

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of Aug 15, 2010

One should never initiate anything that he cannot saturate with prayer.

S. D. Gordon

The Life of Prayer

Ears will Tingle

David Williamson

“This is the end of our broadcast day. Please join us again tomorrow at 5:30 am, when we return to the air and begin our broadcast day.” With this short announcement, followed by a short collage of videos of various places from around America, including a seacoast scene, fields of wheat, Mount Rushmore, the Statue of Liberty, and a fly over of fighter jets, and finally the playing of the National Anthem, this channel of TV would go off the air. If you checked the other available channels you would find that they were all off or going off as well. Occasionally on Friday or Saturday nights there would be a late movie and it would run until 11:30 or even midnight, but then that channel would go off as well. For the next five to seven hours there would be no TV available at all. It would be totally silent.

One of the most damaging problems in the world to day is noise. I do not write this as a frumpy old man complaining about how loud DVD players are or the sounds of society. I am sure that noise pollution is a problem and someone should address it, but not here. That noise contributes to the problem, but it is just a loud, but minor part of the real problem. The real problem can be soft or loud, it can be nice or very irritating, but it is the constant noise in which we live. There is no place to go, no time reserved, to be quiet.

Our unwillingness to be quiet affects our prayers. Power in prayer begins with listening. Most of our teaching on prayer is centered on what to say and do. We talk about saying the right thing, however, there is very little written about listening. The champions of prayer from both the Bible and since that time have been men and women who have known God well and chief in their arsenal for knowing God was that they were listeners to God’s voice.

Jesus is our greatest champion, His prayers and His prayer life set the standard of excellence for all who will follow. And as our champion, please note that He was a man who listened. We see this many places in Scripture, one great description of His listening is found in part of words spoken by Isaiah where he describes what Jesus would be like at the time of His life on earth and His crucifixion. Please note carefully, that this speaks of an ear to hear as something the learned have, and that not having an open ear is a form of rebellion, a turning away from God.

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The Lord God has given Me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him who is weary. He awakens Me morning by morning, He awakens My ear to hear as the learned. The Lord God has opened My ear; and I was not rebellious, nor did I turn away. Isaiah 50:4-5 (NKJV)

Success in prayer comes from having “the tongue of the learned.” Speak our prayers, in faith, and in the known will of God, we can have great power in prayer. However, this “tongue of the learned” like Jesus had, only comes from a listening ear.

The rebellion against God today is in part noise. We have so sought noise that our ear knows not God’s voice, it does not allow God to speak, and does not seek to learn what God’s voice sounds like. We are captured in a cocoon of clamor, held captive to our fear of silence, and separated from God by the great wall of noise.

Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth! Psalm 46:10 (NKJV)

Think for a moment of some of the great men of prayer. Compare their preparation and training for effective prayer with what you have done to be a man or woman powerful in prayer. Look at Moses; he came from the clamor and blare of court life in Egypt. From there he was forty years in the wilderness. How strange it must have been at first; the sounds of silence (to borrow a phrase) must have been deafening. Day after day he had only the bleat of a few sheep and the voice of God to fill his ears.

And even after forty years of this tuning his ear to listen, Moses claimed he did not have the “tongue of the learned”. He begged off on being the one to speaking to Pharaoh. What manner of man was this Moses? People today have no doubts about their speaking ability. They talk non-stop in one form or another, about every little thing. These same people have never had their ear tuned to hear God. Is it any wonder we are so weak in prayer!

Please note that this was only the first stage of Moses’ prayer-training. He spent forty years in what S. D. Gordon calls the “University of Arabia”. This was to take the noise of Egypt out of his ears so he could hear the quiet voice of God. This was followed by two stints of forty days alone with God on the mountain. For these days Moses listen to the voice of God and this learning to listen made him a skilled intercessor.

We could also look at Samuel, born of his mother, Hannah’s prayers. Samuel from a tender age lived in the sounds of silence. His ear was tuned to voice of God. His ear was tuned to hear when God called. And finally, Samuel’s listening ear opened his “tongue of the learned” and he cried out “Speak, for your servant hears.”

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Now the Lord came and stood and called as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel answered, "Speak, for Your servant hears." Then the Lord said to Samuel: "Behold, I will do something in Israel at which both ears of everyone who hears it will tingle.

1 Samuel 3:10-11 (NKJV)

Today God longs to do something “***at which both ears of everyone who hears it will tingle.***” To accomplish what He wants to do, God needs a man or woman like Samuel or Moses. He is searching for people who are trained to listen. Searching for people who have ears dimmed to the sounds of the world and tuned to the voice of God. God’s training of Moses was in the “University of Arabia” and for Samuel, he “grew before the Lord”. If you are willing to become a man or woman of power in prayer, what place and means of training does God have for you?

Training to know His voice comes from time in His Word and with Him in prayer. Is your time in His Word, just time with your eyes passing over the words, while your heart and mind are busy with life? Is your meditation on His Word, more on the cares of this world, leaving God out of your life? Is the quiet time of your prayers filled with complaints, murmuring, and business? Is your ear tuned to the voice of the Lord or filled with the clamor of the world?

But the Lord is in His holy temple. Let all the earth keep silence before Him.

Habakkuk 2:20 (NKJV)

Let us pray!

A Call for Prayer

Pray for Anointing for Service

The first recorded mention of the Lord praying is found in the third chapter of Luke:

When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened. And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, "You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased." Luke 3:21-22 (NKJV)

From the beginning of Jesus’ public ministry He was anointed with power. And please note, His anointing came while Jesus was praying. Luke records this fact “... **and while He prayed.**” Prayer brings power. Prayer is tightening the connection with the source of our power that is with God. With prayer, power flows from God through us, to meet needs, correct wrongs, empower ministry, and deliver from bondage. As we seek to do anything with and for God, we need to begin with prayer. Prayer is our source of guidance and empowerment for service. Today, as you seek God and His anointing, pray.

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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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