

# *Voice of Thanksgiving*

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of January 3, 2010

I urge upon you communion with Christ a growing communion. There are curtains to be drawn aside in Christ that we never saw, and new foldings of love in him. I despair that I shall ever win to the far end of that love, there are so many plies in it. Therefore dig deep, and sweat and labor and take pains for him, and set by as much time in the day for him as you can. We will be won in the labor.

Samuel Rutherford

## ***The Life of Prayer***

### ***What Are You Cultivating?***

David Williamson

One of the fun things about the change to a new year is the look back at what has happen through the year. Some of what is presented is bad or evil; we live in a time when there is evil. However, the emphasis on most reviews is on the good things people have done. Some of these events are events that happen suddenly. People are thrust into situations and respond in a good or heroic way. For example most years there is a near disaster on a plane to report. It seems certain the plane will crash and many, even hundreds will be killed, but the pilot successfully lands the plane. His seemingly sudden heroic action is actually the result of years of training and practice. He has simulated emergency landings thousands of times in a simulator. When the crisis came he was ready, he had cultivated the knowledge and skills to react correctly in an emergency.

Cultivating knowledge and skills is a key to success in every endeavor. The preparation, sometimes preparation of a lifetime, sets the stage for success. Preparation is often hard work, long hours of study and practice, dedication, and striving for mastery. The great people in any field are those who work hard, paying the price of preparation, and then their efforts pays off.

Everyone cultivates areas in their life. Unfortunately, for many people the focus is on the negative things in life. Cultivation of worldly things causes worry, pain, suffering, fear, doubt, and destruction. This comes by listening, reading, watching, and doing the things of the world. Daily there is a, nearly non-stop, flow of information and data that is not godly, nor is it edifying. And while most people view inputs from the world as innocuous, bit it is worldly.

There is cultivation in the Christian life as well; which is best lived in constant cultivation of God directed thoughts and practices. It is important to develop and nurture the various elements the Bible presents as keys to living a victorious Christian life. This prepares us for success in every aspect of our life. And conversely, failure to cultivate these causes mediocrity or worse. This is especially true for effective prayer.

Cultivation is to prepare for use, to foster growth, to improve by labor, care, or study, or to refine things such as the mind. In a Christian context this is doing everything we can so we can walk with the Lord. This is removing everything in our life, communication, and thoughts that would separate

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us from God's presence. Christian cultivation is walking day-by-day with the Holy Spirit as our close companion. We make Him our Holy Guest and walk, talk, and act as we would do when we are in the presents for a special or honored person. It is giving God first place in our life; this is the fear of the Lord. This is putting the Word of God in our heart. And more than just some Word there it is putting the Word in our heart in abundance. It is out of the abundance of our heart that the mouth speaks. Right speaking in general, and even more importantly, right speaking in prayer is cultivated by filling our heart to full and overflowing with the Word of God. Cultivating a victorious Christian life is dealing with unbelief, doubt, fear, unforgiveness, pride, hardness of heart, and jealousy. Cultivating is developing, nurturing, fostering, promoting, encouraging, supporting, and helping live the life God has planned for us.

Cultivation is a practice we are all familiar with in daily life; we practice it in many areas. One of the most common is gardening. There is a yield of fruits and vegetables to those who care for their garden. It can be hard work, but the rewards are great for those who do work hard. There is the planting and watering, there is weeding and pruning, there is protection from the elements and predators, all of this and much more goes into the cultivation of a successful garden.

In cultivation for effective prayer there are many things we should be doing. We cultivate effective prayer by faith, relationship, and boldness. A demonstration of cultivating with faith is seen in the life of Abraham. It is natural that we should learn from Abraham, as father of our faith he is great example and guide for everyone who would walk by faith. There are many lessons to learn, but we focus on just a couple in this article.

Abraham cultivated faith by not being moved by what he saw. Even though his body seem old and as good as dead concerning having a child, Abraham believed God and declared what God said to be true over what he saw. Abraham cultivated faith by driving away hindrances to his faith. When he made covenant with God, Abraham drove away the vultures; which represent everything that would steal his faith. Abraham cultivated faith by quick obedience. When God told him to take his son Isaac and give him as an offering to God, he went the next morning. As a bonus, please note he did not say anything bad, he was convinced that God would even resurrect his son if need be.

***And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb. [20] He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.***

Romans 4:19-21 (NKJV)

***Then he brought all these to Him and cut them in two, down the middle, and placed each piece opposite the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when the vultures came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.*** Genesis 15:10-11 (NKJV)

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***So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split the wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. Then on the third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off. And Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you."***

Genesis 22:3-5 (NKJV)

A demonstration of cultivating relationship for effective prayer can be seen in the life of King David. Once again we have space for three of many areas that we should cultivate; early seeking, whole hearted devotion, and quick repentance. David knew that God was the source of all his successes. Successful cultivation for prayer begins early in the day. It requires whole hearted devotion to God and relationship with Him. He also knew that he would have problems, make mistakes, and even sin; so he knew the value of quick repentance.

***A Psalm of David when he was in the wilderness of Judah. O God, You are my God; Early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for You; My flesh longs for You In a dry and thirsty land Where there is no water. So I have looked for You in the sanctuary, To see Your power and Your glory.*** Psalm 63:1-2 (NKJV)

***With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments!*** Psalm 119:10 (NKJV)

***So David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord." And Nathan said to David, "The Lord also has put away your sin; you shall not die."*** 2 Samuel 12:13 (NKJV)

What are you cultivating? If we work at prayer everyday, developing our faith and nurturing a close relationship with our Father, we can cultivate an effective prayer life.

*Let us pray!*

## **A Call for Prayer**

**Pray for your self** – Pray for areas where it seems that nothing can be done. Pray for healing, prosperity, deliverance, guidance, opportunities, or careers. Pray for the area, or areas, you have been facing for a long time or that seem insurmountable.

**Pray for your family** – Pray in faith for them. Pray for salvation, healing, prosperity, deliverance, guidance, opportunities, or careers. Pray for the area, or areas, they have been facing, or failing to face, for a long time areas that seem insurmountable.

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**Pray for your church** – Pray with expectation of great and powerful answers from God. Pray for prosperity, opportunities, and guidance. Pray also for laborers and for the provision for them. Pray for the area, or areas, that have seemed to be the most impossible to overcome.

**Pray for your nation** – Pray with boldness that comes from knowing God and His wonderworking nature. Pray for godly men and women to serve in the government and for the government to allow and promote peaceful living and the spread of the Gospel. Pray for the area, or areas, that seemed impossible situations, pray for things to be made possible.

**Pray for the peace of Jerusalem** – Pray with confident expectation of God's hand being on the affairs of the region and directing the plans and actions of men, women, and government of the Middle East and around the world. Pray for the area, or areas, that seemed impossible situations, pray for the fulfillment of all God has planned for this region in these end times.

## **Continue Faithful in Prayer**

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

**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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