

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of July 18, 2010

The enemy yields only what he must. He yield only what is taken. Therefore the ground must be taken step-by-step. Prayer must be definite. He yields only when he must. Therefore the prayer must be persistent. He continually renews his attacks, therefore the ground taken must be held against him in the Victor's name. This helps to understand why prayer must be persisted in after we have full assurance of the result, and even after some immediate results have come, or, after the general results have commenced coming.

S. D. Gordon *Quiet Talks on Prayer*

The Life of Prayer

Calibrate

David Williamson

My Grandpa was a tool and die man. A tool and die man makes jigs, fixtures, dies, molds, machine tools, cutting tools, gauges, and other tools use in the manufacturing processes. Grandpa was able to see how things could work and then design and build the part or tool. He worked in Denver at a manufacturing company that made machine tools, pumps, and aviation products.

It was part of the procedure for engineers while designing a tools or equipment to come to him and ask him to look over their plans and specifications. He could look at the plans and spot problems with the design. Often new engineers would chafe at this, they were engineers and he did not even have a degree, still they were told to have Frank (my Grandpa) look at the design. This one young engineer was reluctant to do so, but showed him his plans and Grandpa saw a problem. Grandpa said that one area of the tool was not strong enough for the stress that it would have to carry and it would break. The engineer disagreed and proceeded with his plans. When manufactured and tested the tool broke just as Grandpa had predicted. After several incidents like this, it became a required, practice to show plans to Frank before completing the design stage of a tool or product and follow his suggestions.

What had gotten Grandpa talking about this time in his life was while he was showing me some of his tools, which include a variety of calipers. The one that caught my attention was a Vernier caliper. This is used to measure internal dimensions, external dimensions, or make depth measurements. While we have new and modern devices capable of great precession in measuring today, the Vernier caliper was an amazing tool, used to provide measurements precise to one thousandth of an inch.

In many products there is a very small tolerance in size of the various parts and if they are not just the right size the product will break or not work. This is where tools like the caliper are used. Manufacturing requires consistent, accurate production of a good design. An important aspect of

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manufacturing is calibration. Calibrate means: to standardize by determining the deviation from a standard so as to ascertain the proper correction factors, to adjust precisely for a particular function.

This is a good description of what the Father does in us. God calibrates His children for deviation from the standard; the standard is Jesus Christ. Jesus walked, talked, worked, prayed, and ministered just as man was originally designed by the Creator. The Father calibrates to find areas that need correction and to make adjustments, so we are fit for a particular function. The calibration process includes sweeping out all that is not of the Word. It includes bringing us up to the fullness of Christ. We are a new creation, a new person and calibration is the process of making us like Jesus.

being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ; Philippians 1:6 (NKJV)

The Father's calibration works in every area of our life. He knows that when corrections and adjustments are made then we are useful vessels fit for His use. A place He often calibrates is our relationship to His Word. Calibration to the standard of Jesus includes checking for what is in our heart; Word, self, world, or traditions. It is also checking that we are full to overflowing with the Word of God.

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)

that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, [27] that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. Ephesians 5:26-27 (NKJV)

The Father's examination includes investigation of the metal of which we are made. In Christian terms this is calibration of our character; an area where there is much to check and a need to do it regularly. The world we live in is geared to the destruction of character. Did you read the quote at the beginning of this issue? This could be rewritten for calibration of character.

In the battle to have the character of Christ, the enemy yields only what he must. He yields only what is taken. Therefore the ground must be taken step-by-step. As we pray for changes, each change must be definite. He yields only when he must. Therefore the prayer for our character must be persistent. He continually renews his attacks, therefore the ground taken must be held against him in the Victor's name. This helps to understand why character change must be persisted in after we have full assurance of the result, and even after some immediate results have come, or, after the general results have commenced coming.

a modification of a quote by S. D. Gordon

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Calibration includes checking for a low tolerance for deviation from our standard, Christ Jesus; such as a low tolerance for sin, fear, anger, doubt, sloth, etc. It also is checking for progress in walking out the plan for which we were designed. We were made for a specific plan. Calibration to this plan requires knowing the will of the Father concerning us, walking in His preparations for service, and a ready willingness to actively serve Him as he planned.

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. Ephesians 2:10 (NKJV)

Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him. Colossians 3:12-17 (NKJV)

Commonly calibration takes place daily, and at times it is moment by moment. There are also seasons of calibration, where the Holy Spirit is working a substantial remodeling of our nature, practices, beliefs, lifestyle, work, ministry, or prayers. Calibration, of the moment or seasonal type, places an emphasis on preparing us for the next step in our life. It is a preparation for change and for a new season.

Let us pray!

A Call for Prayer

Pray for Calibration – Our cooperation with the work the Father is doing is a wise move.

that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, Philippians 3:10 (NKJV)

Pray for Pastor Daniel – Pray for healing and health for Pastor Daniel in Nepal.

Pray for Pastor Charles – Pray for healing and health for Pastor Charles in Wyola, Montana

Pray for the Crow Camp Meetings, July 23, 24, 25 – Pray for reaching many people throughout the tribe and the region of Wyola, Montana.

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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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