

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of November 1, 2009

Identification is thus the first law of the intercessor. He pleads effectively because he gives his life for those he pleads for: he is there genuine representative; he has submerged his self-interest in their needs and sufferings, and as far as possible has literally taken their place.

From *Rees Howells, Intercessor* by Norman Grubb

The Life of Prayer

Effective Prayer

David Williamson

Some times a story makes things easier to understand and remember. We can relate to the people in a story and this makes it easier for us to apply the principles of the story. We use this method with children all the time. Parents have read stories to their children for hundreds of years and use the stories as a teaching tool. So, today I would like to tell you two stories, one from the Bible and one more contemporary. They are both simple stories and many of you will know one or both stories. In both story the people prayed and God did awesome things.

The first story is from the Bible and involves a King with a catchy name, Jehoshaphat. Jehoshaphat was the fourth king to rule Judah after the split of the kingdom. He was 35 when he became king and ruled for 25 years (about 873-878). One day Jehoshaphat and the people of Judah found out that a mighty army was coming to conquer them. The army was so big it was called a multitude. There was no way they could defeat this army, so Jehoshaphat and all the people were afraid. In desperation Jehoshaphat declared they would seek the Lord's help so they fasted and prayed. God heard their prayer and answered, "Do not be afraid or dismayed because the battle is not yours, but mine. Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord. Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them, for the Lord is with you." So the people did what God said to do and God caused the army coming against them to kill themselves and it took three days to collect all the spoils.

In 1920 Rees Howells saw a need for a Christian training college. God sent him to an area near Swansea, Wales. As he prayed for a place, God guided him to a large estate named Glynderwen. Rees was convinced that this is where God wanted to place the college. At this time Rees had about 2 shillings and he soon found out that the estate would cost more than £6000 (At that time there was 20 shillings to a pound). There were other groups, backed with plenty of money, that were bidding to buy the estate. Rees had never been involved in buying something this expensive. He did not have a church, denomination, group or benefactor behind him to help. In the natural Rees buying this estate seemed impossible. Impossible or not, Rees began to pray and believe God for the purchase. The process lasted months. There were deposits that had to be met and often Rees did not have the money, even the day before the deadline. However, step-by-step each obstacle was overcome and Rees purchased the estate and established the Bible College of Wales.

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These two stories are examples of effective prayer. While most of us are not facing a massive army bearing down on us, with our destruction in mind, we do face things that would try to make us afraid. Effective prayer breaks the hold of fear. We also have opportunities to pray for changes to the world around us. There are needs of people, churches, ministries, and nations that require men and women of prayer who will seek God for help in time of need. Effective prayer brings real change. What we need today is men and women who can and will pray effective prayers.

Effective Prayer is...

Effective prayer is praying for a definite object. When we pray we must focus on one thing and seek it fully. We cannot be scattered and lacking focus for our faith and prayers. All of the examples from the Bible of effective prayer are focused on one point of need. Wherever you see the blessing sought for in prayer attained, you find that the prayer offered was prayer for a definite object.

Effective Prayer is...

Effective prayer is in accordance with the revealed will of God. Jesus could have prayed that the stones be made into bread, but that would not have been in the will of God. To pray for things contrary to the revealed will of God is to tempt God. God's will is expressed by the Bible, the promises and predictions of the Bible tell what God wants and what He will do. Second, God has sent His Spirit to help us; He will lead us and guide us in praying the will of God. Third, God reveals His will by speaking to the spirit of Christians, who by reason of maturity in dealing with the Word of God and training hear the Holy Spirit.

But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. Hebrews 5:14 (NKJV)

Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. 1 Corinthians 2:12 (NKJV)

Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Romans 8:26 (NKJV)

Effective Prayer is...

Effective prayer is aided, guided, and empowered by the Holy Spirit. In our own strength we cannot pray effective prayers. We must pray by faith and we must have the hand of the Spirit directing our prayers and praying (Romans 8:5)

Effective Prayer is...

Effective prayer is only possible if you have renounced all your sins. God hates, no He detests, sin. Until we have a measure of that same feeling for sin we will not have effective prayers. People hold

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on to sin, coddle sin, pamper sin, minimize sin, and turn away from sin by putting it on the shelf where it will wait until the next time. Renounce means to disown. Effective prayer is effective because the two main parties, God and the man or woman of prayer detest sin.

