

# Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of June 28, 2009

Unless the vital forces of prayer are supplied by God's Word, prayer, though earnest, even vociferous, in its urgency, is, in reality, flabby, and vapid, and void. The absence of vital force in praying, can be traced to the absence of a constant supply of God's Word, to repair the waste, and renew the life. He who would learn to pray well, must first study God's Word, and store it in his memory and thought.

By E. M. Bounds from *The Necessity of Prayer*

## *The Life of Prayer*

### **In the Right Frame of Mind**

David Williamson

The Bible is a wonderful book filled with amazing stories about the interaction of God and man. It is a guide to living in the presence of a loving and powerful God. There is no book like it. The stories tell us of great faith, but also of unbelief. For example, there is the story of when the king of Syria, (some versions call the country Aram), besieged Samaria. There was a great famine in Samaria. Things had gotten so bad the head of a donkey was being sold for about 2 pounds of silver and people were doing horrible things in desperation. In the mist of these terrible conditions, Elisha prophesied of God deliverance.

***Then Elisha said, "Hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord: 'Tomorrow about this time a seah of fine flour shall be sold for a shekel, and two seahs of barley for a shekel, at the gate of Samaria.' "*** 2 Kings 7:1 (NKJV)

This seemed impossible; there was no way to change the situation. Israel was besieged by the mighty Syria army and was in the mist of a horrible famine. People were struggling to live and preparing to die. An officer of the king of Israel summed up the situation. "Look, if the Lord would make windows in heaven, could this thing be?" In the natural this officer was right. There was no way that the situation could change for the better; no way it could change that much. What the officer did not take into account was God. This officer spoke out of unbelief and failed to see that God was able to do the seemingly impossible. Read the full verse and see how Elisha answered this man's unbelief.

***So an officer on whose hand the king leaned answered the man of God and said, "Look, if the Lord would make windows in heaven, could this thing be?" And he said, "In fact, you shall see it with your eyes, but you shall not eat of it." "*** 2 Kings 7:2 (NKJV)

You know the rest of the story. God moved against the Syrian army and they fled the battle field leaving everything they had. Four men with leprosy discover this fact and alerted the people of Israel who after careful check of the story, rush out to gather the supplies of the Syrians. There was so much plunder that the prices for buying food and supplies dropped to almost nothing.

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***Then the people went out and plundered the tents of the Syrians. So a seah of fine flour was sold for a shekel, and two seahs of barley for a shekel, according to the word of the Lord.***

2 Kings 7:16 (NKJV)

So all of Israel was saved from destruction and had plenty, but the officer of the king was trampled by the people rushing out to gather the plunder and died. He saw God's deliverance, but did not get to eat or enjoy God's provision.

***And so it happened to him, for the people trampled him in the gate, and he died.***

2 Kings 7:20 (NKJV)

For Israel, God provided an open door of opportunity. In a situation where it seemed that there was no possibility for a positive outcome, God moved powerfully. When it seemed that nothing could be done to change the situation in a positive way, God opened the doors of Heaven and poured out a blessing. Once again, as He had done many times, God delivered Israel. He was not bound by the situation or circumstances, but overcame them and opened the door.

One of the keys to success in this life is the open door of opportunity. With this we can walk through to the blessing and provision of God. A couple weeks ago we began to look at the blessing of the open door. We have been exploring the importance of the open door in our life and in our prayers. The process of successfully stepping through an open door of opportunity has three basic components, be in the right place at the right time, be in the right frame of mind, and have the resources needed to walk through the door.

This is important for us as we work to be successful in our Christian life and in prayer. It is also important for our prayers; we should be praying for open doors of opportunity for other people. Part of our prayers must include praying these three basic components. The second component is to be in the right frame of mind or right thinking. If we are not walking in faith and love, if we are caught up in fear, doubt, anger, unbelief or other sins, we will not be able to step through the door.

