

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of November 15, 2009

Bear up the hands that hang down, by faith and prayer; support the tottering knees. Have you any days of fasting and prayer? Storm the throne of grace and persevere therein, and mercy will come down.
John Wesley

The Life of Prayer

Expectation

David Williamson

Living life with me can be difficult sometimes. One example of this is when I am preparing for a mission trip. I like mission trips, I like to travel, the ministry, seeing friends, and seeing new places. I like the exhilaration and the challenge. I get so excited about the trip that I talk about the trip all the time. I am almost as bad as the man who talked and talked about himself and then said, "Well enough about me, let's talk about some thing else. What do you think about me?" When my wife and I go to dinner, we talk about the trip, when we ride in the car we talk about the trip. Then for a change of pace, I ask my wife what she thinks about the trip. You see, I told you I get excited about mission trips.

Why do I get so excited about going on a trip? I like trips and travel, I like seeing places far from home. I like seeing friends. I like to help others and serve them for Christ. But please note, and this is the theme of this teaching, I get excited because I expect to go on the trip. I expect to have a great trip, and I expect to see God doing great things. I am excited because I have high expectations.

Prayer is the most powerful force on earth. By prayer we can set the course of our life or the course of the life for a family, church, or nation. God's promises concerning prayer are so powerful that most people simply cannot take it in. They reject the promises or strive to limit there meaning and power. However, for those who long to see the mighty power of God at work in their life, effective prayer is a worthwhile goal to pursue.

Because it is so powerful and important, one of the most desperate needs for people and nations today is men and women of effective prayer. The opportunities that stretch out before us are too vast and too important for anything other than effective prayer. Nothing but the believing man or woman of effective prayer will reach God and His power in the ways and means necessary for meeting the needs of today.

People interested in prayer, look at many factors for success. Faith, seeking God, the Word of God, the attitude of our heart, forgiveness, limiting fear and doubt, and other factors are all important and worthy of our study, training, and practice. It is a true statement that the man or woman of faith will

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be working to have all of these factors properly dealt with or properly in force in their life and their prayer life to be successful. Without seeking God and all of these factors that come from a close relationship with the Father, our prayer life will be impotent. This is one of the reasons that a prayer life is so important; it is impossible to be successful in prayer without the working of the Holy Spirit changing us from the inside out. The man or woman of prayer must be a new creation in Christ in fact and practice, not just in name.

There is another factor, one that is often overlooked, but it is a key to our success, it is high expectation. I expected to go and be blessed spiritually and physically on trips. My faith works because I expect to see great things happen, for me and through me. If we are going to have success in prayer we must have high expectation of God doing what He has promised in answers to prayers. Look at this statement of Solomon. Please note carefully and prayerfully what he is saying.

And he said: "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, who has fulfilled with His hands what He spoke with His mouth to my father David, saying, 2 Chronicles 6:4 (NKJV)

This should and must be our expectation of what God will do with our prayers. Solomon said; God has done what David asked. We need to have expectation that God will do what He has promised. Until we have this expectation we limit our faith and prayers. Without expectation we are not looking for answers, we are not planning for answers, and we are not going to receive answers to our prayers. Look at your prayer life; you do have a prayer life, right, what are your expectations?

Most people, who pray, claim to have expectations of answers from God. They express their belief that God answers prayers. However, from this initial and often vague claim, there often is a breakdown in expectations. What people claim as expectations, is really just "hoping and wishing". They talk and talk, and then talk some more, but they do not have expectation of answers from God. They hope He will do something, they wish for answers, but they do not have expectation of receiving answers and so no faith is applied to their prayers and they do not get an answer. How do we know this, their actions and words reveal their lack of expectation.

When I am going on a trip, I have expectation of going. I begin to do things. I check my passport, I buy airline tickets, I call my friends, I set up an itinerary, I buy the currency of the country where I am going, I check health and safety regulations, I get out my suitcase, as a matter of fact I have a list of things I do. Why do I do these things, because of expectation, I expect to go on the trip.

Too often, in prayer, we pray, but we do not have expectation of getting answers. Oh, sure we might hope that God will do something, but our expectation is so low we do not act. Daily we act on our expectation, or on our lack of expectations. For most people when it comes to prayer, if they have expectation at all, they act on their expectation that nothing will happen from their prayers. Some do not believe that God answers prayers. Some believe He only answers the prayers of special people and some don't know what to believe. So what do they do? They continue their life just as they have been, not expecting God to answer or for their prayers to avail anything, let alone much.

