

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of September 13, 2009

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction. Proverbs 1:7 (NKJV)

The Life of Prayer

Wisdom

David Williamson

I love to read! For years I have said that my dream job would be to get paid for reading. I would want it to be a well paid position and I would not want any restriction on what I picked to read. This would be wonderful. There are so many books I would like to read, I always have several books on my “to read” shelf, but the best book I read is the Bible. It also has a pedigree that no other book can match; it is the Word of God. It is the perfect guide to life and living, and it reads me as I read it. By that I mean that it is like a mirror showing me what I look like in action and beliefs. It presents the perfect standard and then shows the careful reader, where he comes short of perfection and what to do to come up to the high standard. This is a great book!

The Bible is filled with wonderful stories like those in the book of Daniel. I love the story of the fourth man in the fire with Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah (Shadrack, Meshach, and Abed-Nego) (see Daniel 3:24-25). To come out of the fire without even the smell of smoke, is the mighty work of the God we serve. And what He has done for these three He will do for us!!! Who has not been challenged to the very core of his life, beliefs, and actions by the handwriting on the wall; “Mene, Mene, Tekel, Upharsin” (Daniel 5:26-28 (NKJV). The interpretation given by Daniel, “God has numbered your kingdom, and finished it, and you have been weighed in the balance, and found wanting. Your kingdom has been divided, and given to the Medes and Persians”. The question is what about hand writing on our wall tonight, what will God find in us and what will He write about us? You have been weighed in the balances and found... Please remember this is going to happen to each of us, our works will be judged by God and what will He say, “Well?” or “Well done!”

The story that fits with the focus of this article is found in the second chapter of Daniel. This is the story of king Nebuchadnezzar and his dreams. He wanted to know the meaning of these dreams and no one could tell him his dream and the interpretation. So he decreed the death of all magicians, astrologers, and sorcerers and they included Daniel and his friends with this group. However, God had other plans; He told Daniel in a vision the dream and its interpretation. Read, once again, the words of Daniel as he blessed God for revealing the dream and interpretation.

Then the secret was revealed to Daniel in a night vision. So Daniel blessed the God of heaven. Daniel answered and said: “Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, For

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wisdom and might are His. And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise And knowledge to those who have understanding. He reveals deep and secret things; He knows what is in the darkness, And light dwells with Him. "I thank You and praise You, O God of my fathers; You have given me wisdom and might, And have now made known to me what we asked of You, For You have made known to us the king's demand." Daniel 2:19-23 (NKJV)

Daniel praised God for giving wisdom and might. Throughout the Bible the value and importance of wisdom is proclaimed. Please note, and this is very important, the wisdom given to Daniel was not the wisdom of man. The wisest men of Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom did not have the wisdom needed for the king. No amount of training and learning would be enough for this occasion. Only the wisdom of God was sufficient.

There are realms of prayer. They range from simple to mighty to the pulling down of strongholds. They can be powerful beyond the strength of anything designed by man. Many people are satisfied with their prayers; they are comforted, and reassured, having fulfilled their duty. Others want more from prayer. They see the record of prayer and know that God has moved mightily in response to prayer, just as He did for Daniel. They have seen God deliver and save from calamity. They have seen nations turned and mighty armies defeated. They have seen light brought to dark places and revival come to a hardened place.

What makes the difference? There are several things, the desire of those who want to pray, the heart attitude they cultivate with the help of the Holy Spirit. They seek the destruction of unbelief so faith can be strong and rule over their thoughts, statements, and actions. They have a humbleness that seeks the will of the Father over their will and willingness to forgive even as they are forgiven. They will not be moved by circumstances, rules, appearances, traditions, or threats. They believe God is willing and able to do what He promises. These are a few of the commitments, and attitudes required to serve God. With these we can move into the realm of powerful prayer.

The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available—dynamic in its working" James 5:17 (Amplified Bible).

A key to powerful prayer that is often missing or miss applied, is wisdom. Too often we acquiesce to the wisdom of man, when what we need is the wisdom of God. The wisdom of man cannot compare to the wisdom of God. The wisdom of man results in weak, anemic prayers that avail little. The wisdom of God results in prayers of power and effectiveness. Today we must have powerful effective prayers, we must have the wisdom of God directing and empowering our prayers.

Where does the wisdom of God come from? How did Daniel acquire it and how can we? The answer is easy, Job explains it to us. Look at this passage from the 28th chapter of Job.

