

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of September 27, 2009

A man is no bigger than his prayer life, or as Murray M'Cheyne is reputed to have said, 'What a man is on his knees before God, he is—and nothing more.' From *Pray in the Spirit* by Arthur Wallis

The Life of Prayer

Power in Prayer

David Williamson

I like trains. I have enjoyed them since I was a little boy and my dad brought home a model train for my birthday. I love the way they look and sound, but most of all I love the power. The sight and sound, and oh yes the feel, of a great engine pulling cars loaded with tons and tons of goods, that is exciting. Near our house there is a track and several freight trains run there every day. Sometimes they come up through town and then stop by the park where I walk. They then reverse their direction and go back to pick up or drop off cars. When these huge engines are sitting there not moving, but full of pent up power, you hear and feel the immense power. The engineer gives a blast of his whistle, releases the brakes, and the train, with all that vast weight, very slowly begins to move again. That is power!

We live in an age of great power, trains, planes, ships; everywhere we look we see great power. This power is seen in moving vast loads and propelling massive payloads, across great distances. These devices just sit waiting and then at the command their power is released and they move. Great and impressive as this is, there is a force of power far greater in our midst. It is the power of prayer. Prayer can move mountains, turn nations, and touch hearts; that is power. However, too often this great power is pent up, waiting to be released. It is waiting for someone to release the power by prayer. The releasing of power in prayer requires many components. Each of these must be operational in our life to be effective in prayer.

Last week in *Voice of Thanksgiving*, the article explored some components of prayer. These components were related to the task of asking, that is making a petition to God. These components were specific request, scripture based, asking, and believing that you receive. There was also mentioned some ingredients that make the components of asking work; faith, guarding our mouth, and being doers of the Word. We continue studying important components of prayer, but focus, this week, on components of power in prayer.

Component #1 - Dealing with faith destroying forces – doubt, fear, and unbelief

The antidote for the faith destroyers is the Word of God. The application here is the filling of our heart with the Word of God to overflowing. Many people read their Bibles and they expect this to

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be enough. The problem is, they are just dipping their toe in the Word and they need to be fully submerged in the Word, they need to be in over their head.

Effective faith is always being in over our head; faith requires diving into God and His Word without reserve. It takes more than just casual reading of the Bible to overcome the power of doubt, fear, and unbelief. The Word in abundance in your heart will come out of your mouth. You are going to talk, the question is what you will say; faith or doubt, faith or fear, faith or unbelief. Your words spoken in faith; will produce life, healing, prosperity, and abundance. They will produce effective prayers.

My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your eyes; Keep them in the midst of your heart; For they are life to those who find them, And health to all their flesh. Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life. Put away from you a deceitful mouth, And put perverse lips far from you.

Proverbs 4:20-24 (NKJV)

Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.

Proverbs 18:21 (NKJV)

Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things. But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.

Matthew 12:34-37 (NKJV)

The key is to make good choices and act on them. Doubt, fear, and unbelief are choices. They are not given to us by God. We can choose to walk in these faith destroying activities or we can believe the promises of God. By studying the Bible, concentrating on the promises of God, we can come to believe God over any other evidence. This is what Abraham did and God called him a man of faith. We can do the same thing; meditate on the promises of God until they become more real than the problems we face. Faith that knows God, His promises, and His abilities and will believe nothing else, will be bold in prayer.

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)

And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb. He did not waver at the

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promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.

Romans 4:19-21 (NKJV)

Component #2 - Authority in the Name of Jesus

Jesus teaches us that we are to pray to the Father. This is a privilege afforded to His sons and daughters. This access to the Father, won by Jesus on the Cross, is a legal right of the born again children of God. This access gives us great power in prayer. We have His promise that if we come to Him that He will listen and hear our prayer, and answer our prayer!

Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV)

Jesus also teaches us that when we pray we are to use His name. There is great power in the name of Jesus and we have been authorized to use His name in prayer. It is like having his power of attorney in prayer. A power of attorney is authorization to act as the agent for another person. Jesus in giving us the right to use His name; this is permitting us to act for Jesus when we pray. To pray effectively in the name of Jesus we must be Born Again, the use of His name is reserved for His children. We must know what He wants us to do, so we need to spend time with Him and in His Word. This gives us legal ground for our faith, boldness, and power in prayer.

And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full. John 16:23-24 (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)

Component #3 - Standing Firm

God has done great things for us. He has prepared the way for us to pray and has made terrific promises about answers to our prayers. His requirement is that in all we do, walk, talk, act, and pray, must be by faith. Without faith we cannot please Him, nor can we live a successful Christian life or have effective prayers. With this understanding, we know God's ground rules, He requires faith. The problem is that walking by faith can be difficult at times.

Throughout the Bible God presents a call to stand firm on His plan, promises, and provision. Effectiveness comes to the man or woman who will stand, and more specific, stand consistently. Consistent is not a word that most people want to hear. Consistency requires changes to our daily routine, plans, and activities. It requires discipline. A flash of faith now and then is better than none, but effective prayer and a victorious Christian living, requires a consistent walk in faith. If we are going to have powerful prayers then we must discipline our life to consistently stand in faith and

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firmly stand on God's promises. God is faithful, what He has said, He will do, but He wants us to be consistent as well. The consistently faithful will have power in prayer.

that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,

Ephesians 4:14 (NKJV)

For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end, Hebrews 3:14 (NKJV)

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. Hebrews 10:23 (NKJV)

And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight-- if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.

Colossians 1:21-23 (NKJV)

For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise: Hebrews 10:36 (NKJV)

There we have a few components of power in prayer, deal with faith destroyers, pray with the authority of Jesus' name, and stand firm and consistent. Faithfully applied to our life and prayers they will yield great power in prayer. There are more components, others we need to explore and apply to our life, but they will have to wait for the next time.

Let us pray!

A Call for Prayer

Pray for Voice of Thanksgiving— With this issue **Voice of Thanksgiving** enters the eight year of publication. It has been a blessing to call for prayer, to encourage, and to teach on effective prayer. It has been wonderful to be a part of a company of believers from around the world praying, effective, fervent prayers that avail much. Please join with me in praising God for all He has done.

Please pray that **Voice of Thanksgiving** will have open doors of opportunity in the days to come. This opportunity needs to include all three basic components of open doors. First we pray for **Voice of Thanksgiving** to be in the right place at the right time. An open door is of no value if you are not in the place you need to be to step through the opening. This includes reaching the right

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people and going to the right places. Second, pray that *Voice of Thanksgiving* would be in the right frame of mind. Right frame of mind is how we think and believe. Very simply put, these newsletters need to present a message pleasing to God, calling for prayer and teaching on effective prayer. Third, *Voice of Thanksgiving* must have the resources needed to walk through the open doors.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem and for Israel

Continue Faithful in Prayer

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

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

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