

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of March 7, 2010

When God intends great mercy for his people the first thing he does is to set them a praying;
Matthew Henry

The Life of Prayer

Silence of Our Prayers

David Williamson

One of the problems we faced at a school where I worked was with the incoming freshmen. Many of them did very poorly the first semester or even year and as a result were far behind and had very poor grades by the time they began to work hard. For some of them they had dug a hole too deep to get out of. The principal of the school decided to make some changes. One of the changes was to put in place a program to bring in freshmen and introduce them to the school and help them get off to a stronger start on school, activities, classes, and effort. The plan was to help them deal with their fears and concerns about high school and start school with higher goals and ambition for success.

The program the principal selected needed a local coordinator for the program and she decided I was the one they wanted. After some persuading and a long weekend of training, I became the coordinator for the program. This job involved training workers, arranging the schedule, preparing materials, inviting the freshmen, and running the special day for the freshmen. It was a lot of work and the first year the School District would not help us because they did not think the program would work. So I even had to raise funds for the things we needed.

Using this program the first day freshmen come to the school is a special day just for them, one or two days before the start of the regular school year. Using specially trained juniors and seniors, we take them through a series of activities and programs to introduce the school and how to be successful. This begins with an assembly filled with activities and challenges, some with the entire group together, others in smaller groups. 400 students actively pursuing a goal in a gym make a lot of noise; it sounds like the roar of a group of small planes about to take off. People working at the school that day would come to the gym to see what all the noise was about.

If they stayed and watched very long, they would see an unusual site and sound. Several of the activities were done without talking. No one was allowed to say anything, they could only use hand jesters to communicate. Suddenly that gym that had been a caldron of noise a few minutes before was now completely silent. The difference was startling. The silence was very powerful; when everyone was quietly doing their activities, no one wanted to be the one that did not do their part and do it correctly.

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Silence is a powerful tool. We live in a society that does not know much about the power of silence, for the most part we do not even know what silence is. Our ears are constantly filled with sounds and noise. People feel uncomfortable with a lack of sounds, a few seconds of silence forces people to say and do silly things just to break the silence. Even in our churches we are afraid of silence, a moment of silent prayer cannot be more than a moment or everyone will get restless and often someone will break the silence. There are many reasons why we cannot stand silence, but the bottom line is that as long as we are unable to be silent, we miss an important part of prayer.

Central to the core practices of effective praying is a relationship with God. Without a current, close, consistent relationship with God in prayer our prayers will be weak at best. Far too often people's prayer life is like that of Israel in the desert. When Moses took the people to the mountain to meet with God, the people were so scared of the rumble, lightning, and thundering that they did not want to draw close. They sent Moses to God for them and they drew back.

Today due to fear, confusion, sin, anger, or other problems people draw back from God. When we do come to Him we still carry much of our baggage and those things that hinder us from coming boldly to His throne. If we have not built a relationship with Him, so we can come and be silent before Him. We have also lost much of the power of prayer.

As a friendship develops, we find that it is okay to be silent with our friend. When we are uncomfortable with another person, we must maintain a steady flow of words, lest we have the uncomfortable moment of silence. With a friend we are not uncomfortable, no matter what is said or even if we are silent. When Peter, John, and James went with Jesus up a mountain to pray and Jesus was transfigured, Peter was so uncomfortable that he had to break the silence.

Then it happened, as they were parting from Him, that Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; and let us make three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah"--not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were fearful as they entered the cloud. And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!" Luke 9:33-35 (NKJV)

Power in prayer does not come from the force of our voice or demands. It does not come from the length of our list of needs. It does not come from the strength of our arguments and agenda. It does not come from our many words. Power in prayer comes from relationship with God.

When Ester had to go to the king and obtain help and deliverance for the Jewish people, it was death to anyone who came uninvited to the throne room, except if the king extended his scepter to that person. Ester was received because of her relationship with the king; she found favor in his sight.

