

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of July 12, 2009

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

Right Frame of Mind – Part Three

David Williamson

Have you noticed how many fascinating characters there are in the Bible? Its pages are filled with men and women who do and say some interesting things. The Bible is an unusual book, it reveals a great deal about people. Most writers would not reveal this much and most books about heroes do not include their problems and failings, but the Bible does. It reveals the good, the bad, and often things that are very ugly. It can be very startling to read and very fascinating.

One of the stories, a rags-to-riches story, is that of Joseph. While he did not start out at the bottom as you would see in a classic rags-to-riches story, everyone agrees that things got pretty bad for this man. Mocked and sold into slavery by his brothers, falsely accused by the wife of the master and sent to prison, lost in the bureaucracy of the prison system and forgotten by friends. The Joseph story to this point qualifies as bad, real bad. All his dreams dashed, with no hope, no opportunities, and no future. His life seemed very bad however, in everything Joseph worked at God caused him to prosper.

Then, after years of a constant descent, we see God move mightily for Joseph. Suddenly Joseph goes from the prison to being ruler of the nation, second only to Pharaoh. He saves the day for the people of Egypt and his family, having the interpretation of the dream of Pharaoh and showing wisdom from God to deal with the problem. The life of Joseph is a great story. It is valuable as a teaching tool. We can learn many things from this story including having a sound mind.

There is no place in the Bible where God records Joseph saying anything negative about his situation or about God. Every time it looks as though things are going to turn positive for Joseph something bad happens. All these many down turns and still Joseph is not negative. Most people would have turned on God long before this. Most people would be thinking or saying something like, "Why give me that stupid dream, if it is never going to happen". However, Joseph did not do that.

An important component of successful prayer is the open door. Much of what happens in Christian life concerns doors, open or closed. There are three basic components of praying for open doors. First, is to be in the right place at the right time. If you are not where you ought to be, you miss the

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opportunity. Second, is to be in the right frame of 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. And third, we must have the resources needed to walk through the door and effectively use the open door.

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

1 Corinthians 16:9 (NKJV)

For the last couple of weeks we have been looking at what it means to be in the right frame of mind for walking through an open door. We have dealt with sins such as unbelief. We have also looked at being passionate about our Christian life and our prayers. Before we go on to the third component, we should look at the right frame of mind as defined by having a sound mind.

When we get saved and become a new creation in Christ Jesus; our spirit is born new. However, our soul and body must still be changed. The changes are required to be able to do the work God has for us. The changes are to our soul and body. Our soul is not created new when we are Born Again, so our mind, emotions, and will must be transformed. We must change our old ways of thinking, and develop new habits of thinking and behaving. The old ways are what we have been taught by the world. The old ways of thinking result in worldly thinking and actions, and what we need is a new way of thinking and new way of acting.

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. Romans 12:1-2 (NKJV)

To be in the right frame of mind to go through an open door we must have a sound mind. We can be like Joseph; he renewed his mind so he would not turn away from God no matter what happened. Even when he was lost in prison and forgotten, Joseph would not turn from God. When the time came He gave glory to God and was promoted.

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

2 Timothy 1:7 (NKJV)

What is a sound mind? The phrase translated here as sound mind, in the Greek means discipline and self-control. God does not give us confusion, it is of the Devil. We can have self-control. It is not by our strength, but it does take effort on our part. To have a sound mind we must work with God by staying close to Him and immersing our mind in the Word of God. The key is meditation on God's Word. The Word of God is the cleaning and instructing agent that we need to make a transition from a worldly mind to God centered mind. We must come to God for this transition, but it is God's Word that makes our mind sound.

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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)

Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers. 3 John 1:2 (NKJV)

With a sound mind we can walk through open doors. With a sound mind we will know what to do as we go through and when we are on the other side of the open door. We need this and we need to be praying for others that they will be in the right mind and especially having a sound mind as we pray for open doors of opportunities.

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 Joyce Abrahamson Pray for the school in Brazil, the daily supplies and provisions, for the workers, and for the children of the school. Pray for health and healing for the students, there have been problems with diseases in the school and area.

Pray for People Join with Jesus in bringing light to dark places, healing to the sick, deliverance to captives, soundness to the broken, homes to the homeless, love to the hated, and salvation to the lost.

Pray for Provision Pray for God's provision for the churches and ministries listed here.

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

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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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