The right frame of mind is not something that just comes; we are trained. Too often the frame of our mind has been set by the world. Day-by-day worldly thinking and messages train us to think like the world. Worldly thinking is fear, doubt, anger, unbelief or other sins. We receive the training from books, magazines, radio, TV, music, news, and conversations. It pours into our life and becomes the way we think and what we believe. Thinking like the world stops the blessing of the open door. We just do not believe that God can do the things He claims He can do.

The officer of the king of Israel in the story we just read, is a perfect example of this. He had been trained by the world and he knew that changing the situation like Elisha claimed would happen was not possible. This officer was a realist; he knew what was possible and more importantly, what was impossible. With this certain knowledge he was in unbelief concerning the power of God.

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Most people today are like this officer. Knowing the reality of the situation they are in unbelief concerning the promises of God. Unbelief keeps them from going through an open door. In most cases, because of unbelief, they do not even see an open door. The longer they go through life not seeing the openings of God the more the training of the world sets their thinking and it becomes more and more ridged. Then even when they see a great deliverance from God for others, they do not eat of it. Unbelief is just one of the sins that blind our mind to the opportunities of the open door. In addition and just as deadly are fear, doubt, anger, and other sins.

***whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.***

2 Corinthians 4:4 (NKJV)

I know I do not want to be like the officer to the king of Israel in this story and I am sure you do not want to be this way, nor allow those you are praying for to continue this way. So what do we do? The answer, explained very simply, is to retrain our minds. We must put an end to thinking as the world has trained us to think, and think as God would have us think. Our minds must be so trained that we know that God is able and willing to work and when He works the seemingly impossible is possible. We must come to know that there is no limit to the things God can do. In addition, and this is very important, we must know that God will do these seemingly impossible things for me!

Transforming our mind is possible and necessary for a successful Christian life and imperative for success in prayer. It is also an important part of our prayers for others. It is beyond the scope of the article to fully explore retraining a mind, but one of the keys is very important; we must place more of the Word of God in our heart and mind. We must go beyond just reading a few verses and begin to train our thinking with these verses. News, talk, TV, radio, music, video, blogs, websites, magazine, textbooks, conversations, advertisements and many other sources pump worldly thinking into us. How many hours each day you hear and see worldly input? Compare the hours of this training to your time of Bible training. It is no wonder that most people think worldly thoughts after the world not godly thoughts after Him!

***I have stretched out My hands all day long to a rebellious people, Who walk in a way that is not good, According to their own thoughts;*** Isaiah 65:2 (NKJV)

***O Jerusalem, wash your heart from wickedness, That you may be saved. How long shall your evil thoughts lodge within you?*** Jeremiah 4:14 (NKJV)

We must train ourselves by meditating on the Word of God day and night. We must speak it to our heart and mind continually. As we rehearse daily the things God has said and done, we train our mind and heart to see things God's way. We overcome the negative input of the world and have faith to believe God is able and willing to do good, even good for me.

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***This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. Joshua 1:8 (NKJV)***

We can successfully retrain our mind and heart. We can be trained to think not with the unbelief of the world, but the way God wants us to think. As we do we will believe God can and will move powerfully for us. We also will know that God will move powerfully in answer to our prayers. God will do the seemingly impossible for us and for those people for whom we are praying. With this mind set trained into us, we will be ready and able to step through open doors. As we pray this for others they will be ready and able to step through open doors.

***Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy--meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you. Philippians 4:8-9 (NKJV)***

***Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, because "All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away, But the word of the Lord endures forever." Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you. Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.***

1 Peter 1:22-2:3 (NKJV)

*Let us Pray!*

## **A Call for Prayer**

**Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem** Pray for the Jewish people and their homeland. Pray for peace that comes through knowing the Messiah. Pray for hearts to be softened so when He is revealed, they will receive Him. Pray for understanding and wisdom so they will respond to His gift of salvation 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. She has about three weeks left on this trip.

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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*

## *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.

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