

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of July 4, 2010

There has never been a spiritual awakening in any country or locality that did not begin in united prayer.
A.T. Pierson

The Life of Prayer

Devoured

David Williamson

In front of my house there is a cement sidewalk. The way cement is poured around here, is to do sections about four, six, or eight feet long and then have a divider, which is pulled out once the cement begins to cure. This leaves a little space for expansion of the cement on hot days. Last Fall I noticed that many places along the sidewalk the debris had been pushed out of the seam. It looked strange, along seam after seam; on either side of the seam were rows of debris. On my daily walks I would puzzle over this. There were no kids in the area, even though it looked like a kid had drug a stick along the seam, pushing out everything. For days I wondered about this phenomenon. Then while on a walk I came around the corner and saw a bird, a Northern Flicker, pecking away at one of these seams. I stopped and watched; sure enough this was the cause. He was searching for eatables and as he pulled things out of the seam, if it was not eatable, he would drop it along the edge of the seam. This is what had made the rows of debris.

Now that I knew what to look for, I saw Northern Flickers, a very beautiful bird that often pecks at trees like a woodpecker, all over town devouring seeds and dropping debris. As I watch and then as I thought about this, I was struck by a parable that Jesus taught many years ago. Suddenly the parable of the Sower meant more to me. Here were the birds devouring the seed.

“A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell by the wayside; and it was trampled down, and the birds of the air devoured it. Some fell on rock; and as soon as it sprang up, it withered away because it lacked moisture. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it and choked it. But others fell on good ground, sprang up, and yielded a crop a hundredfold.” When He had said these things He cried, ***“He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”*** Luke 8:5-8 (NKJV)

How often have you heard from God, a message in church or from a Bible reading seems to jump at you? It is God speaking directly and clearly to you. I sometimes tease my pastor that he should not preach just to me, but also to the other people who were present that day. I say this because his message of that day was so perfectly tailored to my need and to what God wants to do in my life. It is as though God planned all week to speak through this man, to me. It is very encouraging to know that God is working on my behalf, working through His Word and His Holy Spirit, all focused on

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bringing me to the fullness of faith, the place of his blessing, the path for my life, the fulfillment of the God given vision for my life.

Times when God works like this are great times. Once again I know that God is alive and well, seeking my blessing, that through His Word and the Holy Spirit, He knows more about me and my real needs that I do and He is ready and willing to help me. That makes for a very powerful morning of worship and the preaching of the Word. Unfortunately, great mornings like this are often followed by the frustration of having the message from God, trampled down, devoured, withered, and choked.

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The enemy attacks the Word, his attack may be at an individual, but his hatred is at God and anything that relates to God. He is against you because of the Word; in you the Word is powerful. In you the Word changes lives and situations and the enemy works to stop this. When you receive the Word from God, the enemy works to quickly stop its growth in your heart and the working of that Word by faith.

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)

A few days ago the Lord spoke very clearly to me through a book I was reading. The Bible verses were direct and powerful; God was directing a good change in my life. I knew that making a small change to my life would yield great blessings. The next day there were birds everywhere. Obviously these were not real birds, but attacks by the enemy to steal this word from God, to kill my efforts to be faithful, and destroy my faith. There were problems, concerns, actions, and situations, all designed to keep me from walking in victory.

We can succumb to these types of attacks, that come often and often come immediately after we hear the Word, or we can be ready to fight and win. We can let the enemy still, kill and destroy or we can walk in the life Jesus has won and prepared for us. We do not control what the enemy does, but we can be ready for his attacks and in Christ we have the victory. Here are some things we can do to be ready and to be conquerors we are in Christ.

First, we need to be aware of what is happening. When the Word is sown, there will be trampling, devouring, withering and choking attempted. Get ready and fight against his attacks.

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Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. 1 Peter 5:8 (NKJV)

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled. 2 Corinthians 10:3-6 (NKJV)

Second, always go back to the Word that was being taught just before the attack, study the message you heard. Go back to your notes and review the key verses. They must be important to you, if the enemy is going to take the time to attack you. You win by the Word. Between these verse and those storied in your heart; fight the enemy and his attacks.

Third, apply the Word. Do not let the power of the Word be kept from having impact on your life and your victory. Read the Word, meditate on it, and this is very important, speak the Word. Say what God says, not what the enemy say, circumstances say, your body says, people say, or the enemy says. Let God's Word be the final word on the situation.

Fourth, bless the Lord; praise and thanksgiving is very powerful, especially in times of battle.

Fifth, take your stance and stand. The first few minutes of a stand are the most important. If you will take a stand, most of the time the enemy will go on to some other project and you will have victory. Remember what Kenneth Hagin said, "If you are prepared to stand forever, you will not have to stand long."

This is very important for effective prayer. To pray well and strong, we must stop being trampled down, devoured, withered, and choked; we must be active and ready to walk in Christ's victory. We must walk in faith, in the armor of the Spirit, and with the eyes of our understanding open to the attacks. If we have our eyes open, some of the attacks of the Devil are down right funny; "You think I would fall for that?????"

Let us pray!

A Call for Prayer

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.

Churches in Belarus – Please pray for the churches in this Eastern European country. Pray for them to stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. Pray for opportunities for the spread of the Gospel and for revival to come to this nation.

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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 Białogard, 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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