

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of July 5, 2009

My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your eyes; Keep them in the midst of your heart; For they are life to those who find them, And health to all their flesh. Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life. Put away from you a deceitful mouth, And put perverse lips far from you. Let your eyes look straight ahead, And your eyelids look right before you. Ponder the path of your feet, And let all your ways be established. Do not turn to the right or the left; Remove your foot from evil. Proverbs 4:20-27 (NKJV)

The Life of Prayer

Right Frame of Mind – Part Two

David Williamson

Every way they turned doors were closed. The Christians known as the Pilgrims had tried for years to find a way to serve God as He directed. They worked hard to make a way in England. That had failed. They tried to work within the church system of the day. That had failed. They had tried to peacefully change the government. That had failed. They had moved their congregation to Holland. That had failed. Anyone going through this would have to conclude that there just was not an open door for them to walk through. Their dream was impossible.

However, they did not give-up; they continued to pray. In 1617 they saw a possibility for an open door. What if they moved to the new lands of America? Those of you who know American history know that God opened doors for them and they moved to America in 1620. They settled in what is today Plymouth, Massachusetts. This became a very successful settlement, founded as a community in covenant with God. They believed that God had opened this door for them and was inviting them to found this community as an example to the world of people living with God. Where things seemed to be impossible, God had opened doors and made a way.

The open door is very powerful. We need open doors for our individual lives, our family, our church, and our nation. With open doors we are able, by the power and working of God, to do the seemingly impossible. We all face situations where we need to see God open doors. We also need to be in prayer for people and nations asking God to open doors for them. For our personal needs and those we are praying for, it is important that we are wise concerning open doors.

We have been studying this subject for the last few weeks; we have seen that there are three basic components of praying for open doors. First we pray for the person or ministry 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. If you are not where you ought to be, you miss the opportunity. Second we must be in the right frame of

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mind. If you are not walking in faith and love, if you are caught up in fear, doubt, anger, unbelief or other sins, you will not be able to step through the opening. Third we must have the resources needed to walk through the door.

Two weeks ago we looked at being in the right place at the right time. We saw that we had to be walking with Jesus so that when He opens a door we are there to walk through it. A phrase for this walk to be in the right place and time is to embrace the race. Last week we studied being in the right frame of mind. The key here was that we cannot allow sin to keep us from receiving open doors from God. Unbelief, for example, could blind us so we may not be able to even see the open door. It is very important that we keep sin from hindering our walk and making use of an open door possible. In addition we must deal with any and all burdens and hindrances that would keep us from the successful embrace of the race.

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12:1-2 (NKJV)

Before we can leave this study of right frame of mind for open doors, we must look at a passion. Successful entrance and use of an open door demands more than just putting away sin and hindrances. Walking through open doors is not a stroll through the park. It is not something that will chase you down and carry you through. It requires passion. Passion is intense emotion that compels action.

Walking through an open door or praying a door open begins with passion for Christ. The Pilgrims were passionate about Christ. They wanted to know God, love Him, and serve Him fully and passionately. This was too radical for most people. Passion for Christ is more than just a shout and praise. It changes the way we think and act. It is becoming day-by-day more like Jesus and walking in and working by His guidance and power. It is opening our life to be a conduit for God's love to flow through. It is being a servant so we can serve. Passion for Christ changes lives, first our own and then those around us.

Secondly, walking through an open door or praying a door open requires passion for winning the lost. God did not save and continue to bless you, just for you. He blesses you so you will be a blessing. Praying for others is good, but there is no blessing that is good enough to compare with salvation. God calls us to pray for and about many things, but the most important, what all the rest of the prayers are, or should be about, is winning the lost. Christians around the world have become complacent about winning the lost. This may be the greatest single reason for ineffective prayer. If we are not passionate about Christ and passionate for winning the lost, we will be weak in prayer. Passion for winning the lost is one of the great themes and is central to all success in prayer.

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Third, walking through an open door or praying a door open requires a passion for God's Kingdom to come on earth as it is in Heaven. We have settled so often for a band-aid approach to life and living. We pray that a little of this or a little of that be done and we are satisfied with the meager results. God's Kingdom is not the kingdom of "get by". It is not a pat on the back and a comment of "be warm and comforted". It does not dismiss problems as something to endure and live with. The Kingdom of God in a person's life radically changes their life. We should be experiencing and more importantly, helping others to experience, Kingdom and abundant living here and now. For too long we have lived in limit and lack, while God longs to give us of His abundance and plenty.

Finally, walking through an open door or praying a door open requires passion about prayer. God has offered us great power in prayer, yet we have too often, settled for little or nothing. We are causal about prayer and have low expectations on God answering our prayers. God answers prayer. If we are passionate about prayer, we will seek His will, His way, and His results. We will not settle for the unbiblical, discounted results, in prayer. God answers prayer, the question is if we will have a passion for prayer. Will we be passionate enough to seek His will, way, and answers?

Passion is a fire that burns brighter and brighter. It is also something that can be quenched. Too often we have dumped water on the fire of our passions. We have discounted the promises of God and minimized His working in us and through us. We have settled for being second rate citizens when God has called us to walk as sons and daughters of the Almighty God, now here on earth.

Jesus answered him, "The first of all the commandments is: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment. And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." Mark 12:29-31 (NKJV)

Epaphras, who is one of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. For I bear him witness that he has a great zeal for you, and those who are in Laodicea, and those in Hierapolis. Colossians 4:12-13 (NKJV)

And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ. Colossians 3:23-24 (NKJV)

Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you. 1 Timothy 4:15-16 (NKJV)

If we are going to have open doors and pray for open doors for others we must fan into flame that passion of being Christians. We are to live as Kingdom kings and priests in His Kingdom, now! The

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prayer Jesus taught us has the line, “Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven”. This line is not just filler so we can get to the daily bread part. This is what we should be praying and what we should be living. A passion for Christ, a passion for winning the lost, a passion for the coming of God’s Kingdom here and now, and a passion for effective, fervent prayer is what we need today. God is looking for men and women of passion.

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

1 Corinthians 16:9 (NKJV)

Let us Pray!

A Call for Prayer

Please Pray for America “While the storm clouds gather far across the sea, Let us swear allegiance to a land that’s free, Let us all be grateful for a land so fair, As we raise our voices in a solemn prayer.” God Bless America, Land that I love. Stand beside her, and guide her thru the night with a light from above. From the mountains, to the prairies, to the oceans, white with foam God bless America, My home sweet home. *God Bless America* Words and music by Irving Berlin

Pray for Your Country and for Israel Pray for God’s blessing on the land and people. Pray for opportunities for the Gospel. Pray for hearts to be responsive to the preaching of the Gospel.

Pray for David and Marianne Dean Pray for students attending international and domestic summer projects. Pray for the meeting of their support needs. Pray for the transition in the campus groups this fall. Pray for David and Marianne and the new endeavor God has in place for them. Pray for guidance in making changes and for success in this new training program. Pray for the believers who will be in this training program that they will grow, mature, and remain committed to continue through the year.

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.

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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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