

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of December 13, 2009

He who would make a success in life is the man who learns how to pray. Any person who wishes to fulfill the purpose for his coming into the world and who will make a covenant with God to bring before Him daily all the problems of life, involving his home, family, work, and every detail of life—will have a successful life. from *The Art of Successful Praying* by Gordon Lindsay

The Life of Prayer

This is My Desire

David Williamson

There have been many articles over the years in *Voice of Thanksgiving* about my Grandma. I have fond memories of her and the things she did. She was a good wife, mother, and grandmother, but she really excelled in ideas and plans. She saw life as an opportunity waiting for someone to come and creatively build on the possibilities. Throughout her life, for family, with friends, and in businesses, she took opportunities and made things happen. One of the keys to her many successes was her strong desire. When she had an idea or plan there was nothing that she would allow to get in the way of her desire to see the project through to completion and success.

Let me give you an example. My Grandma and some friends had a desire to build a camp for Girl Scouts in the mountains of Colorado. As the project progressed they needed a main building for the camp. They found a building but it was a long way from where they need it. Most people would not have even tried to use this building as there was no way to transport it to the mountains from its location on the Colorado plans. However, my Grandma and a friend had a desire for that building and pushed to get it moved until people came up with a way to get it moved. They did what others thought was impossible because they had a desire that would not take no for an answer.

The Bible is filled with people who did great and seemingly impossible things because they had a strong desire. They would not be deterred. Take Jacob, he was bound and determined to receive all the blessing he could get from God. It was so important to him that he even lied and stole for it. This is not approval of lying and stealing, but shows the importance and value of a strong desire. Take another example, Luke tells us about the woman with an issue of blood. By law she was not allowed to be in the crowd, but she was determined to touch Jesus' robe and be healed. Another example is Paul. He would not be stopped from fulfilling his desire, even when he was beaten and left for dead, he would get up and return to preaching.

Many people have desires and they long to see things happen. Most people let problems and hindrances keep them from fulfilling their desires. Most people when told that something is impossible give up. Their desires are nothing more than wishes. You hear it all the time, people wish

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they would be blessed, healed, or successful in ministry, but that was all it is, a wish. For others their desire is so strong they will not be denied. What makes the difference, why do some people see their desires through to completion?

Over the years strong desire has gotten a bad rap. This is due in part to excesses and bad situations associated with worldly desires. It is true there have been evil people with strong desires who have done bad things. Some of the most notorious men and women of history had strong desires. They were bound and determined to do what they wanted, even if they had to kill people, sometimes masses of people, to get the job done. However, we should not shy away from strong desire because of the problems of a few.

Strong desire can be a key to success in life and prayer. We have been given the opportunity, authority, and power to effect change. We have a choice, we can go along with things as they are or we can change things to be the way we want. The key here is desire. What do we desire and are we willing to walk out our desires, strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Remember what I said about my Grandma, she would not take no for an answer. Can this be said of you?

O Lord, You are the portion of my inheritance and my cup; You maintain my lot. The lines have fallen to me in pleasant places; Yes, I have a good inheritance. I will bless the Lord who has given me counsel; My heart also instructs me in the night seasons. I have set the Lord always before me; Because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved.

Psalm 16:5-8 (NKJV)

In Psalm 16, we read that God has given to each of us an inheritance, a special lot in life. A lot in life means a destiny. This destiny is special just for you and when God made you, He made more than just your height and color of your eyes special, He made you to see things and do things in an exclusive and unique way. Many people float through life never fulfilling their destiny. They never engage in the battle to be and do what God has planned. Their destiny is always hanging there waiting for them, but never fulfilled. Life and our destiny do not need to be like a piece of fruit tantalizing, but always just out of our reach. God has made preparation for us so we can fulfill all He has for us.

