

# Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of Aug 1, 2010

Filling our heart with an abundance of the word of God is imperative for success in prayer. When we fill our heart with enough of the Word, we reach critical mass; then our prayers are explosive.

David Williamson

## *The Life of Prayer*

### **Driving Away or Feeding**

David Williamson

Our next door neighbor has a birdfeeder; her yard and ours has a constant stream of birds visiting for a quick meal. We have several varieties of birds, but my favorite is the purple finch. They are beautiful with bright colors on their head and neck and I laugh at the name because they are not purple, but a love shade of red. Day after day the lady puts out birdseed and our yards are alive with birds, hiding in my trees, eating seeds, playing their games of chase, and calling out to other birds. The lady fills the birdfeeder with the seed the experts says is the best food for these little birds. Now the bigger birds like it (and the squirrels will do anything to get the seeds, even hanging by their tail to reach into the feeder and sometimes falling on their head when they stretch too far!).

The power in prayer is a great blessing and God has planned for us to rule and reign with Him by prayer. His goal is for us to have great power and wonderful answers. Power in prayer is promised in many scriptures on prayer throughout the Bible. Here are a few examples of the unlimited power of prayer.

***Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven.***

Matthew 18:18-19 (NKJV)

***Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.*** Mark 11:24 (NKJV)

***Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.*** 1 John 5:14-15 (NKJV)

Unfortunately, many Christians do not walk in the power of prayer. They do not experience the fullness of the blessing of prayer that they could and should enjoy. There is nothing wrong with the

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promises and God's willingness and power has not abated, so all that is left is a problem that is blocking our attainment of power in our prayers.

Jesus teaching about this battle over blockages to blessings is recorded in several passages of scripture. One of the most well known is the parable of sowing the seed, the Word of God. We need the Word for our faith; faith comes by hearing the Word. Unfortunately, often seed is devoured by birds before it can take root, grow, and produce a crop of faith.

***The sower sows the word. And these are the ones by the wayside where the word is sown. When they hear, Satan comes immediately and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts.*** Mark 4:14-15 (NKJV)

There are many examples in the Bible where birds are used to show the devouring of a part of a blessing. A very graphic example of this is found in the life of Abraham. When God and Abraham are making covenant together, Abraham follows the plan of laying out the animals and birds as God has ordered. Then vultures come to devour the carcasses, but Abraham drove them away.

***So He said to him, "Bring Me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old female goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." Then he brought all these to Him and cut them in two, down the middle, and placed each piece opposite the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when the vultures came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.*** Genesis 15:9-11 (NKJV)

Abraham, the man of faith, drove away the birds; today the man or woman of faith will also drive away the birds. Today this driving away of birds is driving away anything that would devour the Word and limit our faith. From the time of Abraham to today, it always happens this way, the birds are feeding on the seed or they are being driven away. There is no middle ground or another alternative. If we are not actively driving the birds away, then we are feeding birds our seed. The birds always come to steal, kill, and destroy and only when they are driven away is our seed, the Word of God, saved to be planted in our heart and grow a crop. The only means for success in the Christian life and for effective prayer is to actively and consistently drive away the birds.

***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)

***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)

So what do we do, it seems straight forward when we look at Abraham's example. He did not just sit and watch to see what would happen. I have always visualized Abraham waving his arms and shouting at the birds to drive them away. That would be picturesque, but not very effective for the birds we face. To be effective in driving away the birds, we must view the Word of God as written

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to us personally. It is not just a book; it is not just a special book. It is written to us for our benefit and requires our acting in obedience to what God is saying to us. The Bible is God's Word to you and to me. It gives specific and direct instruction on what we should do, it is just as specific as God telling Abraham what to do when they made covenant (Genesis 15:9).

***If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land;*** Isaiah 1:19 (NKJV)

This is the challenge presented to everyone who desires to be effective in prayer (or successful in all of their Christian life and walk). God speaks to us, whispering in our heart, in dreams, or other ways, most often He speaks by His Word, and He tells us what we are to do. Our part is to obey what He says to do. Our obedience is the first step in driving the birds away. Disobedience to what God has said to do is like feeding the birds. Receiving the blessings of God always begins with obedience. We see this throughout the Bible.

***Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the Lord your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the Lord your God:*** Deuteronomy 28:1-2 (NKJV)

Effective prayer requires faith and faith comes from the Word of God. Obedience allows the Word to come into our heart and build our faith. God speaks the requirements for obedience for prayer to us; He speaks every day, giving specific areas that we are to address. In prayer, there are specific key areas to address; one of the most important is forgiveness. Notice the direct relationship between effective prayer and forgiveness.

***So Jesus answered and said to them, "Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them. "And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses."*** Mark 11:22-26 (NKJV)

Today and each day, we are given an opportunity to pray. With each opportunity we have the option of having effective powerful prayers that avail much. This success in prayer comes by driving away the birds. We must obey as God speaks to us; do what He says, forgive, believe, be not angry, walk in love, walk and speak the Word, and any other direction He gives us. Please note, it is often the little things that trip us up; something like, go bless this family, go mow his lawn, take supper to that lady, call on them, or be a friend in a tough time. Obedience drives away the birds, opening the door for powerful and effective prayer.

*Let us pray!*

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## **A Call for Prayer**

**Pray for Joyce** – Pray for the school in Brazil, the children who go there, their families, and the workers. Here is a quote from Joyce concerning the work at this school. “It takes time and patience to bring converted children into a close walk and understanding of the Bible.”

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

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

**Pray for Marek Kaminski** – Pray for a new vehicle for him and his family.

**Pray for those around you** – Pray for those people that live near you that need prayer, pray for specifics such as those listed here, provision, safety, help, healing, deliverance, and salvation. Near where you live there are many who need your prayers. They need you to pray in power so they can receive these things they need. Drive away the birds and pray effective fervent prayers that avail much.

## **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 in Germany

Churches in Nepal

Churches in USA

Churches in your nation and on your heart

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## **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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- A Call to Prayer
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