

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of June 13, 2010

It is not enough to begin to pray, nor to pray aright; nor is it enough to continue for a time to pray; but we must patiently, believingly, continue in prayer until we obtain an answer; George Müller

The Life of Prayer

Lend Yourself

David Williamson

When I started high school I enjoyed football (American football), I still do. I wanted to be the quarterback of the team. I would lead the team, call the plays, throw the passes, and win games. There was just one problem, I was not much of an athlete, I was not very fast, I was not very big, and I was not very skilled. I could not do the things needed to be a high school quarterback. Now if I had been like John Elway, it would have been great for my high school team. Elway was a great high school, college, and then professional quarterback. He was one of the best ever. He could do everything and did it very well. If I had come with his skills, size, speed, and abilities, I could have been a great high school quarterback.

Prayer is very powerful and people around the world are learning more and more about the workings of effective prayer. And as we study prayer, we find that there are many facets to effective prayer. However, there is an area of prayer; a road less well traveled, if you will, one much less talked about or pursued. Most of prayer is seeking and obtaining answers for the needs around us, for our needs, our family, our neighbors, and even nations; we see a need and pray. This is very good and very important, we live in a very needy time and prayer is the answer.

Most of the time when I pray, my prayer times, are my times; I select the time, place, and theme of my prayers. The wise man or woman of prayer, incorporate time to listen and make sure they are praying God's will on matters; they know this is required for effective prayers. This is good; the world around us needs more people praying, more prayers, and more effective prayers, but it is still my prayer. There is also an opportunity for something else in prayer. We also can lend our self to the Lord, for Him to use us in His prayers.

There is a place in prayer for the man or woman who will lend themselves to the Lord. This is different from praying for our needs and wants. Here, we give our self to Him for whatever He wants; joining with Him in His prayers. There is a difference; most prayer is initiated by the man or woman who prays. In the prayer where we lend our self to the Lord, He does the initiating and directing. It is His prayer, we join with Him. When I lend myself to Him, I do not come with my prayers, but I offer my time, voice, and faith, to His work. I get in the yoke with Jesus and pray His prayers with Him.

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Jesus is calling for men and women who will take on His yoke; join with Him in taking on His burden. In lending our self to the Lord, we serve Him and His work. He plows the field, we pull with Him. He breaks up the fallow ground, He straightens the crooked, He levels the high place and raises that which is low, He turns the hearts of kings, He softening the hearts of men, and much more, and in all He is doing we are serving Him, praying with Him.

Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

Matthew 11:29-30 (NKJV)

Our flesh fights against this, it wants to be in control and it wants to get the glory. Getting into the yoke with Jesus is devastating to the flesh; and the flesh will rebel against this type of thing. The flesh will tell you that you are not worthy, you do not have time, you do not know enough, or you are not spiritual enough. It can give you a hundred and three other reasons why you cannot or should not lend yourself to God for prayer.

Before you jump in and agree with some of these arguments, please remember that if you are a Christian, then you are a new creation, you are not that person you were before. You have been made in the likeness of Christ. It is like me having all of Elway's skills and abilities when I wanted to play football in high school. With Elway's skills and abilities I would have been a great quarterback. As a new creation in Christ, you are very valuable, and pray great. You can do all things through Christ. You are for great value to God and He loves you. You can step into the yoke with Jesus. You can be about His business; lending yourself to Him, for His work, and for His success.

But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God--and righteousness and sanctification and redemption-- 1 Corinthians 1:30 (NKJV)

and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;

Philippians 3:9 (NKJV)

Unfortunately, many people succumb to problems, excuses, and hindrances that keep us from this work. Some people choose not to participate; some do not pray, and some only pray what they want, about what areas they see as needs. Other people believe the lies of the flesh and "know" they are not worthy or able to work with Jesus. Still other people refuse to prepare and make themselves useful for this work.

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

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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)

But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work. 2 Timothy 2:20-21 (NKJV)

Make time to lend yourself to God. Be a vessel of honor. Step into the yoke with Jesus; walk with Him, work with Him, pray with Him. Let God state the subject and His chosen promise, for this specific time of prayer. And let us be obedient in faith, relationship, character, and prayer.

Let us pray!

A Call for Prayer

Pray for the BBB Conference in Poland the last weekend in June – Continue to pray as the conference is just days from starting. Please pray for the conference participants from East and West.

Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem – Pray for protection and safety for the Jewish people.

Pray for the Lost. Pray for ministries reaching out to the lost. Pray for the work of people willing to share the Gospel with people. Pray for opportunities for sharing. Pray for soft hearts willing to receive the Gospel message.

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.

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 the Peace of Jerusalem

Pray for Pastors of Churches

DK Limbu Daniel – Pastor in Nepal

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Jacek Gromadzki – Pastor in Kolobrzeg, Poland
William (Bill) Williamson – Pastor in Cedaredge, Colorado
Charles and Janice Wilson – Pastors in Wyola, Montana
Ewa and Sylwester Sobczak – Pastors in Bialogard, Poland
Mark and Patty Spencer – Pastors in Longmont, Colorado

Pray for the Churches

Churches in Belarus
Churches in Poland
Churches of Germany
Churches in Nepal
Churches in USA
Churches in your nation and on your heart

Pray for Leadership over multiple Churches

DK Limbu Daniel – Church planter among the 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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