

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of July 25, 2010

Each time, before you intercede, be quiet first, and worship God in His glory. Think of what He can do, and how He delights to hear the prayers of His redeemed people. Think of your place and privilege in Christ, and expect great things!

Andrew Murray

The Life of Prayer

“Come with me.”

David Williamson

“Come with me.” I was on my way home from Costa Rica and at the customs gate at the Miami airport, I heard those words. The customs official had been looking through my passport, looked at me, and then ordered me to come with him. He took me to a glass walled room and had me sit with my bags. He went to a computer terminal, where he could watch me and began to type on a computer keyboard. Another customs official joined him and they would read the screen of the computer and then look at me, back to the screen and then look at me. This continued for about ten minutes and then the official came into the room where I was sitting and said, “You may go now.”

I was pleased to be allowed to go, but I was very curious. “Thank you sir, but I must ask, what was this all about?” His response was, “We are looking for David Williamson, but the one we want is not you.” He did not explain what they wanted him for, but it was clear that they really wanted him. I was very glad it was not me they were after and that I was free to finish my trip and go home.

All effective prayer is by faith. This should not come as a surprise to Christians, as all progress in the Christian life is by faith. Without faith we cannot please God and what is not done in faith is sin. So in our Christian walk and in our prayer life, faith is an important key to all we do and to our success. Since it is so important it is wonderful to know that faith is available to us. God has made provision so we can all have faith. They are simple, but very powerful words, “***So then faith comes...***”

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. Romans 10:17 (NKJV)

Over the years, I have come home from places near and far, Costa Rica was just one of many. Some of the trips home are easy, some like this one, were harder. This flight from Costa Rica was late, and I missed my connecting flight, I also missed the next and last flights that day, due to my time in customs and it was only due to some pushing on my part and a supervisor being nice that the airline put me up for the night. The next day I flew to Dallas, but the connecting flight to Denver was late getting to Dallas, so I had a very long wait. This trip it was very hard to come home.

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Sometimes walking in our faith can be like this, at times there are difficulties. Since faith comes, when you need faith, what do you do, where do you go? We know that faith comes from hearing the Word of God; unfortunately there can be hindrances to hearing. Coming home from a trip should be easy. The flight should be on time and my bags should be ready when I get to the carousel. I should be able to show my passport, walk through the doors, kiss and hug my wife, and go home. Simple! But sometimes it is difficult. Faith coming should be simple, but sometimes it is difficult.

When we are seeking to hear so we can have faith, where or to whom do we go? The correct answer is to the God and His Word, but it is easy to slip into the hindrances and difficulties that try to keep us from hearing. People go to problems, traditions and a plethora of worldly sources. None of these sources will yield faith.

Even when we go to the Word of God there can be impediments to hearing. We must listen to the Word. We live in a very noisy time, everywhere, and all the time there is noise. The noise is not all bad, but there is so much of it that we have to close our ears to much of it or we would be inundated. So we must check, did we hear the Word into our heart or just blocked it out with the daily noise? And while we are at it, we should check to see that we have the Word in our heart and not just in our head. We should check that we are hearing the Word that is what God says, not what we think or hope the Word says. We must hear what God says over what the world tells us it says.

Another barrier is the supply of the Word in our heart. In places when they were under communist rule there were shortages of many things. Often people would have to stand in lines for a long time to get the things they need. At times even after the long wait there was nothing to buy in the store. There is a huge difference between having one loaf of bread on the shelf and a supply of bread. In both cases the store has bread, but if you are in the line, you want the store to have a supply of bread. The same is true for the Word in our heart. Even with a little you can say you have the Word in your heart, but this is far different and not nearly as effective, as having an abundance of the Word in your heart.

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)

Hearing the Word for faith requires action on the Word. The first and foremost action is obedience. Every little boy in Israel heard the Words of the Torah. They were required to memorize much of these Words. Why then did the Word prosper some of the boys and not the others, obedience was often the answer. Look at the difference between two kings of Israel, Saul and David.

So Samuel said: "Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and

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idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He also has rejected you from being king. 1 Samuel 15:22-23 (NKJV)

The willing and obedient eat the good of the land. They also hear the Word and can have faith. Faith also requires acting on what we hear. We need to ask our self, what would I be doing, if I had the answer I am seeking? Well, if we walk by faith would it not be wise to be doing it?

If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land; but if you refuse and rebel, you shall be devoured by the sword; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

Isaiah 1:19-20 (NKJV)

Finally, but of great importance we must hear without giving up. Too many people quit when the answer is on its way. They quit just before they have a real dose of the Word in their heart. They quit before their obedience is complete. They quit just before they have faith and the great result God has planned. Do not quit!

In Miami that day, the customs officials were looking for a man (I am glad it was not me). God is looking for men and women as well. He is looking for men and women who hear the Word, act on the Word and have faith. All too often people have allowed the thief to steal, kill, or destroy. God is looking for men and women who will not allow the thief to continue his evil reign of terror. Jesus has provided abundant life and God is seeking people who will walk in this abundance.

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)

God is looking for you to walk in abundance, because He wants you to live the abundant life. He is also for people who walk in His abundant life, because they are effective in prayer. They pray and will not accept sealing, killing, and destruction as answers to prayer. They pray and receive abundant life answers for the people and situations for which they are praying. God is looking for men and women of abundant life prayers, is that you? God says, "Come with me."

Let us pray!

A Call for Prayer

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: May they prosper who love you. Psalm 122:6 (NKJV)

I have set watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; they shall never hold their peace day or night. You who make mention of the Lord, do not keep silent, Isaiah 62:6 (NKJV)

Pray for Pastor Daniel – Continue to pray for health, strengthening, and rest.

Pray for Pastor Charles – Continue to pray for health, strengthening, and rest.

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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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