

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of September 20, 2009

Prayer puts God's work in His hands, and keeps it there. It looks to Him constantly and depends on Him implicitly to further His own cause. Prayer is but faith resting in, acting with, and leaning on and obeying God. This is why God loves it so well, why He puts all power into its hands, and why He so highly esteems men of prayer. From *The Weapon of Prayer* by E. M. Bounds

The Life of Prayer

Components of Effective Prayer

David Williamson

When I was stationed in Germany, the military worked hard to make things nice for us. We had special stores we could use. One of the best was shopping in the stereo and photo club. In this store, manufacturers of stereo and camera equipment displayed their new equipment. We had access to all the best stereo and photo components and at reduced prices and so many rooms in the barracks had great stereo systems.

In my family there has been a tradition of great cooks. Each cook could produce a great meal and each had a specialty, the item everyone asked for. One item of note was pies. They all make great pies, with light, flaky crust. The ingredients for a pie crust are very simple; success in making a great crust is how you use those ingredients.

Great things come from great parts. A great stereo or a great pie crust, the first requirement for a great outcome was the components. Great components make the system great. A component is the constituent (the essential) parts, the ingredients. The result is only as good as the parts and how they are acted upon. A stereo cannot produce great music if it has poor speakers. Pie crust is simple, everyone knows the ingredients, but what you do with the ingredients makes for a crust people rave about.

This is true with prayer as well. Prayer is made of several components. With all the components in place prayer can be very powerful. With missing or poor components our prayers are hindered. With the components in place we can still miss the mark of the high calling of God for prayer, if we do not handle the components well. If we are going to be effective in prayer we must have both, all the components of prayer and then use them as God directs. It would be good for us to review some of the components of effective prayer. Take a moment and see if these components of prayer are a consistent part of your prayer life and if you use them well.

Specific Request

Our first component is to make a specific request. We need to ask what we desire God to do or what we want from Him. A specific request is precise, detailed, and definite. It trusts God to hear

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

the prayer and answer. Even though He knows what we need, it is His divine plan that we make know to Him our wants. This seems simple and straightforward, but it can be a problem for people. If we are specific about our requests then we have a measuring rod for our effectiveness. If we do not have confidence in God or in our faith this can be scary. Too often people opt out of this pressure by just praying general prayers. However, a component of effective prayer is having faith in God to answer and boldness to make specific requests.

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 1:6-8 (NKJV)

Scripture Based

Base your prayers on Scripture. Prayer is more effective if we are praying in the will of God. A great way to know His will is finding what He says in the Bible. Search the Bible for scriptures that apply to your particular need which give you a base and confidence for prayer. Read and meditate on these Scriptures, until they are firmly planted in your heart and they have built your faith. Also with God's Word firmly implanted in your heart, you can be prepared against Satan's attacks.

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)

Ask

This seems obvious, but without each component we will not have effective prayer. Even though He knows what we need, it is His divine plan that we make know to Him our wants. Ask God for the things you want and need.

Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. Matthew 7:7-8 (NKJV)

Believe that You Receive

Prayer is by faith. We must believe that God hears and answers prayers. People are willing to believe what they can see and feel, but sometimes it is hard to believe the things of the spirit world. If we are going to be effective in prayer then we must come to recognize that there is a spirit realm and that things in the spirit realm are made real in the natural realm through faith. This goes beyond our natural thinking and the natural mind cannot grasp it. However, we are told to walk by faith and not by sight. In the natural, circumstances seem very real, but by faith they can be changed. A stubborn faith that refuses to be limited by circumstances produces results in prayer.

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

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

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 11:23-24 (NKJV)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, Ephesians 1:3 (NKJV)

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)

There are more components to effective prayer, but this is a good start for this week. The challenge is what you will do with these components. Remember our pie crust. The ingredients are simple and well know to everyone, but the key to great flaky crust is how you use the ingredients. It is one thing to know these ingredients of effective prayer; we must also check our actions.

Faith Comes

First and foremost effective prayer requires faith. We must operate in all the components of prayer by faith. The great news is that faith comes. We need to be spending time this week in the Word of God building our faith. Our time should include our daily devotions, and time reading, studying, meditating, and acting on specific promises that apply to areas of our prayer needs.

Watch Your Mouth

One of the keys to success in prayer is speaking. When we pray we want to be careful what we say; we want to agree with God. The bigger problem is watching what we say, when we are not praying. It is easy to slip into speaking doubt, fear, and unbelief. We need to join with King David and ask for help with our mouth. Tame your mouth and you can have great success in prayer.

Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth; Keep watch over the door of my lips.

Psalm 141:3 (NKJV)

Just Do It!

Finally, for this list, we need to check on our actions. It is one thing to know about the components of prayer, but to be successful we must be doers of the Word.

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. James 1:22 (NKJV)

Let us pray!

A Call for Prayer

Pray for Israel and the Peace of Jerusalem

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

Remember to be praying for *Shalom Israel*. This will be a night of celebration and intercession for the Jewish people and Israel, 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 a Request made by Bill Williamson, Pastor of a church in Cedaredge, Colorado

Please remember to be praying for 5 year old Wyatt Tietz, he is in Denver for treatment. Pray for healing for Wyatt. Pray also for his mom and dad, young believers, and their family situation.

Pray for Joyce Abrahamson, head of Christian school in Brazil. Pray for finances for a replacement bus. The price for a newer bus is \$30,000.00 of which \$750.00 has been given. The air break on one wheel went out. The only place he could find a replacement was at a friend's junkyard.

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 a Christian 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

Voice of Thanksgiving is sent by email to subscribers and posted on the *Voice of Thanksgiving* website www.voiceofthanksgiving.com. You may reprint and or reproduce *Voice of Thanksgiving* in any fashion, provided the article and quotes are used in context as written. For questions or other inquiries, contact writer/editor David Williamson at david@voiceofthanksgiving.com

To receive your weekly copy of *Voice of Thanksgiving* send an email to david@voiceofthanksgiving.com Please write **subscribe** in the subject line.