

Melva's Corner

PRAYER THE AVALANCHE OF GRACE

May 1, 2006

(Psalm 1:1-6)

Central Truth: Every step of the way, prayer is a gracious gift spilling from the mercy and generosity of our Father who loves and cares for us.

Everywhere I go, I hear about it. More and more people are dedicated to it. Most churches have groups that regularly do it. Many people have seen it as their primary calling as a disciple. If you peruse your local Christian bookstore, or look at books online, you will find a large number of titles about it. It is a rebirth in evangelism.

What the great secret that has caused this rebirth? It's no secret, we've just awakened it from hibernation and retrieved it from eclipse. This great blessing is prayer.

As a friend so eloquently put it, "God in His sovereign wisdom chose to wait until we ask for what He longs to give us before He actually blesses us with it." Prayer is our way of asking God — not selfishly asking, mind you, but redemptively and passionately for others and His work. God longs for us to pray for our neighbors and their hearts to be open to the Gospel. God wants us to pray for those who are ill and need healing. God wants us to pray for our children, our families and our marriages. God wants us to pray for rulers and authorities.

Prayer is much more than merely a wish list given to the High King of Heaven! Prayer is a time of confession for our sins, of praise to Almighty God, of thanksgiving for our blessings and of declaring the things God has done. Prayers can be written out, said silently, spoken out loud, uttered while kneeling or standing, offered with uplifted hands, or shouted with joy and jubilation.

Prayer is an avalanche of grace. You see, prayer doesn't really change things; no, prayer changes us. Prayer doesn't really change things; God changes things in response to prayer. Every step of the way, prayer is a gracious gift spilling from the mercy and generosity of our Father who loves us. By grace and the intercession of Jesus and the Holy Spirit, we come into the very presence of God and He hears us. By grace, even when we don't have the words to say, the Holy Spirit intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words and does so in accordance with the Will of God. By grace, God gives us what we need and not necessarily what we think is best. By grace, God chooses to respond to our request for mercy, deliverance, restoration and forgiveness. By grace, prayer invites God to go to work in our world and bring His presence and power to bear on situations too big for us to understand, much less control. By grace, God unleashes His awesome love and power to ripple out across generations, communities, and years. Prayer is an avalanche of grace!

So when the call to pray for the nation and the world shows up on our doorstep, how can we not pray for the leaders of world governments, for the righteousness of our governmental leaders, for peace in the world that will speed evangelism to the nations in bondage and for godly wisdom to be displayed in our schools and justice be honored in our courthouses.

The emphasis on prayer, must never be allowed to be routine or happenstance. God has given us this gift to unleash an avalanche of His grace. So as one who walked in the high country of grace and tasted the sweet air of salvation, isn't time you joined in the sounds that release an avalanche of grace?

Just when you are busy with your fairly-ordinary-not-real-exciting-but-not-really-boring-life, the Lord announces, "I'm here!" He answers a prayer. You win a victory. A relationship comes alive. You find answers to your questions. Life brings you new challenges.

At a time when you least expect it you discover that the Lord is doing something. Go see what it is that the Lord is doing. It may be the discovery of a lifetime . . . or an eternity.

Scriptural References:

“Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers. Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away.

Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous. For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.” (Psalm 1:1-6, NIV)