

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of October 11, 2009

The confession of your mouth, even after you have prayed correctly, will determine whether or not you receive. Charles Capps from *Releasing the Ability of God through Prayer*

The Life of Prayer

The Correct Prayer for the Job

David Williamson

There is a cartoon that I have always gotten a chuckle out of, it was first published 30 or 40 years ago, but I still enjoy it when I see it or think of it. It shows a workman nailing up a sign, the sign says, "Workers must use the correct tool for the job". He is nailing the sign up with a wrench.

The cartoon rings true because we have all done things like this. Many falls and injuries come from the use of something other than the correct tool. Using the wrong tool can be more than just dangerous, but also make the job more difficult. Years ago my dad and I took an afternoon to remove a solenoid from a car, a job that takes about 20 minutes for a workman with the right tools.

This battle to have and use the correct tool for the job carries over into the realm of prayer. There are various types of prayer and we should use the correct type for the situation we face. The rules for one type are different from the rules for another. Knowing how to pray and seeking to be effective in prayer demands that we know the types of prayer and use the correct prayer for the job.

The last few weeks we have been studying components of effective prayer. Today we will continue, the focus today is on several types of prayer and their proper use. Effective prayer demands faith and we cannot be successful without faith, but it also demands we pray as directed by our Father. There is a great deal written in the Bible about prayer and these passages make a detailed guide to prayer and successful practices.

Component #6 – The correct prayer for the job

It is important that we pray correctly, using the proper prayer for the purpose for which we are praying. Some people say prayer is prayer and it does not matter, but far too often these same people get poor, if any, results. If we are interested in effective prayer, prayers that avail much, we need to understand and properly practice the types of prayer and their nuances of their use. Careful study of the Bible shows a number of types of prayer, such as prayer of petition, prayer of praise and thanksgiving, prayer of commitment, and intercession.

What most people think of when they think of prayer is prayer of petition. This is asking God for an answer to deal with a need. Asking God for an answer ranges from the urgent cry of desperation to

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a presentation of a formal request. The prayer of petition has rules of best practice. Faith is required in all types of prayer including petition. It is made more effective by the maintenance of a close relationship with the Father. We are to abide in Him and seek Him. A practical key for success is guarding our heart.

God has presented His will on many issues and situations; it is recorded in the Bible. Taking time to search out verses that apply to the situation, helps build faith, focuses our thinking correctly, and gives us confidence to pray. The best practice of prayer of petition is presenting our request with what we know of God's will on the subject. A petition presented to the Father with His words and promises, followed by a stand of faith, will see God change situations and bring the answers we need.

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)

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV)

Prayer of praise and thanksgiving give us direct access to God. Praise and thanksgiving is a great way to open our prayer times and they should be a central part throughout. Faith is required for successful prayer; praise and thanksgiving encourages and expresses our faith. Prayer with thanksgiving and praise is giving thanks before something happens. This is a great demonstration of faith. Last week in looking at praise and thanksgiving we saw that praise is offered to God for who He is and what He has done in general. Thanksgiving is offered to God for what He has done for us in particular.

Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. Psalm 100:4 (NKJV)

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)

The prayer of commitment or dedication is praying God's will for your life. This is used in a variety of applications, but the most common is seeking God's will for our life, work, or ministry. This prayer is used, for example, when offering self for missions. This is a surrender of my will seeking to do God's will. The question associated with this type of prayer is, what God would have me do with my life? What do you want me to do, where do you want me to go? The greatest example of this is Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane.

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He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."

Matthew 26:39 (NKJV)

Prayer of commitment is the place where it is appropriate to use the phrase, "if it be Thy will". In the prayer of praise and thanksgiving we know the nature and abilities of God, this is what we are praising and by faith, thanking Him for. In the intercession we know the gap where we must stand and we are seeking mercy. In the prayer of petition we are praying from a position of knowing the will of God. For example, we already know God's will on healing. He desires that we be healed and walk in health. We already know God's will on finances; my God shall supply all my need.

Intercession, our fourth type of prayer, is very powerful and requires a lot of practice, skill, and maturity. The intercessor is one who stands before God for those for whom he is praying. We have well know examples from the Bible; Abraham for the city of Sodom, Moses for the Jewish people in desert. Read this account from the book of Psalms about Moses and this intercession.

They made a calf in Horeb, And worshiped the molded image. Thus they changed their glory Into the image of an ox that eats grass. They forgot God their Savior, Who had done great things in Egypt, Wondrous works in the land of Ham, Awesome things by the Red Sea. Therefore He said that He would destroy them, Had not Moses His chosen one stood before Him in the breach, To turn away His wrath, lest He destroy them.

Psalms 106:19-23 (NKJV)

This is a wonderful picture of an intercessor. When someone's sin has caused a breach, the intercessor stands in the gap for that person. Intercession is also carried out for groups or even a nation. The intercessor cries out to God for mercy. Intercession is most often a hidden life, far from the limelight of the world. It is like the life of Anna recorded in Luke chapter 2. She lived her life as an intercessor always in prayer and fasting. She was there crying out for Israel and for their redemption. She was rewarded for her years of prayer by seeing the Redeemer and recognizing Him

Derek Prince presents four qualifications for an intercessor. "First of all, an intercessor must have an absolute conviction of God's righteousness, but he must be absolutely convinced also that God will judge the wicked. Second, he has to have a deep concern for God's glory. Third, I believe such a person must have an intimate acquaintance with God. An intercessor is a person who can stand before God and talk to Him with the utmost frankness—and yet reverence. And finally, to be an intercessor takes holy boldness. You must be willing to risk your life. As an intercessor you say, "I may run the risk of death, but I am going to stand here."

I have set watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; They shall never hold their peace day or night. You who make mention of the Lord, do not keep silent, And give Him no rest till He establishes And till He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth. Isaiah 62:6-7 (NKJV)

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Effective prayer is worth working for. God has made provision for us, opening the way for us to come boldly into His throne room. He has made remarkable promises and stands by His Word. Success in prayer comes by faith and application of the proper prayer for the situation.

Let us pray!

A Call for Prayer

Praise report from a request made by Bill Williamson, Pastor in Cedaredge, Colorado

We have been praying for 5 year old Wyatt Tietz, he was in Denver for treatment. Last weekend, Wyatt was at the apple festival near his home and doing much better!

Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem Pray for the Jewish people and their homeland. Pray for peace that comes through knowing the Messiah. Pray for hearts to be softened so when He is revealed, they will receive Him. Pray for understanding and wisdom so they will respond to His gift of salvation and life.

Pray for Pastor Daniel in Nepal Pray for open doors to regions of Nepal that have been difficult to reach. Pray for favor and protection for teams going out to plant new works. Pray for the provision for these teams.

Pray for Joyce Abrahamson Pray for the students in her school in Brazil. Pray for their spiritual growth toward salvation in Christ Jesus and for their physical needs, food, shelter, and protection. Pray also for the financial needs of the school.

Pray for David and Marianne Dean Pray for David and Marianne working in their training believers program. Pray for the believers who will grow, mature, and remain committed.

Pray for Churches and Christians Pray for churches in your region. There is a need for revival in countries around the world and revival comes by prayer, first to the church and Christians and then to communities, regions and nations. Pray that we would be changed and be on fire for Christ.

Pray for Open Doors Pray for ministries near to your heart, that they would have open doors of opportunity for the Gospel to be preached and people to be reached.

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

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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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