Effective Prayer is...

Effective prayer is effectual when offered from the right motives. Often prayer, even when it sounds okay, is offered from selfish motives. How many prayers for a wayward husband are for the comfort of the wife more than for the salvation of the husband? She wants someone to take her to meetings and so the family will look good. The right motive is that he must be saved or he will reside in Hell for ever. How many prayers of parents, for their children, is just parental tenderness, longing for something nice for their children. It is too often not a desperate cry for salvation for the unsaved child. This is seen in the request by the mother of Zebedee's sons when she asked for seats on the right and left hand of Jesus. Her motive was for position and power, not for the good of the Kingdom (Matthew 20:20-21).

Effective Prayer is...

Effective prayer is praying with a willingness to accept the revealed will of God. David fasted and prayed for his first child from Bathsheba who was dieing. David, a man of prayer, knew that God listened to prayer, and there was a chance that the child would live. However, once the child did die, David accepted the revealed will of God. Peter knew that the wickedness of trying to buy the power of the Holy Spirit was a sure ticket to death. However, he also knew the power of repentance. Perhaps Simon would be forgiven, if he repented. Effective prayer requires pressing in to obtain help, but a willingness to accept God's will when it is fully revealed.

And he said, "While the child was alive, I fasted and wept; for I said, 'Who can tell whether the Lord will be gracious to me, that the child may live?' But now he is dead; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me."

2 Samuel 12:22-23 (NKJV)

You have neither part nor portion in this matter, for your heart is not right in the sight of God. Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you. Acts 8:21-22 (NKJV)

Effective Prayer is...

Effective prayer is effective because the prayer for an object implies a desire for that object commensurate with its importance. If a person truly desires a blessing, his desires will be in proportion to the greatness of the blessing. God desires to bless us with answers and if we have strong desires to bless others there is a very good chance this desire is stirred up by the Holy Spirit.

In chapter eight of the book of Romans, Paul explains that nothing can separate us from the love of Christ. Then in the ninth chapter Paul tells of his willingness to be separated from Christ for the

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salvation of the Jews. This is a strong desire for their salvation is commensurate with the importance of the Jews being grafted back in at the end of the age of the Gentiles.

For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh, Romans 9:3 (NKJV)

Effective Prayer is...

Effective prayer is persevering prayer. Most prayer is presented and forgotten. This is why many people must go back to God many times with the same request. They do not pray in faith and even if they do, they do not continue in faith until the answer comes. For 21 days Daniel persevered in faith for answers (Daniel 10:12-14).

Effective Prayer is...

Effective prayer is possible to those who pray often. Paul said to pray without ceasing and the first thing we should do in everything is pray. Effective prayer does not just happen. It comes to those who by reason of practice can and do pray. Finney writes, "It was said of the apostle James, that after he was dead it was found his knees were callous like a camel's knees, by praying so much. Ah! here was the secret of the success of those primitive ministers. They had callous knees."

Effective Prayer is...

Effective prayer is offered in the name of Jesus. There is no other name filled with the power for answers. The Bible injunction is that we pray to the Father, and that these prayers should be in Jesus' name.

Effective Prayer is...

Effective prayer is prayed in faith. You must expect to obtain the things you ask for. You need not look for an answer to prayer, if you pray without an expectation of obtaining it. Faith receives from God.

Effective prayer is that prayer which obtains the blessing that it seeks. The highest form of effective prayer is praying for the needs of others. When we give of our life for the good of others we can have a special place with God in prayer. Will you respond to God's call for prayer? Will you give of your life for effective prayer? Editor's note - The main points in this article are from the book *Lectures on Revival* by Charles Finney

Let us Pray!

A Call for Prayer

Pray for Pastor Daniel in Nepal Pray for the next New Life School of Ministry for the Pastors and Leaders, starting from Nov 15th to Dec. 17th. Pray for a church in East Nepal for two Christmas

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Healing Festival in December 3rd week. Help with expenses for **sound systems and stage** each event costs around \$1000. I appreciate your love for Nepal and partnership in the gospel, with joint effort we can change this nation and together we can make impact to the eternity.

Pray for Marek Kaminski Please pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit in our nation and the church. Pray for growth of wisdom for leading the church. Pray for sufficient supplies and for more people to sacrifice their life for the sake of ministry.

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.

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

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