Now it happened on the third day that Esther put on her royal robes and stood in the inner court of the king's palace, across from the king's house, while the king sat on his royal

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throne in the royal house, facing the entrance of the house. So it was, when the king saw Queen Esther standing in the court, that she found favor in his sight, and the king held out to Esther the golden scepter that was in his hand. Then Esther went near and touched the top of the scepter. And the king said to her, "What do you wish, Queen Esther? What is your request? It shall be given to you--up to half the kingdom!" Esther 5:1-3 (NKJV)

A relationship cannot be built if one side does all the talking. And too often this is a major flaw in a prayer life. Only one person speaks and that person is not God. Unless we have times in our prayer time of silence, we will speak foolishly just as Peter did. We must be silent to listen and to be successful in prayer we need to listen. Just as God said to Peter, John, and James, so He says to us today, ***"This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!"***

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)

Be silent, all flesh, before the Lord, for He is aroused from His holy habitation!"
Zechariah 2:13 (NKJV)

Relationship and hearing from God comes from silence in prayer on our part. When we can be so bold as to be quiet before our Father, He will come and speak to us quite powerfully. As we draw near to Him we hear His voice and heart beat; we find guidance and direction, we are empowered and embolden.

Of course for very practical reasons God must be the central focus of our praying. There is no power for prayer apart from God. Scripture does not say, "Have faith in prayer," but, "Have faith in God."
Dick Eastman.

So Jesus answered and said to them, "Have faith in God." Mark 11:22 (NKJV)

The point of prayer is to get God. Answers are more meaningful when they are thought of least. Prayer is most meaningful when God is thought of most.
Donald E. Demaray

There is a very special place for us in prayer, if we will cultivate times of silence before our Father. These times are not a waste, but a time to draw near to our Father. Our silence is to be focused on our Father, His goodness, and promises. Dick Eastman shares this note in his book *The Hour that Changes the World*.

Thoughts from Andrew Bonar illustrate this concept. Bonar, a man greatly used of God, carefully kept a diary never intended for publication. Fortunately, one of his daughters knew his code system and was able in later years to translate the diary. An especially interesting entry reads, "Some people have got the beauty of the rose of

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Sharon, and there are others who have the fragrance, too. Spent two hours today in prayer, seeking that I might have the fragrance.”

Let us pray!

A Call for Prayer

Pray for Marianne and David Dean – Pray for their new teammates Josh and Lindsey (and their four children) and a smooth transition to this work. Pray for continued growth of the graduates and young professionals’ fellowship group. Pray for success of the community service projects such as trips to a local old folks home.

Pray for DK Limbu Daniel – Praise report: We have purchased three reconditioned motorcycles for the pastors, now they can go further and fast for the ministry unto Jesus Christ. In February, Our Word to World School of Evangelism students witnessed 583 people and won 8 souls to the kingdom.

Thanks for praying and supporting, we appreciate your prayers.

Pray for Word Workshop – March 15-17 in Dhankuta, east Nepal (about 40 participants). Pray for a workshop for the emerging Leadership Workshop in March 22-25th in Ghorahi, Dang Valley in west Nepal (about 20 participants). Pray for the supply of the two reconditioned motorcycles for the pastors so that they can cover more than before. Their ministry will expand winning many souls. Pray for reconditioned Omni Van, to give a ride for those who are in need of transportation to Church. Pray for the anointing of the Holy Spirit and safety of traveling and needs workshop expenses.

This is the time of sowing seed for the great harvest in coming days. Nothing is wasted in the kingdom if we sow our faith seed with prayer and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

In His Service

Brother DK Daniel

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!

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Pray for Pastors of Churches

DK Limbu Daniel – Pastor of a church in Nepal
Jacek Gromadzki – Pastor of a church in Kolobrzeg, Poland
Mark and Patty Spencer – Pastors of a church in Longmont, Colorado
William (Bill) Williamson – Pastor of a church in Cedaredge, Colorado
Charles and Janice Wilson – Pastors in Wyola, Montana

Pray for Nations and the Churches of Nations

Israel and the peace of Jerusalem
Churches in Belarus
Churches in Lithuania

Pray for Leadership over multiple Churches

DK Limbu Daniel – Church planter among 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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Prayer: A Force that Causes Change – A Call to Prayer, A Life Of Prayer, and Faithful In Prayer

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