

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of December 20, 2009

God looks not to our lips to see what the name is to us, but to our lives. When the Scriptures speak of “those who have given their lives for the name of the Lord Jesus” or of one “ready ... to die for the Name of the Lord Jesus,” we see what our relationship to the name must be. When it is everything to me, it will obtain everything for me. If I let it have all I have, it will let me have all it has.

From *With Christ in the School of Prayer* by Andrew Murray

The Life of Prayer

3 Days before Answers

David Williamson

My Grandma had a gift store and one of the most popular items she sold was her cookbooks. She wrote and my aunt illustrated these simple books. One of the best was her *3 Days before Payday* cookbook. The premise of the cookbook was that it was possible to fix good meals for your family even when you got down to that time, a few days before the next payday, when the cupboard and the refrigerator were low on supplies. This cookbook was more than just recipes, it offered complete meal plans. With these plans you could creatively provide a good and nutritious meal for your family.

One of the facts of life is that we all face trials. There are difficulties that must be overcome if we are going to be successful in life; this is true in general and especially true in our Christian life. When we are actively involved in Church life, ministry, outreach and sharing our faith we must deal with the trials of life and with hindrances to our Christian work. We have examples of this throughout the Bible and in the life of untold numbers of Christians from the time of Jesus to the present. Trials are a part of the Christian life.

We may wish this was not so, but in reality it is important that we deal with trials. Our time on earth is not just to be enjoyed or endured, but is a time for us to be conquerors. Jesus came to earth for us so that we can have abundant life. This life is ours by the grace of God. However, there are forces that strive to keep us from this life. Between the work of the Devil, the lust of our flesh, and the lure of the world we are facing many trials. Overcoming these trials is an important part of our time on earth. We are being prepared to be the glorious Bride of Christ. This Bride is learning how and successfully dealing with every force hostile to God and His Kingdom.

Prayer, described in simple terms, is conquering over trials and hindrances. What do we do when we face a trial? Are we overcome and forced to suffer loss or do we rise up and conquer? The man or woman successful in prayer does the latter. Most of us are still learning the lessons of conquering.

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We pray, but too often our prayers are weak ineffective prayers that avail little if anything. We see the possibilities and we long to triumph, but we struggle.

One of the most difficult times in our efforts to be successful in prayer, is when we face time between our prayer and the manifestation of the answer. This is the time with trials that come to bring defeat instead of victory in prayer. All that works against us, the Devil, the lust of our flesh, and the lure of the world, come during this period. Our success is found in not yielding to the trial. We must continue in faith until we have the answer in hand. We must not turn from God and His promises. We must not listen to or respond to the clamor of doubt, fear, and unbelief.

If we make a slight change to the title of the little cookbook my Grandma wrote, it becomes a description of what we face. In her book the person faced the difficulty of feeding her family those last few days before the next payday. We face dealing with the trials of waiting for the answer of our prayers to be manifest. She suggested ways to have meals from things found at home and with little money. We have ways to continue in faith through the trial and conquer. So today I present for our benefit, *3 Days before Answers*.

What can we, should we, must we do to go through the trial to receiving the answer to our prayer? This is a massive subject and more suited to treatment in a book, but there are some basics that we know and can do. The underlining key is to keep the faith. If our faith fails so have we. The basic action is described by Paul in His letter to the Ephesians. He says, having done all, and then stand. All of the other things we address in this study or any other on the subject are wasted if we quit. Even if it seems as though the game is over, do not quit. We are children of the Almighty God and things are not over until He says they are over.

Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, Ephesians 6:14 (NKJV)

What can we, should we, must we do to maintain our faith, hope, and love, when the pressure is on? The most important ingredient in our recipe for conquering in trials is thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is so important; it is like turning on God's light in our life. When you walk in a room at night, the first thing you do is turn on the light. It is so automatic we do not even think about it. This should be the way we are concerning thanksgiving. It should be the thing we automatically reach for whenever we pray. This is especially true when we are dealing with delays in receiving answers to prayer. The longer the wait the more we need thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving turns on the light that reveals the nature and promises of God. When we face problems and we have needs, we want answers and sometime we are desperate for answers. If the answers we seek come quickly, then we are happy and rejoice in the blessing of God. If the answers are slow to come, then we are sad and in danger of being angry with God. The anger of man is not the foundation for faith, it does not support faith, and it can destroy our faith. This is one of the reasons why so many people do not pray effective prayers that avail much. However, when we walk

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day-by-day in thanksgiving to God we overcome anger. With thanksgiving we clear away the darkness of despair and frustration. With thanksgiving we declare the goodness of God and all His blessings. We make a choice to think of all God has done for us and thank Him. We thank Him for the wonderful things He has done and for the things He will do.

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; Philippians 4:6 (NKJV)

rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving. Colossians 2:7 (NKJV)

Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving; Colossians 4:2 (NKJV)

In your cupboard there are many wonderful ingredients, like thanksgiving. These ingredients are there for your use in overcoming trials. Faith, love, forgiveness, perseverance, study of the Word, meditation on His promises, abiding in Christ, fellowship with other Christians, and the list goes on and on, are some of the provision God has made for us for that day, *3 Days before Answers*.

Men and women of effective prayer conquer by...

This week, instead of just reading the article, you finish it. Write out the recipe for *3 Days before Answers*. Write a personal recipe for dealing with the trial of waiting for the answer. What are the things you do and things you should be doing, to stay in faith until the answer comes. Be specific and practical. Remember in my Grandma's cookbook there were not just recipes, but complete meal plans. Write your recipe for a complete meal, all you need to do, say, and think to have success throughout the day and each day until the answer comes. Write out the things you can and will do to conquer.

Let us pray!

A Call for Prayer

Pray for End Time Finances Pray for the money needed for ministries that are reaching people with the gospel. There are churches, outreaches, ministries, and other activities and these efforts require financial provision. Please pray for the finances for your local church and ministry and for other ministries near and far from where you are. There are ministries you could pray for, listed here in *Voice of Thanksgiving* and there are others that you carry in your heart. Please pray!

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Continue Faithful in Prayer

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

Pray for Israel and 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