

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of June 20, 2010

Five young college students were spending a Sunday in London, so they went to hear the famed C.H. Spurgeon preach. While waiting for the doors to open, the students were greeted by a man who asked, "Gentlemen, let me show you around. Would you like to see the heating plant of this church?" They were not particularly interested, for it was a hot day in July. But they didn't want to offend the stranger, so they consented. The young men were taken down a stairway, a door was quietly opened, and their guide whispered, "This is our heating plant." Surprised, the students saw 700 people bowed in prayer, seeking a blessing on the service that was soon to begin in the auditorium above. Softly closing the door, the gentleman then introduced himself. It was none other than Charles Spurgeon.

From *Our Daily Bread*, April 24

The Life of Prayer

In the Neighborhood

David Williamson

For me the mid to late 1950s were a time of great fun and excitement. Growing up I had many wonderful advantages; my family wanted me, loved me, and cared for me (it is very sad that that these things are not true for every child) and I had great friends and neighbors. My neighborhood was filled with great friends and lots of fun. Donnie's house was down the street a few houses. They had a great house and yard and there was always something fun happening there. At the other end of the street was Geno's house, his dad had a new Chevy and we would drive that car across the nation, all from the safety of his driveway. Across the street was Jeff's house, Jeff was great fun and his Mom made cookies! One day I walked into their kitchen as she had made dozens of chocolate chip cookies and they were cooling on every flat surface of the kitchen. Think of this, I am about five years old and everywhere you looked all you could see was cookies!!!

There were many fun times growing up in this neighborhood. Mr. Kisler took a walk every afternoon and he liked to give kids candy. There was a swimming pool just a few blocks from our house. Every summer Matt's older brothers would come home for the summer. One summer we built a fort in their back yard. First we dug an eight foot by eight foot and eight foot deep hole. We then covered this hole with heavy planks of wood, covered the wood with plastic, and then dirt. To get into the fort we dug a hole straight down and then a tunnel into the fort. Even though I was the youngest boy there, they let me dig part of the tunnel. They lowered me into the hole and I would fill a bucket with dirt and they would pull it up. This was great!

I lived in a great neighborhood, but in the Bible there is an invitation to something far better. In the Gospel of John, we are invited to love Jesus and keep His Word and Jesus and the Father will come and make their home with us. Wow, Jesus and the Father living at my house!

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Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him." John 14:23 (NKJV)

In a modern paraphrase of the Bible called the *Message*, Eugene Peterson, writes, "If anyone loves me, he will carefully keep my word and my Father will love him – we'll move right into the neighborhood!" Can you imagine what this would be like? What people would say? Guess who is living in the neighborhood! This would change things in almost every neighborhood and in some neighborhoods this would make for a radical change. And many of our neighborhoods could use a radical change.

What difference would this make for your neighborhood? What difference would it make for your family? What difference would it make for you? If Jesus and the Father moved in with you, what would change? How would things change, if every day, when you awoke, Jesus was there at your kitchen table waiting for you? What if when you went for a walk, Jesus was ready and willing to walk with you? What if every time you left to go to work, Jesus was waiting to go with you? What if He was standing there listening to all of your conversations? What if when you picked a movie, Jesus was there reading the reviews and making suggestions? What if every time you sat down to watch TV the Father was there on the couch with you? Would there be a difference in how you talked, worked, acted, and prayed?

If Jesus is Lord of your life, then He is there with you, but too often people live as though He and the Father are far away. Living with Jesus and the Father in our home, daily walking with Them, would, for most people, bring many changes. These would be great changes and would bring great benefits to the man or woman involved in the changes. There are many places where benefits of being with Jesus are listed.

Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. [5] I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.
John 15:4-5 (NKJV)

If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. John 15:7 (NKJV)

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV)

And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it. John 14:13-14 (NKJV)

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In a close and constant walk with Jesus and the Father, we grow and mature, we build our faith, we walk in love, we serve as servants, we minister in power, and we have power in prayer. This is the true source of effectiveness of life and ministry. In John chapter 15 this is called abiding.

Abiding is the great secret of the men and women who have done great things in Christ. They learned to abide and made the changes needed to continue to abide. They made abiding a priority over all else in their life. Habits and lifestyle were changed, so they could continue to abide. Things were given up for the sake of being with Jesus and the Father everyday, all day, even when they were doing other things, like work.

The power of abiding is still available to Christians today. Those who learn to abide and make arrangements so they can continue to abide and do exploits. Most Christians long for this relationship and the power that comes from abiding. They see that there is a world that needs the power of Jesus working, so there can be changes and situations corrected. The world is filled with things that are crooked, bent out of shape, twisted, backwards, upside down, and just not right. The answer is, the work and prayers of men and women, abiding with Christ. Abiders work is valuable, their ministry is powerful, their love is sweet, their sacrifice is meaningful, their understanding is deep, their walk is straight, and their prayers are effective. This is what we want. This is what the world needs.

Abiding is available; Jesus has already paid the price, so we can be redeemed and we can walk in deep, constant, place of abiding with Jesus and the Father. However, abiding has a requirement. Jesus makes it very clear, both the promise and the requirement. If a person does what Jesus says to do, then the result He has made possible will happen.

Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him." John 14:23 (NKJV)

The first part of the requirement, we are to love Jesus. Loving Jesus is also love for the Father; as Jesus and the Father are together as one. This love is to recognize who Jesus and the Father are; the mighty, all powerful, loving, righteous God.

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. Deuteronomy 6:5 (NKJV)

And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, Deuteronomy 10:12 (NKJV)

The second part of the requirement is keeping God's Word. Simply put, Jesus requires of us that we show our love by obeying His Word, command, and instructions. This is based on the Word of

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God, but also includes those things He tells us to by the Holy Spirit, day-by-day. The two requirements are tied together; we are to love and obey.

'And it shall be that if you earnestly obey My commandments which I command you today, to love the Lord your God and serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul,
Deuteronomy 11:13 (NKJV)

And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever. 1 John 2:17 (NKJV)

"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall." Matthew 7:24-27 (NKJV)

Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does. James 1:21-25 (NKJV)

If we love and obey, then we can abide. If we love and obey then Jesus and the Father will come and make Their home with us. How is your neighborhood? How is the neighborhood where you live, but also the neighborhood of your heart, your family, your church, and your nation? Most need help and that help comes from the work and prayers of men and women who love and obey so they can abide with Christ. Will you do all that you must do so that the work of Christ can be complete in you, and abide?

Let us pray!

A Call for Prayer

Pray for Joyce – Pray for continued protection for the students in the school, as well as for the staff and families. Pray for provision for running the school and the projects for outreach to the area.

Pray for the BBB Conference in Poland the last weekend in June. Continue to pray for those who attend need to do and they need your prayers to help them, prepare them, and support them.

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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 the Peace of Jerusalem

Pray for Pastors of Churches

DK Limbu Daniel – Pastor in Nepal
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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