

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of August 9, 2009

So Jesus answered and said to them, "Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them". Mark 11:22-24 (NKJV)

Before He gave that wonderful promise to his disciples, Christ shows where faith in the answer to prayer originates and finds its strength. *Have faith in God.* This faith precedes the faith in the promise of an answer to prayer. The power to believe a *promise* depends entirely on faith in the *promiser*. Trust in the person gives rise to trust in what he or she says.

We must live and associate with God in personal, loving, communication. God Himself should be everything to us. His Holy presence is revealed where our whole being is opened and exposed to His mighty influence. There the capacity for believing His promises will be developed.

From *With Christ in the School of Prayer* by Andrew Murray

The Life of Prayer

Basic Elements of Effective Fervent Prayer

David Williamson

One year when I was coaching football, we had a good team and planed to win a lot of games. We had great practices and could not wait for the first game. Finally the day of the game arrived and we lost. The pain was a sting to us, but almost the moment we got to the dressing room we knew we would win the next game. Once again the wait was hard, the week seemed to drag along so slowly, but finally Friday came and the second game. We were so ready and knew we would win and we lost.

Suddenly we were faced with the prospect that our great year would be a disaster. After the team dressed and left for home, all of the coaches met in the head coach's office. We began to talk about what went wrong. Before long we realized that everything was wrong, we had a great team but they were not doing what we had planned and practiced. We were doing everything wrong. Finally someone suggested that we needed to go back to the basics. Our team was good enough to beat both of the teams we had played, but we were trying so hard to do the fancy things we planned that we were not doing the basics. The next week we practiced nothing but basics. We made everything as simple as possible. The entire practice, each day, was just basics. Friday came and we played our third game. We did not have any fancy plays or plans, just the basics. We score nearly every time we had the ball and the defense did not let the other team score. We won!

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The difference was the basics. Everyone on the team knew exactly what to do; they were confident and did great things. We need to do the same. Too often we get caught-up in the new and exciting and forget the basics. Prayer is so simple; we can have great success in prayer if we will focus on and follow the basics. In football the basics are tackling, blocking, passing, running, and flying around to the ball. In prayer the basics of effective prayer are humility, petition, thanksgiving, and faith.

Humility

Humility is a word that means not being proud. The humble person understands that God is the powerful all knowing God and we are his children. The humble person does not lean on their own skill, ability, or power. The humble person knows they need God's help. The humble person knows he or she needs answers to prayer and that these answers come from God.

He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:8 (NKJV)

But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up. James 4:6-10 (NKJV)

Being humble is something we choose to do. We let Him know we have needs and that we believe that God is the one who can and will help us. When we come to God in prayer, we seek Him and His will. This week check yourself, have you become self-satisfied? Do you know all you need to know to pray? Have you begun to lean on your prayer ability? Humble yourself in the sight of God and He will lift you and your prayers. This week get back to the basics.

Petition or Request

This is the part people think of when they talk about prayer, your request. There are several keys to making a request to God. We need to make our request specific, telling God what we need and it is very powerful to ask first for answers for others. This is in compliance with the first commandment of God; love our neighbor. If we work to bless them, God will take care of our needs. We need to ask in alignment with God's will. God likes to bless us, but He also protects us from things we should not have. Praying using Bible verses is the best way to know God's will on the matter. Another key to the request in the basics of effective prayer is not to doubt. Doubt limits prayer. One other key is forgiveness, when we bring our petition, the requirement as we go to God is to check if we have sinned against anyone; forgiveness opens the door to answers. This week keep it simple; ask, specific, in love, in God's will, without doubting, and check to be sure you have forgiven. This week get back to the basics.

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Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him. 1 John 5:14-15 (NKJV)

Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is very important to successful prayer. I have listed it here as the third basic, but it should be at the beginning and found throughout our prayers. Thanksgiving helps us prepare for successful prayer, it changes our attitude. It is good to remember the wonderful things God has done for others and for us. When we thank Him, we are changed, this gets us ready to ask God for answers to our needs, it gives us great confidence that God will answer. When we come to God in prayer it is because we need something and often are worried, fearful, lacking, hurting, or desperate. Thanksgiving will lift us from these things and help us to pray successfully

This week check your self, do you have a heart of thanksgiving? Does thanksgiving flavor everything you say or do? Does it flavor your prayers? Take time this week, yes, some of your prayer time, and just thank God. No requests, no begging, no complaints, no explaining, no anything, just thanks. This is a secret to success in prayer, flavoring life and prayer with thanksgiving, will revolutionize your life and prayers! This week get back to the basics.

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7 (NKJV)

Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving; Colossians 4:2 (NKJV)

Faith

Faith is very important, it is required, and faith should be found in each of the first three basics. The humble person comes to God because they have faith; they know God will answer their prayers. He or she believes that the promises of God are good, that God is what He says He is (a great God who loves us and loves to do good things for us). They know He loves them and is working for them, not against them. The petition or request should be in faith. We ask knowing that God is listening to our requests. God rewards those who come and ask Him in faith. Thanksgiving is also by faith. We thank Him for the great things He has done with confidence that He is still the great and powerful God. We thank Him for the past, but also for the wonderful things we know He will do, this is by faith. Power in prayer is by faith manifest in humility, petition, and thanksgiving. This week get back to the basics.

So Jesus answered and said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but also if you say to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' it will be done. And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive." Matthew 21:21-22 (NKJV)

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If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways. James 1:5-8 (NKJV)

God is ready for us to be successful in life. He wants us to win battles. He has given us great armor to wear to be protected in battle and a sword (the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God) so we can win! To be successful in battle remember prayer. By faith, humbly bring your request to God with thanksgiving. This week get back to the basics.

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7 (NKJV)

Let us Pray!

A Call for Prayer

Pray for David and Marianne Dean

Pray for their new ministry focus; working with graduates and young professionals to be involved in a fellowship and be committed to learning and growing in Christ. Pray for strong bonds of unity and friendship to grow among this group. Please be praying that the group will be a "safe place" for the group members to share prayer requests and about the pressures they face of living and working as Christians. Also remember to pray for David and Marianne as they grow as parents raising Sarah, who is now more than six weeks old.

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

Continue to remember the Crow people this week. Last week God did great things for the Crow and Wyola, Montana. God is moving mightily for these people.

And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints-- Ephesians 6:17-18 (NKJV)

Continue Faithful in Prayer

In addition to our weekly specific prayer requests please remember to be in prayer for these ministers and ministries.

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DK Limbu Daniel – Pastor of a church in Nepal and church planting among Nepalese people
meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains, Colossians 4:3 (NKJV)

Joyce Abrahamson – Head of school in Brazil
And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19 (NKJV)

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

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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