

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of May 16, 2010

It cannot be stated too frequently that the life of a Christian is a warfare, an intense conflict, a lifelong contest. It is a battle, moreover, waged against invisible foes, who are ever alert, and ever seeking to entrap, deceive, and ruin the souls of men. The life to which Holy Scripture calls men is no picnic, or holiday junketing. It is no pastime, no pleasure jaunt. It entails effort, wrestling, struggling; it demands the putting forth of the full energy of the spirit in order to frustrate the foe and to come off, at the last, more than conqueror. It is no primrose path, no rose-scented dalliance. From start to finish, it is war. From the hour in which he first draws sword, to that in which he doffs his harness, the Christian warrior is compelled to “endure hardness like a good soldier.”

E. M. Bounds from *The Necessity of Prayer*

The Life of Prayer

The Lights

David Williamson

On the day the declaration of war was made between the various nations involved in World War I, Sir Edward Grey, Foreign Secretary of Great Britain, standing with a friend at a window of Whitehall in London, as the street lamps below were being lit, said “The lamps are going out all over Europe; we shall not see them lit again in our lifetime” (From *Guns of August* by Barbara Tuchman on page 122). With the start of World War I there was a radical change in the map of Europe, society, and nearly every other aspect of life and tradition in Europe. In many ways Grey was correct, the lights of the way things had been were going out and things, not just in his lifetime, would never be the same.

What would Grey say about today? What would he say about where you live, your town, region, and nation? With his natural eyes, would he see the lights going out? Would it look like there is a radical change coming? And more importantly, if he looked with spiritual eyes, what would he see? Are the lights burning brightly? Are the lights going out? Have the lights been out for some time? Is it a mixed bag, with some lights going out and some lights burning bright? What do you see?

In many parts of the world today things are wobbly, to say the least. The economies of many nations are struggling. There are concerns about possible changes coming to families, societies, business, labor, and even governments. Some see this coming and other changes coming. The grand question must be will these changes be for good or bad? Will the next few years be a time of when the lights go out, or a time for light burning bright?

There is a great deal written in the Bible about the conditions of societies and what that means for people. Much of what is written about societies of the world is not good. Worldly systems,

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governments, societies, businesses, and even families tend to have difficulties. While it may seem like things are good for a time, the end results are often disastrous. The plans, will, and workings of man, yield limited, if any successes. Men talk of change, of making things better, but man's plans have limited success, and come with many problems, and will fail.

By contrast, life in Christ is described in the Bible as successful life, filled with productive, abundant lives. People living in Christ, walking after His direction and commands, have a blessed life and great success in all they do. Sure there are battles and challenges for those in Christ, these will be here as long as we live in this world, but in Jesus we are more than conquerors. Jesus said this is what He came for, to help us overcome and live an abundant life.

The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. John 10:10 (NKJV)

There is a feature of the abundant life offered by Christ, it is very important for success in life and how that life is lived. The feature is light. Light has two basic objectives, illuminate what is and show the way. Illumination is very important' without it we struggle to see the things in us and around us, often things are not as they seem. There are people living, just as they were in Jesus' time, in darkness. They do not have light to see what is happening to them, their family, or nation. This darkness can be complete, overtaking their every effort. It can cloud their thinking, plans, and actions. It can change every aspect of life into darkness. Even their seemingly victories turn dark.

This is not a new phenomenon; men have always suffered under that cruel hand of darkness. However, into the darkness came a great light and this light is the light of men. Jesus is this light. It is the opportunity to leave the darkness and live in the light. Today the choice remains, we can walk in the light as He is in the light, or we can walk in darkness.

Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life." John 8:12 (NKJV)

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)

The choice is available for all men and even for nations. We can choose to walk in light, unfortunately many people and many nations do not choose walking in the light. And by choosing against the light they are choosing to walk in darkness. No matter what they say or do, those who do not choose light, walk in darkness. Light tells us the reality of things. It is very important to have light in a time when much of society claims that black is white and white is black, claim that good is evil and evil is good. People in darkness cannot see reality; it is shrouded in darkness.

