

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of August 2, 2009

PRAYER, without fervour, stakes nothing on the issue, because it has nothing to stake. It comes with empty hands. Hands, too, which are listless, as well as empty, which have never learned the lesson of clinging to the Cross. Fervourless prayer has no heart in it; it is an empty thing, an unfit vessel. Heart, soul, and life, must find place in all real praying. Heaven must be made to feel the force of this crying unto God.

From *Necessity of Prayer* by E. M. Bounds

The Life of Prayer

Remodeling of the Mind

David Williamson

My dad was a cabinet maker. He was a craftsman, building wonderful cabinets and furniture. For a few years I worked with my dad and the bulk of our work was remodeling kitchens and installing cabinets. Remodeling is an inexact science, you never know what you might find when you tear out the old cabinets and rebuild walls, floors, or ceilings. Some jobs went well and then there were the difficult ones. I remember one job as the ultimate example of the challenge of remodeling. Throughout the job there were unexpected changes, delays, and problems. After we began work the owners changed the plan. Then we had a structural problem and a series of little problems continued throughout the job. Remodeling results in a nice new kitchen, but it can be hard work.

Like dealing with an old kitchen, effective prayer requires remodeling. Effective prayer is very powerful, unfortunately, too often, we do not see its power. It is like an old kitchen that needs to be renewed and made useful. When people wanted to remodel their kitchen they would call my dad and he would walk them through the planning, tear out, and rebuilding phases of the project. We need to do much the same things to have effective prayer. We must tear out our old mind sets and patterns of thinking and build all things new based on God's Word. An important part of the process we must go through for effective prayer is found in Paul's teaching in Romans. His teaching is for victorious Christian living and effective prayer. Among other things he teaches, do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

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)

Effective prayer requires a transformed mind. For a person to start praying, requires some transformation, the person must first come to believe that there is a God he can pray to. Other wise why pray if there is no God. The world has told people for years that there is no God. To overcome

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this worldly thinking people must have a transformation of their mind. There are other ways of thinking that must be transformed. The transformation is from common worldly thinking to thinking like the Bible teaches.

This is a completely new way of thinking for many people. The transformation requires first and foremost a new spirit. Receiving Jesus as Lord, the person becomes a new person. This spiritual rebirth opens the way for the person to begin the transformation process. In this process the mind is changed little by little until the person thinks, believes, speaks, and acts as the Holy Spirit directs.

In many ways the transformation of the mind is like remodeling a house. We must tear out the old thinking and build all new. Our mind was built, from the time we are born and the construction continues throughout our life. The construction includes everything in the mind, including the basics things of life that we do not even think about, such as walking and talking. These are great milestones when a child first takes these steps. The building of our skills and abilities is an important learning process; we know this by watching how hard it is to relearn these things following an injury.

For years, and for some of us this is many years, our mind has been a construction zone. Much of the materials use in this building was from the world. To be effective in prayer we must transform this building, the building of our mind. We need a substantial remodeling job of tearing out the old and rebuilding with the new. The worldly think must be removed and then rebuilt with the Word of God. The renewal of the mind is a continual activity. It should continue until we go to be with Jesus.

Every aspect of our thinking must be transformed. This is difficult for some people, but it yields great results. For effective prayer there are many areas that must be transformed in our mind. For example we need a new understanding of God. As mentioned before, this begins with knowing that there is a God. We also need to understand His nature, He is a good God and He thinks about ways to do us good. We learn that God desires that we pray. We learn that God is powerful and well able and willing to do great and mighty things. We learn that God answers prayers.

When my dad and I remodeled kitchens we drew up a plan. We list the materials we would need and we would draw a diagram of the layout of the new kitchen. For the transformation of our mind we need to have a diagram of the layout. This diagram is the Bible and Jesus is the standard and the example for our mind. To have a renewed mind we must think, believe, speak, and act like Jesus. To be like Jesus we must, with the help of the Holy Spirit, find every place where our mind does not match the standard and example of Jesus. We must then tear out our worldly thinking and replace it with His thinking. We must remove our worldly beliefs and replace them with His beliefs. We must eliminate our worldly actions and replace them with acting like Jesus.

For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,
2 Corinthians 10:4-5 (NKJV)

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If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all. Colossians 3:1-11 (NKJV)

Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy." 1 Peter 1:13-16 (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. For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles--when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries. In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you. They will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. 1 Peter 4:1-5 (NKJV)

Remodeling of our mind is done the same way we originally built up our mind. We meditated on the inputs provided. We watched how other people walked and copied their actions. We learned to talk and write the same way. Now we want to learn our new lessons. We do this by meditating on the Word of God. We can think like Jesus if we build up our mind by meditating on what the Bible says. The Bible is a guide for living. It gives those who diligently seek the information, everything we need, for right thinking, beliefs, speaking, and actions.

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)

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

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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)

It is time to remodel. If we will meditate on God's Word and apply it to our life we can transform our mind. We can put an end to thinking, believing, speaking, and acting like the world; all of these hinder our prayers. With a remodeled mind we can be more successful in prayer. This takes work but the results can be an effective prayer life.

Let us Pray!

A Call for Prayer

Pray for Pastor Charles, the Wyola Baptist Church, and the Crow Indians in Montana

Pastor Mark Spencer sent out this letter on Tuesday, July 28, 2009:

Hear the sound of the shofar...

Now thanks be unto God, which always causes us to triumph in Christ, and makes manifest the savour of His knowledge by us in every place. 2 Corinthians 2:14

To our dear Christians friends and faithful brethren scattered throughout the world,

Having just returned from meetings with our dear Christian brethren on the Crow Reservation in Montana, it has come to my attention that the entire tribe is under unusual spiritual attack. Since February, on the average of 2 tragic deaths have been occurring weekly and many of these deaths have been among their youth. This must stop. Therefore I would like to call a special day of prayer and fasting on Wednesday, August 5th so that this spiritual stronghold may be broken and that the Lord will have an opportunity to use these horrible circumstances to bring many of the Crow to Christ as well as spark revival among their churches. Pray especially for Pastor Charles and Janice Wilson and the congregation of the Wyola Baptist Church. If at all possible, please join with us here at Inner Court Ministries on Wednesday evening, August 5th for specific prayer for the Crow. (Call for more information (303) 772 5996).

Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:37 – 39

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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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Prayer: A Force that Causes Change – Volume 1 – A Call to Prayer

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