

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of May 2, 2010

Prayer is not begging God to do something which He is loath to do. It is not overcoming reluctance in God. It is enforcing Christ's victory over Satan. It is implementing upon earth Heaven's decisions concerning the affairs of men. From *Destined for the Throne* by Paul E. Billheimer

The Life of Prayer

Settled

David Williamson

The English language has many idiosyncrasies; it can be hard to learn, even for people who claim English as their first language. There are many strange rules and practices. There are also a plethora of words that sound alike but have different meanings. This makes understanding difficult because you can only know the meaning of the word by the context in the sentence or paragraph. It can be fun to play word games with these peculiarities of structure, but it can make communication challenging.

Also of interest are individual words with more than one meaning; sometime there is a radical difference in meaning. Take a simple and seemingly straight forward word like settle. Settle means to stay in one place, to establish or secure permanently, to arrange in a desired position, to arrange for final disposition. This use of the word can have many applications. We often tell young people to settle, meaning to do the correct thing; it even is used to suggest marriage.

This use of the word settle can also describe a problem. Settled is often the description of the place we find people and unfortunately it is also the place of many Christians. They have settled for what they have, where they are, and how things are around them. The place where they live may not be great and the work of their days may be hard or not very pleasant, but they have settled for this situation. They have accepted where they are and what is around them. They no longer are striving for something better. This often comes in stages, a little here and a little there. Most people do not see that they have settled, until they begin to look back at their life. They find that they no longer fight to make things better, but have accepted things as they are.

This is dangerous because it is cumulative, the more we settle, the more settled we become. We are weighed down by life, possessions, traditions, and the power of fear of failure and combinations of these works to make being settled more and more apart of our life. Once a person has settled, it takes a big pressure to force movement once again. Settled is like being in a mud pot, it was easy to step into the mud and the longer a person remains, the deeper they sink into the mud, and the harder it is to get out of the rut. And at some point, the mud will completely overwhelm.

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In the Christian world this is a serious problem. Jesus tells of the man who had a great crop on his farm. This man decided to build bigger barns to store this crop and then he planned to settle into the “good life”. In Jesus’ story this man lost it all. The problem is real for all Christians. It is easy to come to a place where we settle, spiritually. We come to be satisfied with the way things are and how things are going. It becomes easier to accept things, than it is to work to bring change.

Paul warns Christians about this problem. He wrote that we are to press toward the goal. This problem affects individuals, families, churches, and ministries. It is easy to slip into a maintenance role; working day by day to maintain what we have or do. This is just settling in. This is not the time to stop and settle, we are to continue on in faith and power.

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)

By contrast this same word, settle, can have very positive meaning and application for Christians. To settle also means to be come fixed, resolved, or established. It means to adjust differences or accounts so as to come to a decision. For example, sometimes we say that we have settled on a new plan. This is something that Christians should, nay, must do. If we are going to go on with God, if we are going to avoid the dangers of settling, as described earlier, we must settle in our mind, heart, speech, and actions, the faithfulness of God and His promises. We must come to the point where it is settled, for us, that God does the seemingly impossible.

If we do not believe that God can do things in us and through us that seem impossible, then we have taken a giant step on the road to settling. And once we have begun to sink into the mud of a place, it is harder and harder to keep from staying there forever.

Christians, Christians who are Christian by faith and not just in name, know that God does the seemingly impossible. They know because they have seen it. They know God takes a sinner and makes him a saint; He does the seemingly impossible. They know because, even if they did not think about it at the moment, they have seen God do it, He did it for them. Christians know they were a sinner, rightfully bound for death, and that God came and lifted them out of death and gave them life. He did the seemingly impossible; they became a new person in Christ Jesus.

This same understanding and confidence must be settled in us for other areas of our life and work. To go on with God, we must be settled on the fact that God can do the seemingly impossible. We must see the problems we face, the situations we find our self in, and the conditions around us, and bring them to the Father, so He can apply His dealing with seemingly impossible, to the circumstances. If we do not seek Him and His answers, we settle for the way things and situations

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are. God does the seemingly impossible, but when we forget or lose sight of this fact, this faith in Him, we begin to settle in the mud of life.

Secondly, we must settle as a fact and faith, that God does the seemingly impossible today. He is not just a God of some time period in history, but He is willing and able to work today. He has the answer to the seemingly impossible problems that face us today. He does the seeming impossible now, today.

Third, we must settle as a fact and faith, that God does the seemingly impossible today, for me. It is easy for people to settle in this mud. They change the examples of the Bible to just stories, not real accounts of what God was doing. Or they relegate the stories of the Bible to just that time period, claiming that for a while God did things. Or they claim that God just works in bursts of action for this person or that; this time or that. To be successful and do all God has planned for us to do, we must settle our understanding, God did the seemingly impossible, He still does the seemingly impossible, and He does the seemingly impossible today, for me.

In the late 1700s in America, it was discovered that in Logan County, Kentucky there is an area know as Rogue's Harbor. This was a terrible place, where criminals of the time, knew they could go to escape consequences of the law. The decent people in Kentucky had formed regiments of vigilantes, to fight for law and order, then fought a pitched battle with the outlaws and lost. Surely this was a place that seemed impossible. It seemed that people had only two options, give up and move on to some other place or give in and live under the threat and horrific reality of criminals in control.

However, there were some Christians in Logan County, who refused to accept these two choices. They did not settle for what the world and most people saw, that this situation was hopeless. These Christians settled in their mind, heart, speech, and actions, the faithfulness of God and His promises, they settled it was true even in the face of the seemingly impossible. They began to pray. And God saw their faith, heard their prayers, and answered. In the summer of 1800, God gave the Kentucky revival. This revival spread across Logan County, including Rogue's Harbor, over the mountains, and throughout much of America. It became the Second Great Awakening.

God is looking for someone like you to pray. He is looking for someone like you who will, with the help of the Holy Spirit, look carefully at their life and practices, to see if they have begun to settle. To see if there are areas where they have settled for the way things are, instead of the way God intends them to be. He is looking for people who if they see things like this, will work with Him and make the changes He directs, to get out of the mud, into His life, and plan.

God is looking for someone like you to pray. He is looking for someone like you who is settled in mind, heart, speech, and actions, concerning the faithfulness of God and His promises. He is looking for someone who will pray in faith, knowing that God answers and does the seemingly impossible in response to their prayers. For self, family, church, ministry, city, and the nations He is

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looking for you, the one settled on His strength and ability to bring powerful answers to the seemingly impossible. God is looking for someone like you to pray.

Let us pray!

A Call for Prayer

Pray for the Seemingly Impossible – Pray for situations that seem impossible. All around us there are situations that seem to be impossible to fix, correct or solve. Most people view this as being just the way it is and we all have to live with it, and have settled that there is nothing that can be done. Do not be settled as they are, pray and seek God who does the seemingly impossible. Be settled in your life, faith, and prayers that God is doing the seemingly impossible, today, in response to your prayers. Then continue faithful and full of faith in your prayers; see God do great and mighty things.

Pray for Opportunities. Pray for opportunities for the ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Pray for hearts of men and women to be prepared to receive the Word. Pray for open doors for witnessing. Pray for willing ministers of the Gospel (not just pastors, but all who are Christians. Pray that we will reach this generation with the Gospel.

Pray for Israel and the Peace of Jerusalem

I have set watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; they shall never hold their peace day or night. You who make mention of the Lord, do not keep silent, and give Him no rest till He establishes and till He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth. Isaiah 62:6-7 (NKJV)

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 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 Nations and the Churches of Nations

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

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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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Books on Prayer:

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