Light also shows the way to go, it shows us our path. Many people claim to know the way, but they are like blind men guiding the blind and everyone knows that that is not good. People need to have

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the light of Jesus Christ. There is no other way to see what is around them. There is no other way to see the way they should go. Every man, woman, and child must have the light of Jesus to be able to see where they are and what is happening. They also must have the light of Jesus, to show the way.

Today in *Voice of Thanksgiving*, I ask you to pray for four things. In some ways this is a simple basic description of the work of a prayer warrior. This is a simple way to describe what we are to be doing. The details change from place to place and from this time and to that, but this is the general work. This is our calling. Prayer is asking the Father for light.

When we ask for daily bread, we are asking the Father to light the way for us to receive provision and to walk in His provision. When we ask for a nation to come to Jesus, we are asking for light to come to that nation and the people of that nation, so they will see where and how things are, so they will see what could be if they seek life in Christ Jesus. These are both examples of praying for light. Everything we seek from God relates in one way or another to light. Our job description, in very simple terms, is pray for light.

The four things I ask of you today, are praying for light. The first two are necessary for our success in prayer, the second two are required as part of our assignment. It is easy for me to describe them, but tougher for you to pray them through. Effective prayer for these four things requires, faith, relationship with God, and personal character. All effective prayer requires these things and by the work and help of the Holy Spirit we can come to our calling and pray.

The first two points for prayer are a call for you to pray for light, for you. Pray that you will have the light of Jesus shining in your life, so you can see how things really are, in your life. You are called to be just like Jesus, it takes light to see the areas where you fall short of His standard and where you need help. Second, you need to pray for light for the path you are to be taking. God has set before you a path. It is designed for you and it takes you ever closer to Jesus and ever further through your assignment for life and ministry. To see this way, you need the light of Jesus. Pray for light.

The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Romans 13:12 (NKJV)

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light
Ephesians 5:8 (NKJV)

The next two areas take you into your prayer assignments. These prayers go beyond the seeking of blessing for your self. These prayers are for others, for family, neighbors, towns, regions, and nations. Our third type of prayer, concerning light, is to pray for light so people can see their condition. Many people think they know what is happening and the way things are, but in reality they are walking in darkness and the stumble is their normal activity. They need light. We are commissioned, as Christian men and women of prayer, not to judge these people, but to pray for them. The starting point of our prayers is to pray for light. The specifics of how light will come to

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these people and how it will be received, varies from place to place, from assignment to assignment, but in all we pray, we must pray that people will have light to see where they are and how things really are. Without this they will continue in darkness, bound to stumble and fall.

The fourth of our light prayers (and please note, I did not write lite prayers) is to pray for light to illumine the path of people and nations. People and nations need to know where they are going. Without light they are going blindly to a place they know not. This is a formula for disaster. It is not surprising that as nations stray from God, as they have rejected Jesus as Lord, they stumble and fall. In darkness the normal course is near the pit and sooner or later to fall into that pit. This is where many nations find themselves today. Life and society is a pit, and there seems to be no way out of the darkness.

However, this is where you come in. Into despair and desperate situations there can be light. This light is Christ Jesus, He is the true light for man and nation, and He comes by your prayers. You change despair into hope by prayer for light. You change desperate situations into the possible and make it come to pass by prayer for light. Will you pray? Will you pray for light?

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Ephesians 6:12 (NKJV)

Let us pray!

A Call for Prayer

Pray for the BBB Conference in Poland the last weekend in June. Continue to pray as the plans are being completed, both by the organizers and by the participants. There is much to do for this conference, but of even more importance, there is much that those who attend need to do and they need your prayers to help them, prepare them, and support them.

Pray for Light – Pray for the people, nations, churches, and ministries listed here in the section ***Continue Faithful in Prayer***. As described above, the basics of these needs is about light, so pray for light. Pray also for light for those people, nations, churches, and ministries beyond those on this list that you pray regularly for. It is important that you pray and continue to pray, as Bound wrote, “It cannot be stated too frequently that the life of a Christian is a warfare, an intense conflict, a lifelong contest”. Pray for light.

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!

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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

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:

Prayer: A Force that Causes Change – A Call to Prayer, A Life Of Prayer, Faithful In Prayer and now a new volume, *Effective Prayer*, are available at www.voiceofthanksgiving.com or by email at david@voiceofthanksgiving.com