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“From where then does wisdom come? And where is the place of understanding? It is hidden from the eyes of all living, And concealed from the birds of the air. Destruction and Death say, ‘We have heard a report about it with our ears.’ God understands its way, And He knows its place. For He looks to the ends of the earth, And sees under the whole heavens, To establish a weight for the wind, And apportion the waters by measure. When He made a law for the rain, And a path for the thunderbolt, Then He saw wisdom and declared it; He prepared it, indeed, He searched it out. And to man He said, ‘Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, And to depart from evil is understanding.’” Job 28:20-28 (NKJV)

From where does wisdom come? It comes from the fear of the Lord. There are several key points we must understand if we are going to have and apply the wisdom of God in our prayers. First there is no other source. In the last few articles of *Voice of Thanksgiving* we have seen that the fear of the Lord is placing God first in our life, thoughts, actions, and beliefs. When anything else is placed before Him or even beside Him, we do not have the proper requirements for the fear of the Lord and it will not be active in our life. The man or woman that has other gods before God, has not the fear of the Lord, and will not have the wisdom of God.

Our second main point here is that the wisdom of God and a departure from evil are linked. We see this in this passage from Job and in many others. The fear of the Lord is placing God first in our life and this requires and results in a departure from evil. The Bible states that if I regard iniquity in my heart I will receive nothing from God. This iniquity is actually a god that I have placed before God; thus I do not have the fear of the Lord. To have the wisdom of God in our life and prayers, we will by the help of word of God and guidance of the Holy Spirit, depart from evil.

And to man He said, ‘Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, And to depart from evil is understanding.’” Job 28:28 (NKJV)

The third point is that the wisdom of God is not the same as the wisdom of man. You might say that is obvious, God knows more. However, it is more than just God knows more. His wisdom is of an entirely different class from the wisdom of man. The wisdom of man comes through and functions in the soulish part of man, through the soul, which contains the will, emotions, and mind. The wisdom of man comes through the senses to the mind. There is value in education, and the fear of the Lord will bring illumination, but education does not bring us the wisdom of God. Please note, Job writes that wisdom is “***hidden from the eyes of all living***”. And David writes that wisdom comes to the inward and hidden parts of man. This is from the Spirit of God to the spirit of man.

Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, And in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom. Psalm 51:6 (NKJV)

Derek Prince explains, “The wisdom of God is unique, it is something entirely on its own it comes into the spirit and enables us to see God’s purposes, to see our life and the things around us in the light of God’s purpose and God’s council. Council is something very closely tied to wisdom in

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scripture. When we have this kind of wisdom, we receive God's council, we know how to act in different situations, we know how to relate to different people, and we know how to help people" (this is from a Legacy Radio broadcast by Derek Prince).

The wisdom of God made all the difference for Daniel. He answered the king; he was kept from death and promoted to high position. The wisdom of God changes our prayers from limitation of man to the unlimited knowledge and understanding of God. God knows the times and seasons of man, churches, and nations and with His direction we can pray powerful effective prayers.

The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available—dynamic in its working” James 5:17 (Amplified Bible).

My son, if you receive my words, And treasure my commands within you, So that you incline your ear to wisdom, And apply your heart to understanding; Yes, if you cry out for discernment, And lift up your voice for understanding, If you seek her as silver, And search for her as for hidden treasures; Then you will understand the fear of the Lord, And find the knowledge of God. For the Lord gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding; He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk uprightly; He guards the paths of justice, And preserves the way of His saints. Then you will understand righteousness and justice, Equity and every good path.

Proverbs 2:1-9 (NKJV)

Let us pray!

A Call for Prayer

Pray for Israel and the Peace of Jerusalem

Pray for a celebration at Inner Court Ministries in Longmont, Colorado. *Shalom Israel*, will be a night of celebration and intercession for the Jewish people and Israel, it will be September 26th. Join with us, from where ever you are, in praying for God to move powerfully on behalf of Jerusalem, Israel, and the Jewish people. Pray for their safety and salvation. Please note there is great blessing promised to those who will pray for the peace of Jerusalem. Even if you are far from Longmont, please pray for this event, your prayers can be effective and bring blessing to Jews, to you, your church, city, and ministry.

Pray for a Request made by Bill Williamson, Pastor of a church in Cedaredge, Colorado

Wyatt Tietz, 5 years old, has a complicated brain tumor; he has been taken to Denver for treatment. Pray for healing for Wyatt. Pray also for his mom and dad, young believers, and their family situation, dad is self employed; the family has extremely limited resources. Pray also for Bill's church; this church is experiencing growth and is in the initial design stages of a building. Pray for wisdom, vision, ad provision.

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Continue Faithful in Prayer

Please pray; your faithful prayers change situations, remove hindrances, and empower ministry

Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem

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 – Bishop of Poland and co-founder and leader of the 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 – Writer and editor of *Voice of Thanksgiving*

Calling Christians to Effective Fervent Prayer

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