To fulfill our destiny we must focus on what God plans for us. Too often people live a life seeking ungodly desires. Please note this is not a typo, people are seeking desires that are not necessarily bad, but not what God has planned. People think they know what they want and seek it, it becomes their desire. However, the best for them is what God planned. He knows better and more fully. He knows all about us from beginning to end. We only know a little about our past and now. And what we know is often clouded by desires of the flesh, emotions, and even input from the world. We are simply limited in what we know about things and even about our true desires. We can however, know what God has planned for us and have godly desires. Godly desires have a focus, one way or another, on the betterment of the Kingdom. Are you interested?

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God's wonderful plan for each person places us in our unique role, position, and place. We are sons or daughters of God, joint heirs with Christ, and while our assignments vary, our walk is to desire and seek the fullness of what God has planned. We have a choice in how we respond to His plan. If we view our destiny with delight, we will be blessed. Even in time of struggles or trials, we declare God's plan is a good inheritance; He has a good plan for me. Seeking to walk out His plan is a Godly desire. And He promises to guide us through to successful completion of His plan.

A Godly desire, rightly focused on the betterment of the Kingdom begins first and foremost with the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Until we come to grips with this we cannot fulfill our destiny. There cannot be any other lord, even self, ruling over our life. Is Jesus Lord of your Life? Is He Lord of your desires?

If we are going to be effective in prayer, we need to have a strong desire. Effective prayer is a battle; forces of evil will fight against asking and answering. The person who just hopes he will have answers will be hindered. Prayer requires a desire that will not be ambushed, bushwhacked, or waylaid. We must also have a Godly desire. A Godly desire seeks and serves the Kingdom of God. This combination, strong and Godly desire, transforms our prayers and it is the backbone for persistence in prayer.

There is a Christian song, a simple song, it speaks to our desires. "It's my desire to be like Jesus, Walk in His footsteps and follow Him, To know His suffering, And show His love. It's my desire to be like Him". This is the desire for effective prayer, to be like Jesus. Paul wrote to the Philippians about the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. For him, for all of us, this is a reaching forward, a goal worth striving for, reaching for the prize. The ultimate prize in prayer is to pray like Jesus. If this is our desire, a strong desire, and our Godly desire, we are seeking a great thing. Jesus, the man of prayer, was effective in prayer. He was always heard by God and God answered Him. This is what we should desire.

Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Philippians 3:12-14 (NKJV)

We cannot have success in prayer; we cannot have the success we need, if we do not have a strong and Godly determination to seek and serve the Kingdom of God and see His will done here as it is in Heaven. However, we can be successful. Our success comes from a desire that will not take no for an answer. If we have a desire that keeps our eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. As long as I stay fixed on Him and His plans, seeking to be like Him, I will be successful.

A desire set on obtaining what God has prepared for us to accomplish can be a very rewarding life. There will be trials and obstacles to overcome, but the results are wonderful. The knowledge that we

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have done what we were designed to do and have done something for the Kingdom is wonderful. Do you have a strong desire? Is your desire for worldly things or for the furtherance of the Kingdom? What has God given to you to do and accomplish for the Kingdom? Do you desire it enough to fight for it?

Let us pray!

A Call for Prayer

Pray for Israel and the Peace of Jerusalem

Pray for Pastor Daniel in Nepal Pray for a church in East Nepal for two Christmas 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 – Pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit over the nation of Poland. Pray for vision for the entire denomination he leads. “The Lord started to show me the things that I have to do for the ca. 220 churches. I want to fulfill the will of God - nothing less, nothing more”. Pray for a new vehicle for Marek to use, “The van is worn out and I will need to change it. I cover many thousands of kilometers monthly”. Pray for his family. “We need a lot of protection. We need good relationships for children and Ewa”. Pray for help to finish his dissertation soon.

Pray for Marianne and David Dean – Pray for more men to be actively and regularly involved in the graduates and young professionals’ fellowship. Pray for the upcoming service project Christmas program at local old folks home. Pray for wisdom in parenting for David and Marianne.

Pray for Mark Spencer – Pray that his three books, *A Portrait of Intercession*, *The Cry for Spiritual Reality* and *Surely God Will Do Me Good*, which have just gone to the publisher, may be used by the Lord for His purposes and glory.

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

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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