

# Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of June 27, 2010

It is in the field of prayer that life's critical battles are lost or won. We must conquer all our circumstances there. We must first of all bring them there. We must survey them there. We must master them there. In prayer we bring our spiritual enemies into the Presence of God and we fight them there. Have you tried that? Or have you been satisfied to meet and fight your foes in the open spaces of the world?

J. H. Jowett

## *The Life of Prayer*

### **Who Do You Say I Am?**

David Williamson

The Bible is filled with amazing events, one that has always caught my attention is found in the fifth chapter of the book of Daniel. King Belshazzar was having a banquet, using the gold and silver vessels, taken from the temple in Jerusalem, for his party. He was wallowing in the glory of his kingship and filled with pride, having learned nothing from the events of his father's life. Suddenly a hand appeared and began writing on the wall of the palace. This scared everyone at the banquet. No one was able to interpret what the writing meant, so they called for help. Daniel explained the meaning of the words.

***And this is the inscription that was written: MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN. This is the interpretation of each word. Mene: God has numbered your kingdom, and finished it; Tekel: You have been weighed in the balances, and found wanting; Peres: Your kingdom has been divided, and given to the Medes and Persians."*** Daniel 5:25-28 (NKJV)

What a powerful statement; ***"You have been weighed in the balances"***. It was catastrophic for this king, but everyone faces times of being weighed. One day each of us will stand before Jesus and give an account of our life; this is the ultimate weighing or judgment. For those who have given their life to Jesus, this will be a judgment of their works. For those persons who are unsaved, it will be the day of final judgment.

***"You have been weighed in the balances"*** This statement can also be applied to us on a regular basis in our life, our works, and our prayers. Daily the Word of God and Holy Spirit weigh us; they measure what and how we are doing. They do this as part of guiding our daily walk, teaching us how to live. They are like a mirror revealing to us areas where we need to grow and mature. Their goal is to cause us to walk and pray in faith, and to be, in every way, more like Jesus.

***But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.***  
2 Corinthians 3:18 (NKJV)

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***by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*** 2 Peter 1:4 (NKJV)

This weighing or judging process is very important, especially for effective prayer. If we are going to be powerful in prayer, we will be weighed in the balance, by the Word and the Holy Spirit. They will look at every area of our life, including our words, our deeds, our character, our relationships, and our faith. We are a new creation in Christ, we have the mind of Christ, we can do all things through Christ who gives us strength, and Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith, so when we are weighed, we should not be missing any good thing. We should not be lacking in the things we need for effective prayer.

***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)

One of the most important areas of weighing for effective prayer is looking at how we pray; if it is in the faith or in the flesh. This battle has raged since the time of Adam and Eve in the Garden. The flesh tries to rule and dominate everything we do. The flesh also tries to dominate our prayers. Even when we are walking in faith, the flesh will make an effort to hinder, cause us to stumble, or cloud the issues; anything to keep us from effective prayer.

Peter gives us a good example of this battle and how easy it is to cross over from faith to flesh. In the course of just a few verses in Matthew's Gospel, Peter moves from faith statement to flesh statement.

***He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.*** Matthew 16:15-17 (NKJV)

"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." This was not from the flesh, it was from the Father. This is a faith statement. This same Peter, moments later has this conversation.

***From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day. Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!"*** Matthew 16:21-22 (NKJV)

We all have had opportunities to speak in faith or the flesh. This is especially true in prayer. With prayer, there are always hindrances lurking to trip us up. Praying comes with built in problems, after

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all that is what we are praying about. It is easy to slip and get caught-up in the problem, and try to pray what we feel instead of by faith. In the moment of battle, what comes from you, prayers of faith or flesh?

Since, in Christ, we have won this struggle so why do we sometime fail? There are things in us, beliefs, attitudes, practices, and sins. They must be exposed by the light of the Word and the work of the Holy Spirit. The Bible, especially the New Testament, is a guidebook, useful for teaching success in the faith verses flesh battle. It records that there are things we can do to have success.

Let me give you a brief review of two things we can do to increase our likelihood of success, praying in faith and not in the flesh, when we are praying. The first is having an abundance of the Word. Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. If your heart has a little Word in it, then some of the time you will speak and pray in faith. Unfortunately, this sets you up to be like Peter in our example, he spoke in faith and then moments later he spoke in the flesh.

When the pressure is on you want to have your heart full to overflowing with the Word of God, so you will pray in faith, effectual fervent prayers that avail much. To do this you need to daily, all day long, fill your heart to the point of overflowing with a fresh dose of the Word of God.

A second key to success in this battle is the careful guarding of your heart. We live in difficult times, and while this is one of the reasons it is so important for us to pray, it is also a cause of great obstacles to effective prayer. Worldly desires work to damage your heart and insure the flesh coming out, in both the words you speak and your prayers.

***Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.*** Galatians 5:19-21 (NKJV)

Every day, all through the day, works in various forms like these are bombarding you. They come in our papers, on the radio and TV, in movies and videos, in conversations and phone calls. If we are not careful they will blast holes in your heart and bring forth prayers of flesh instead of faith. The man or woman of effective prayer will guard their heart diligently.

***But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!***

2 Timothy 3:1-5 (NKJV)

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*My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your eyes; Keep them in the midst of your heart; For they are life to those who find them, And health to all their flesh. Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life.* Proverbs 4:20-23 (NKJV)

*A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.* Luke 6:45 (NKJV)

We can be very successful in prayer. And our success comes by praying in faith and not in the flesh. Filling our heart and guarding our heart are keys to this success. ***“You have been weighed in the balances”*** What are the Word of God and the Holy Spirit saying about you? Are you ready for battle? Are you ready to win?

*Let us pray!*

## **A Call for Prayer**

**Pray for DK Limbu Daniel – Church planter among Nepalese people** Pray for God to continue to work among the Nepalese people, saving people and planting churches. Pray for a mighty work of God among these people.

**Pray for Open Doors** – Pray for ministries near to your heart, that they would have open doors of opportunity for the Gospel to be preached and people to be reached.

**Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem**

## **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 Jerusalem and Israel**

## **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

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## **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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