

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of September 5, 2010

Prayer is not overcoming God's reluctance, but laying hold of His willingness. Martin Luther.

The Life of Prayer

Power, Love, and Discipline

David Williamson

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

2 Timothy 1:7 (NKJV)

This verse has been a great comfort to me for many years. It has been with me when I have faced difficulty and scary times. I knew for a fact that the fear that tried to come against me was not from God and so I did not have to be afraid. The walk into a situation, to a podium, into a classroom, before a board, into an office, and many other times and places, was a moment of renewed strength from this little verse.

I have written before in the pages of *Voice of Thanksgiving* about this verse and the things God has given us, but I believe there is further application for us and especially for our prayer life. Please note that the verse explains two basic things. First God has not given us fear. Fear is a spirit and it does not come from God. Second God has given us three things. He has given us; power, love, and sound mind. In the Greek the word translated into English as the words "sound mind" is *sophronismos* which is defined as discipline, i.e. self-control. So we can say that God has given us power, love, and discipline.

God has given us many wonderful things. Unfortunately, many times things given by God are not received. They are ours for the taking, but they do nothing for us if we do not take them and use them. It is sad that so many people around the world have failed to take things given by God and apply them to their life. The best know of these is salvation. Jesus lived, died, and rose from the dead so that God could give us a new life. This wonderful gift of salvation is available to everyone who will receive it; however there are many people who have not taken this gift.

Even within the Christian ranks, there are many who have not taken the gifts God would give, if we receive them. People are living far below the standard and possibilities that God has prepared for us, simply because they have not received and applied to their life the things God wants them to have. Jesus addressed this problem and His words are recorded for us in the book of Matthew. God has much to give us, but if we will not receive we will lose even what we have.

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For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. Matthew 13:12 (NKJV)

God has given us power, love, and discipline. What are you doing with these three? The Christian life is to be filled to the full with these three gifts from God. We need power for life. We need to be motivated by love. We need to be disciplined in our walk. These can apply to many areas of the Christian life, if we give them a faithful application. One very important application is in prayer.

Power in Prayer

Prayer as presented and demonstrated by Jesus is powerful. It is not a religious exercise, but the moving of God with power in our life, even in and especially in, the seemingly impossible situation of life that confront us. We need to do a self check, is there power manifest in your prayers? We should be seeing the power of God working in our prayers on a regular basis. God has given power, have we received it? His power is for the working of prayer to be effective in simple things or in the seemingly impossible, but we should see His power at work.

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." Mark 11:22-24 (NKJV)

Love in Prayer

The motivation for prayer is love. This should not surprise anyone, as God is love. Love is the motivation behind all that He does and it should be the motivation behind all we do, especially our prayer. What motivates your prayer, anger, frustration, doubt, fear, evil intents or love? It is easy to slip into prayer that could be described as "getting revenge" or "getting even". But even good sounding prayers can be motivated by things other than love. Prayers like this are like pricking a balloon with a pin and letting all the air out; these prayers avail nothing.

God's love works great and mighty things. And remember God's love is a just love, not a sloppy love, so it brings great and real blessing. Jesus demonstrated this motivation for prayer when He prayed for Peter. In Luke Chapter twenty-two we read of Jesus praying for faith. Please note there is great power here and that Jesus is praying specifically for Peter. Jesus prayed in his great love for this individual so he would not fail. And note Jesus continues to pray for each of us today. That is love.

And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren." Luke 22:31-32 (NKJV)

Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. Romans 8:34 (NKJV)

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Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. Hebrews 7:25 (NKJV)

Discipline in Prayer

There is a discipline to effective prayer. Without discipline our prayers may drift into areas not in accordance to the will of God, in extreme cases we may even be praying against the will of God. And that is not a good place to be! It is important for us to check, regularly, that we are praying as directed. First we are to seek the kingdom of God. Command of Jesus is not just memorable words, but is the key to every enterprise of a successful life in Christ. This is the plumb line of effective prayer. Many prayers are prayed for the good of the kingdom of self, kingdom of pride, kingdom of want, even for the kingdom of the world. Are we praying, seeking first the kingdom of God?

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Matthew 6:33 (NKJV)

A second discipline of prayer is praying a lesson taught by Jesus. We are to be praying for God's Kingdom to come here on earth. Satan tries to rule and reign here on earth and one disciple of prayer is bringing God's kingdom to earth. Jesus won the battle over Satan, but Satan only gives up ground when he is forced to do so. We force the taking of ground from him and bringing the kingdom by prayer.

So He said to them, "When you pray, say: our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Luke 11:2 (NKJV)

A third disciple of prayer is very similar and seen in this same passage. We are to be praying for God's will to be done here on earth. Satan's will is often what is done on earth that is why we are in such a mess in so many areas, but this is not the way it should be. We can and must pray that God's will is done. Once again this must be accomplished against a resistant enemy, one who has lost the battle, but refuses to admit his defeat.

Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Matthew 6:10 (NKJV)

A fourth discipline of prayer is praying that God might show the unspeakable riches of His glory. We are to be praying for a revealing of the riches of His glory to both saint and sinner alike. It is imperative that people see His glory. It draws the lost and encourages and strengthens the saved. It is His glory manifest in our life and in the nations that reveals His power and nature.

the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,
Ephesians 1:18 (NKJV)

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To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Colossians 1:27 (NKJV)

God has given to you power, love, and discipline for prayer. What are you doing with His gifts? Check your prayers, are they empowered prayers, seeking and seeing the power of God manifest? Are your prayers motivated by love, seeking God's love and justice to be poured out on those for whom you pray? Are your prayers disciplined to seek first His kingdom, seeking His kingdom come to earth, and for His will to be done? Are your prayers seeking for the revealing of the riches of His glory?

Let us pray!

A Call for Prayer

In the fourth Mention of Jesus praying, we once again see a glimpse into the prayer life of Jesus. The ministry time continues in its intensity and challenges, and once again Jesus goes to pray. This time to the mountain and continued all night in prayer.

Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. Luke 6:12 (NKJV)

The outcome of Jesus' prayer time is the same as what we need for daily life and ministry. Jesus obtained direction, the next day He chose from His disciples the "Twelve". On that day, Jesus healed all. On the next day Jesus taught the crowds. And His direction, healing, and teaching came with power.

And the whole multitude sought to touch Him, for power went out from Him and healed them all. Luke 6:19 (NKJV)

How often have we needed direction, healing, or teaching, or any of the other many things that we need for living and ministry, but we have not spent the time of prayer and so we have done them in our own power.

Time in prayer for times of power

Continue Faithful in Prayer

In Poland Bishop Marek has called for the churches of his denomination to each plant a new church. In Nepal Pastor Daniel continues with his exciting outreach of planting churches all over Nepal and in other places where there are Nepali people. I mention these two specific calls for church planting because they have been a part of this company of prayer for many years, but there are other places where church planting is happening and if it is not happening where you live it

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might be a good time for you to begin to pray that the call will go to you and your church as well. Planting of new churches is a wonderful cause and one that deserves all our support and prayer.

Please pray for the power and presence of the Holy Spirit in these efforts. The Holy Spirit empowers outreaches and ministries. He empowers the reach of men and women with the Gospel. He also directs our efforts and opens doors of opportunity. Pray for a demonstration of His power and glory in these efforts and where you live.

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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