportunity to use an open door. If the factors are against a person, ministry, or

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nation then by prayer these factors must be changed. This places the recipient of our prayers in the right place at the right time. The Bible often calls this the accepted time.

Thus says the Lord: In an acceptable time I have heard You, And in the day of salvation I have helped You; I will preserve You and give You As a covenant to the people, To restore the earth, To cause them to inherit the desolate heritages; Isaiah 49:8 (NKJV)

We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation. 2 Corinthians 6:1-2 (NKJV)

Second, we must be in the right frame of mind. Right frame of mind is how we think and believe. If we are not walking in faith and love, if we are caught up in fear, doubt, anger, unbelief or other sins, if we do not believe and practice the commands and promises of God, we will not be able to step through the opening. There are many things we need to deal with in this area. Very simply put, people need to have the mind of Christ and walk as He walked.

For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. Romans 8:5-8 (NKJV)

But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one. For "who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?" But we have the mind of Christ. 1 Corinthians 2:14-16 (NKJV)

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. Philippians 2:5-7 (NKJV)

Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God. 1 Peter 4:1-2 (NKJV)

Third, we must have the resources needed to walk through the door. Without the resources for taking advantage of an open door, the opening is merely a frustration. Resources include many things ranging from money to permission to abilities. Some open doors need people to effectively walk through; other doors might need permits and licenses. With the resources it is imperative that

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people know what to do. Without prayers that deal with the wide spectrum of things that fit within the category of resources, the open door is not truly open.

For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, Philippians 1:19 (NKJV)

And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.
Philippians 4:19 (NKJV)

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)

Today, all around us, there are people, ministries, and nations that need open doors of opportunity. Will you take your place and pray? God is looking for men and women who will give of their time to pray for others. In responding to His call, do not forget to pray for open doors of opportunity.

Thus says the Lord, The Holy One of Israel, and his Maker: "Ask Me of things to come concerning My sons; And concerning the work of My hands, you command Me.
Isaiah 45:11 (NKJV)

Let us Pray!

A Call for Prayer

Pray for the BBB Conference Pray for the arrangements and plans. Pray for provision for meeting the costs of the conference. Pray for the men and women who will be attending this year's conference, pray that they will be able to attend. Pray for safety and protection as they travel and for their families as they are away from home. Pray for anointed words well and wisely spoken at the conference, to help prepare men and women for the work that is to come.

Pray for protection for Israel and Jerusalem Pray that salvation would come to those Jews who are longing for the return of the Messiah. Pray for their eyes to be opened and see Jesus their Messiah who has come.

Pray for Outreach to the lost. Pray for open doors of opportunity to share the Gospel and willing ready hearts to hear and receive the word of faith and life.

Pray for Rebecca Williamson Rebecca is one of the daughters of Bill Williamson. Rebecca is ministering in Italy as part of a church planting team in northern Italy for about six weeks.

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Basic Prayer Focus

Remember to be always in prayer for the following:

For Israel and the Peace of Jerusalem

For the reaching of souls from every nation

For governments of your country and other countries to be open to the Gospel

For your home Church and the people of the church and community

Continuing Faithful in Prayer

Remember to be in prayer for these ministers and ministries. Ask the Holy Spirit to each week guide and direct the specifics of 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 a 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 a 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 (Bill) Williamson – Pastor of a 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.

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