

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of Aug 22, 2010

But there's a power which man can wield
When mortal aid is vain,
That eye, that arm, that love to reach,
That listening ear to gain.

That power is prayer, which soars on high
Through Jesus to the throne,
And moves the hand which moves the world,
To bring salvation down.

J. A. Wallace

The Life of Prayer

Good Government?

David Williamson

Around the world there are a multitude of political parties and various governments. They have a wide range of views as to how to best govern a nation and people. Some parties and governments are good, working to make life better; others seem more interested in gaining or maintaining power (while insisting that they only want power so they can do good things for the country). Some are tyrants, some are dictators, some are benevolent despots, while some are representatives of groups, classes, or the people. Now before you assume too much, I was writing about political parties and governments in the time of the Roman Empire. However, it could be like this in your nation today, it is in many places.

Governments have been a part of life since the earliest times of man. In Genesis Chapter 11 we read of an early attempt by men to govern. They set out to build a tower as center of their government. This was a rejection of God; they were idolaters. They had turned from worshipping God and refused to follow His commands to replenish the earth. This government made great and wonderful claims; you can almost see the TV advertisements. This government will be a great government and benefit all mankind. Their call was to be a part of the change for new and great government. The people said yes, and God said no.

And they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth." But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. And the Lord said, "Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and

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this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them. Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech." So the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city. Genesis 11:4-8 (NKJV)

From that “glorious” beginning, man has worked every idea, plan, and scheme imaginable to find a good government or a way to control people. Throughout history the best laid plans of men have failed; beginning with man’s strength, wisdom, and abilities is never enough to overcome the problems of a nation or society. Still time after time, men have conceived great new plans and convinced people that this new plan was the answer. And while some governments have worked better for people than others, until the reign of Christ, governments will come and go, all bound to struggle or fail.

There have been several responses to this problem of governance. Some people have given up all hope for government. Sometimes this response has been to seek a place and means of hiding from governments and their problems. Others have worked for utopias. Others have looked for some form of balance of living under the government, but apart from it. And others have sought solutions, attempting a wide variety of controls on governments.

The Bible presents other solutions to the problem of government. The best solution is that which was offered to Israel; let God be the king of the country. This solution makes demands on people; they must follow the rules and commands of God. And most people react to this as Israel did, they reject this solution. They asked to have a king like other nations.

Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, "No, but we will have a king over us, that we also may be like all the nations, and that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles." And Samuel heard all the words of the people, and he repeated them in the hearing of the Lord. So the Lord said to Samuel, "Heed their voice, and make them a king." And Samuel said to the men of Israel, "Every man go to his city." 1 Samuel 8:19-22 (NKJV)

The next solution is prayer. And while prayer is not strictly speaking, a solution for a form of government, it is the solution to every form of government. Prayer is God’s solution to government. He has ordained men and women praying for their government as His means of righting wrongs, fixing failures, and protecting the people. Prayer is the fix for man’s failure to be able to govern.

It does not matter what type of government you must deal with, large or small, good or bad, prayer brings help to the problem and solutions where they seem impossible. However, there is a big problem with using prayer to fix problems with governments; Christians have to pray. If we sit idly by and let the solutions of man shape our government, then we will reap what we have sown, corruption, destruction, wickedness, deception, and evil. This is not what God planned, nor what He wants. Here is God’s command for prayer.

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The people of the land have used oppressions, committed robbery, and mistreated the poor and needy; and they wrongfully oppress the stranger. So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one. Therefore I have poured out My indignation on them; I have consumed them with the fire of My wrath; and I have recompensed their deeds on their own heads," says the Lord God. Ezekiel 22:29-31 (NKJV)

You might say, "That is from the Old Testament." Well okay, but please remember that Paul affirmed what we call the Old Testament and its value for us to day; "***All Scripture is given by inspiration of God***". And here is another example of God's command to pray for our government.

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 2 Tim. 3:16 (NKJV)

Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. 1 Timothy 2:1-4 (NKJV)

We should be praying for opportunities for the Gospel. These prayers may vary from country to country depending on the political and cultural climate. In some places, prayers may be needed for a change of the current regulations and standards; opening the door for evangelism. In another place prayer may be needed for boldness to speak and a concern for a nation of people lost and without hope. Prayers may be needed for the church to awake and stand for the Gospel. In other places prayer may be needed for establishment of churches. The key is listening to the Holy Spirit as He direct our prayers for answers to the specific needs of the country and people.

Prayer should also be praying for the impossible. In many places around the world, and quite possibly in your neighborhood, there are situations that seem impossible. The government cannot solve the problems. The leaders and people may not know what to do. The standard wisdom of today is not working and nothing seems to help. However, our God is able to do the seemingly impossible. It is one of His best things! Page after page of the Bible is filled with problems and situations that for the people involved seemed impossible. The record is clear that time after time God did things people deemed impossible. He can do that for our country and people today; if we will pray. We must believe that God is willing and able, we must pray in faith, and we must pray!

Our prayers are to be for our government and for those people involved in government. Pray that leaders would seek help from God. Pray for wisdom and character of those in all levels of government. Pray for people to do what is right and not to cheat the people. We should also pray for the government that it would do what is good and right.

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Your standing in the gap for your country, or a country God places on your heart, is the key to life and salvation for many people. God is looking for a man or woman who will stand with Him in prayer. The person who will yield their life to God and His will, seeking His will being done in their life, prayers, and the nations of the world. Can He use you? Will you yield your life to Him for prayer? Will you pray?

Let us pray!

A Call for Prayer

Early Morning Prayer – Prayer time after a busy day of ministry

Jesus had a very busy day of ministry, teaching, restoration, healing, and deliverance. The next morning He goes out early to prayer.

Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed. And Simon and those who were with Him searched for Him. When they found Him, they said to Him, "Everyone is looking for You." But He said to them, "Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also, because for this purpose I have come forth." And He was preaching in their synagogues throughout all Galilee, and casting out demons.

Mark 1:35-39 (NKJV)

The busier our life and the greater our challenges the more we need the vision clearing, nerve steadying, duty defining, purpose stiffening, spirit sweetening and strengthening of prayer. The morning appointment of prayer is the key to success in the day. The tougher the days just lived and the more challenging the days to come, the more we need that early morning time with God in prayer.

Tougher the day, earlier the prayers!

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

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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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