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It is not just actions that speak loudly of their lack of expectations, their words say, “NO EXPECTATION”. Their words are doubt, fear, denial, sin, unbelief, ridicule, and/or unforgiveness. The things they say are a declaration that they have no expectation of God answering their prayers. Even if there is a particle of expectation at the prayer meeting, they negate this before they reach their car, by what they say. Things like, “I am glad we prayed about God healing and blessing with health at this meeting, because I always get the flu. I will probably be sick by the end of the week.” There is no expectation of answers to their prayers or even of the prayers of others.

To have expectation of answers we must deal with the things that hinder or destroy expectation. This requires that we do several things. On the positive side here are things we should and must do if we are going to have high expectation and allow faith to work in our prayer life. By the work and guidance of the Holy Spirit we can change our expectation, or lack there of, to high expectation of God working mightily in our life and prayers.

We need to study, meditate, and walk in the love of the Father. The love of God is His drawing card, it leads us to repentance, it leads us to salvation, and it leads us to works of service. It is the love of God that grows in us, so that there are changes to our thinking and actions. The love of God motivates and invigorates recognition of and desire for the great promises and deeds of God. Power in prayer begins with the love of God and it takes prayer to its highest place that of praying for the good of others. When we walk in the love of God, His promises are fulfilled, we see His love motivating, and we see His power working. By His love we seek God’s will in all we do and in our prayers. When we fully enter into His will, we can ask for anything and He will do it. This brings high expectations for answers to prayers.

We need to study, meditate, and walk in the promises of God. It is so important that we know what God has promised and know what His record is concerning what He has done. There are few things that are better for building high expectation, than hearing what God has done. God the Father and Jesus His Son have a record of answering prayer that is awesome. Feed on this record, read of His promises, next read the prayers of people and note the answers from God. This brings high expectations for answers to prayers.

We need to study, meditate, and walk in who Christ is and who we are in Him. The man, who does not know that he is an heir, thinks and acts differently from the man who knows. We can have high expectation if we know what Christ has done. His work is mighty to defeating our enemy and every foe. Our position in Christ, as joint heirs with Him, is one of position and power. We have access with the Father and this access is for bold entry and asking in faith for answer to all our petitions. If we know who we are and to whom we belong, we can ask with faith. This brings high expectations for answers to prayers.

We need to study, meditate, and walk in aids to stopping bad actions, that is, actions that hinder or stop high expectation of answers to our prayers. God has called us to walk a holy life and this is

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especially true for those who will pray effective prayers. He has given us all we need to be willing and able to walk holy. His demand of a holy walk, is not just an idle statement, but reflects His requirements and what He knows we need to have power in prayer. Walking in His holiness will change our life and prayers. This brings high expectations for answers to prayers.

We need to study, meditate, and walk in ways to put a guard to our mouth so we say what we should and only what we should. There is no area where more people destroy their faith and expectation than this. They do not watch what they say. Our tongue can be our best friend or worst enemy; it all depends on how it is used. Unfortunately for most people the tongue is an enemy. We sound like the world, saying the things the world says and so we get the results of the world, death and destruction. What we should be saying, to walk with God and be effective in prayer, is affirming His power, might, ability, love, and concern, and our position of favor with Him. This brings high expectations for answers to prayers.

Prayer is hard for many people because of their expectations. Why spend the time and effort if you expect nothing in return. So with this low expectation of success few people pray and fewer yet pray effective prayers. However, this is not God's plan or will. He is looking for people who by reason of their training have high expectation of answers to their prayers. Jesus' expectation was that God always heard His prayer. He knew that if God heard he would answers. This same high expectation is the expectation He has for us that we would pray, be heard and have answers to our prayers. This is high expectations of answers to our prayers.

Let us pray!

A Call for Prayer

Pray for Pastor Charles of the Wyola Baptist Church in Montana

Pastor Charles is doing better, his heart is strong, but he needs a full and complete healing so he can fully do the job set before him for the Crow and the Body of Christ.

Pray for Young People – Pray this week for salvation and deliverance for young people. This struggle that they are in today is life and death. Pray for them to hear the good news of the Gospel and choose life. Pray for the hearts of young people to be opened and receptive to the Gospel message. Also pray for ministries to young people. I ask you to pray for several groups of young people. Pray for the young people of your family. Then pray for the young people in your church, city, and nation. Finally, also pray for the young people of another nation.

There are young people on campuses of East Asia and young people in a school in Brazil. There are young people in a small town in Colorado, young people in the towns of Belarus, and many other places. From Poland to Nepal there are young people who, as we sometimes say, “just chillin’ on the

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corner” they may not know it, but these young people are waiting for the harvest. The question is, how will they be harvested, for the Kingdom or to their doom? Will you pray?

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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A New Book on Effective Prayer

The third volume of the book series *Prayer: A Force that Causes Change* is now available. The subtitle of this volume is *Faithful in Prayer*. For further information or to order your copy of this book or others in the series, go to the *Voice of Thanksgiving* website at www.voiceofthanksgiving.com