

# *Voice of Thanksgiving*

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of February 14, 2010

“Prayer is striking the winning blow... service is gathering up the results.”

S. D. Gordon

## *The Life of Prayer*

### *Light*

David Williamson

I was driving a team in Croatia several years ago and we were going through a mountainous area. Most of the roads we traveled on that day were narrow and winding. They went around sharp turns, up steep climbs, and through tunnels. One afternoon on this trip, we entered a long dark tunnel. We had been in bright sunlight before we drove into the darkness of the tunnel and this, coupled with the lack of lights, made this tunnel seem very dark. There were no markings for the tunnel; it was really dark.

Just before we entered the tunnel a guy went around me on a motorcycle. This was a long tunnel and it was so dark in the tunnel that quickly I began to watch intently the taillight of this motorcycle. I followed for some time and then suddenly the light disappeared. One moment it was there and then it was gone. I thought he must have fallen and so I began to slow down and get ready to stop. Just as I got the van slowed down, my headlights picked out a turn in the tunnel. This was not a curve, but a 90°right turn. The motorcyclist had not fallen he had turned the corner. And by slowing because of the light disappearing, I was able to safely make the turn. Thank God for the light. I have speculated that the Lord sent the motorcycle to help me and have wondered what would have happened if I had not been slowed by the question of what happened to the light.

Have you ever been surprised by the Bible? If you have read the Bible for very long, if you have paid attention to what you read, then the answer must be yes, I have been surprised. The Bible is surprising in many ways, for example in its frankness. No man would write a book about a movement and portray key people with all of their foibles; but the Bible does. It is surprising. It is also surprising in what it says.

With surprises in mind, let me ask you a question, what do we know about God and His nature? The common answer of course is, God is love (1 John 4:8 and 16 and other verses tells us this answer) and this answer is correct. So then just when we have that settled, we read 1 John1:5. And if we read with our knowledge, instead our eyes, we read this, this is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is love and in Him is no darkness at all. However, that is not what is says! Read it carefully.

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***This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. 1 John 1:5 (NKJV)***

We all know that God is love, but John clearly explains to us that God is light! This is very important to see this and understand the importance of this dual nature of God, He is love and light and the two are very different and very vital to Christian life and prayer.

When dealing with sin, light is more important than love. If God is only love, or we approach Him only in His love, then it is easy to minimize our sin. We say or think things like, He loves me so it is okay. We have not dealt with our sin; we have covered it, with what is a false understanding of the love of God. We have missed the power and value of our salvation.

By contrast if when dealing with sin, we come to God, the God who is light, things are different. The obvious function of light is to reveal things as they are. Light does not force its way on anyone, but you cannot lie to light. In the dark you may not know what you have hit with your foot, but when the light is on you see what you hit and what it is.

God is light and He shines on us and reveals things just as they are in His sight. This is what we need in our life and for properly dealing with sin. When we come to God and have His light shine on our sin, we do not write off our sin as something not important or not to worry about. If we walk in the light, we see our sin and confess our sin. In the light, all is seen and we can then have fellowship with God and the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin. The message from God through John is to walk in the light.

***This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us. 1 John 1:5-10 (NKJV)***

Please note carefully that there are some choices here. People choose to walk in darkness. In John chapter three we see this clearly. Men love the darkness rather than light. People also choose to be hypocrites, they say they have fellowship with God, but really walk in darkness. Either way they do not have the revelation of sin. They do not have God's light shining on their sin revealing it for what it is. For them sin is an anti-social act, an inconvenience, a disability, or the other things people falsely label sin. And with a false label on sin, society runs around seeking to deal with hindrances to brotherhood, furthering human progress and the good of society, further educating people, and a plethora of do good schemes for fixing our woes. Man's plans and solutions attempt to look inside a man and without the light they miss the real solution to their problems.

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***And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."*** John 3:19-21 (NKJV)

Without the light of God and His dealings with the issue of sin, all of man's plans, schemes, and programs are a waste. They miss the key to the problems and the solution. God's light shines on the problem, declares it for what it is, sin, and opens the door for the cleansing of the blood of Jesus Christ, the only real solution to man's problems.

As men and women of prayer, the application of the revelation and truth that God is light, is two fold. First we must experience and know God as light in our own life. We must have the cleansing power of Jesus Christ deal with our sins. This comes only from walking in the light. If we pray without His light and its working in us, we are just do-gooders attempting to work our program and policies. We are like any other manmade program, seeking our solutions to the problems of self and the world around us. We are devoid of understanding and power. However, if we walk in the light, in every part of our life, including and especially in our prayer life, then we can be God's instrument of change, bringing His light and answers to the needs of the day and for our generation. Walk in the light so you can pray.

The second application is for our prayers; it is imperative that our prayers be for light. Too many of our prayers are for things we see people need. We have compassion and so we want things for people. Often that compassion is not brought to the light and it misses the mark of the real answer. People need light far more than things. With light they can have life and be successful in that life. Without light they will fail, even if they have all the things in the world.

Just as that taillight was important for me driving in Croatia, people need the light. For people we need to pray that they will have light. People need light for salvation and for all the rest of their doings. They need light for guidance, dealing with sin, for searching for a job, for living, for working, and for every aspect of life.

For the politician, they need light, for salvation, and also for seeing how to govern as God directs. For the pauper they need light, for salvation and to see God's provision for their life. For the addict they need light, for salvation and to see God's deliverance from death and destruction. For the unwed mother, struggling to keep her family going, she needs light for salvation for her and her family, and for guidance and provision from God. For the missionary reaching out to a nation, he or she needs light, for salvation and for seeing doors open for opportunities for the Gospel to penetrate the darkness. For the worker in the office, he or she needs light, for salvation and for seeing the direction for godly work and service. For the business owner, he or she needs light for salvation and to see the route for the company and for leading the organization.

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With light we can have fellowship with God and in that fellowship there is great and overwhelming blessing. It is this blessing of the light that we need and that we must be praying for both people and needs. In the light there is fellowship with God and in His fellowship there is an anointing and an overflowing cup of his goodness and mercy. Let us pray for light!

***But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.*** 1 John 1:7 (NKJV)

***You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the Lord Forever.*** Psalm 23:5-6 (NKJV)

*Let us pray!*

## **A Call for Prayer**

**Pray for Light for people** – To be saved, for jobs, for provision, for guidance, for help, for deliverance, for peace

**Pray for Joyce Abrahamson** – Pray for Joyce, her team and the students in her school in Brazil. Please note the following:

At this very moment, 11 AM , with the team we are waiting, listening for the arrival of missionary Lucivaldo and Pastor Marcos Antonio with the new bus! They flew to Rio last Monday morning and were on the highway to Porto Velho in the afternoon! Rejoice with us.

I wish I knew how to “turn you on” or maybe “turn you up” to the fact that prayer is the key to winning souls. Remember through these five last years and my sharing the life of Ilza? She accepted Jesus, finished fifth year in December so we do not have personal contact, her mom and step-dad moved to the city. By the way, her hair grew out and is once again beautiful (her mom chopped it off). Best of all we recommended a Christian friend of ours to be hired as house maid and she is taking Ilza to church! After all our talk of spiritual counsel, the mom, Marlene, is going to marriage therapy at the Methodist church in town! Pray that the husband will join her and that both will accept Jesus as Lord.

Please continue with us in prayer, believing that this year will be more profitable than last year. Remember, we will have 25 six year olds who have never been exposed to schooling. Mark February 26 and each day after that to pray for these who will ride a bus for the first time and wear shoes , sit still a little bit and learn to use a proper toilet and take a bath with running water. Love, in His Grace, my heart holds you all very dear, Joyce

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## **Continue Faithful in Prayer**

Continue to pray for the ministries listed here and use this as a spring board for praying for nations, churches, pastors, ministries, and people close to your heart and according to the Spirit's direction. Your faithful prayers make a difference!

### **Pray for Nations and the Churches of Nations**

Israel and the peace of Jerusalem  
Churches in Belarus  
Churches in Lithuania

### **Pray for Pastors of Churches**

DK Limbu Daniel – Pastor of a church in Nepal  
Jacek Gromadzki – Pastor of a church in Kolobrzeg, Poland  
Mark and Patty Spencer – Pastors of a church in Longmont, Colorado  
William (Bill) Williamson – Pastor of a church in Cedaredge, Colorado  
Charles and Janice Wilson – Pastors in Wyola, Montana

### **Pray for Leadership over multiple Churches**

DK Limbu Daniel – Church planter among Nepalese people  
Marek Kaminski – Bishop of Poland and co-founder and leader of the BBB Conference

### **Pray for Christian Ministries**

Joyce Abrahamson – Head of a Christian school in Brazil  
John Coon – Ministry in Europe and the USA  
Marianne and David Dean – Missionaries on college campuses in East Asia  
Lori Farquhar – Children's Ministry Director  
Bernd and Heike Pastor – Ministry in Germany  
Mark Spencer – Worldwide ministry, and co-founder and leader of BBB Conference  
Patty Spencer – Worship leader, and musician  
William (Bill) Williamson – Leader of a mission outreach to India  
David Williamson – Writer and editor of *Voice of Thanksgiving*

## **Calling Christians to Effective Fervent Prayer**

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*Prayer: A Force that Causes Change – A Call to Prayer, A Life Of Prayer, and Faithful In Prayer*

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