

Prayer for Elections

Key Scripture:

“If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”

2 Chronicles 7:14 (KJV)

Today's Portion for the Journey

“If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?” (Ps. 11:3) This nation, which was founded on Christian principles, has fallen far from her godly heritage. One has only to watch TV or listen to the news to see how desperately America needs revival. We have watched leaders fall through a deterioration of morals, corruption and blatant forsaking of God's Word and ways. Over the years, the Church has shown a pattern during election years of stirring itself to pray for the LORD to raise up righteous government leaders only to sink back into lethargy again when leaders are chosen. We cannot pray and ask the LORD to bless the nation with righteous leaders unless the Church is willing to first seek restoration of His righteousness in the Church and Christians rise up to impact this nation with the Gospel. The Word makes it clear that judgment begins first in the house of the LORD. Our key scripture provides a clear set of conditions that God requires of His people in order to bring healing to our nation. We cannot ask the LORD to bless our nation if we are not willing to personally humble ourselves, pray and seek the LORD, and repent of our sins. Ask the LORD to forgive our sins of complacency and lukewarmness. Micah 6:8-9; 2 Chron. 7:14

Daniel was living in a time when Israel had fallen far from God's ways. His people had been taken into exile and captivity. Daniel remained faithful to His Lord and did not allow the wickedness of those around him to change his standards of righteousness. Daniel was a true intercessor who prayed for and served kings whose hearts were far from the LORD. In Daniel 9, Daniel interceded in prayer on behalf of his country, his people for their sins and asked God's forgiveness. His prayer for restoration of his nation provides an excellent model prayer for us to follow as we pray for our nation. Note that as an intercessor, he confessed the sins of his people, their forefathers, and the leaders, saying, “we have sinned...” He does not stand as a judge, pointing the finger at other's sin. Instead, he takes his stand with his people and confesses their sins on their behalf. Daniel's prayers were powerful and began the process of restoring Israel. See Daniel 9; Prov. 3:5

1. CONFESS PERSONAL SINS and pray for the Church: Judgment begins first in the house of the LORD: Ask the Lord to grant a spirit of repentance (PERSONAL) and for the Church in America to repent for her sins of complacency and lukewarmness. Follow the prayer in Daniel 9 where Daniel stood on behalf of his country, his people for their sins and asked God's forgiveness. Ask the LORD to search our hearts and examine our motives in prayer:

- **This is a day to pray for the church to humble herself before the Lord:** Luke 18:9-14 (NLT); 2 Chron 7:14 ; (NLT); Psalms 32:1-7 (NASB)
- God will not answer our prayers if we ask with selfish motives. Ask the LORD to give you His heart for this nation and pray for what will most glorify Him! Ask the LORD to search our hearts and purify our motives in prayer. James 4:3-4; Phil. 2:3
- That we, the Body of Christ in America, **will walk prayerfully before the LORD in a spirit of unity and with pure hearts.** Phil. 1:27-28; 2:1-4; 1 Pet. 4:7

- **Pray that repentance would become a lifestyle**, so that we are each quick to come before the LORD, confessing our sins and forgiving each other. Matt. 7:3-5; 3 Cor. 7:10; Matt. 3:8 (Amp)
- **Pray that we would be quick to forgive our enemies**, for they know not what they do – even in the political arena. This is commanded by our LORD. Luke 23:34; 2 Chron. 7:14
- **Ask the Lord to search your heart and cleanse you from all judgment and critical words** we have spoken against those in leadership. Repent and ask the Lord to establish your heart to bring forth His blessing to pray. James 4:11-17; James 5:8-9; Eccles. 10:10-20; John 12:47
- **Repent for the sins of complacency and lukewarmness in the Church:** Rev. 3:16; Hosea 5:9-15; Rom. 12:12; 2 Thes. 3:2; 1 Sam. 12:23-25; Prov. 1:20-33; Hos. 5:9-15; Amos 5:18

3. Pray for the CANDIDATES:

- Pray that the LORD would raise up candidates whose hearts are wholly His. That He would raise up men and women who have godly leadership skills. 2 Tim. 2:1-4; James 3:13-18
- That they come to know the fear of the LORD so that they will walk in wisdom throughout this long campaign. Prov. 9:10
- That they would surround themselves with skilled staffers—men and women who will offer godly wise counsel to each candidate throughout this election cycle. Eccles. 12:13; Prov. 25:19; 29:12; Ps. 1:1-3
- For strength for the candidates and their families and their staff. May each one be energized and invigorated by the campaign process rather than drained. Deut. 33:25; Ezra 6:10
- Pray that as God would give them a genuine love for the people and this nation as they travel and campaign. Purify the motives of their hearts.
- Protect them from temptations and deliver them from evil. Pray they will keep God’s ways and withstand pressures to compromise or being susceptible to bribery. Ex. 18:16, 21-22
- Pray that candidates will not turn against one another but keep their focus on important issues.

4. ACKNOWLEDGE GOD’S SOVEREIGNTY OVER ALL THE AFFAIRS OF MANKIND knowing He is the one who decides the election. Ps. 33:12; Prov. 8:15; Ps. 75:6-7; Dan 4:17, 35-37

- **Cry out to the LORD for righteousness in our leaders:** “Spare thy people. O LORD, do not give your heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them. Joel 2:17; Prov. 29:2; Daniel 4:17
- **Pray that lies and corruption will be quickly exposed.** Pray especially that those who walk in righteousness would be protected and vindicated from “dirty tricks” and “wicked scheming.” Job 34:16; Luke 12:2; Jer. 23:24

5. Pray for the VOTERS

- Pray the American people will awaken to the fact that it is our responsibility to act and to vote!
- That they would know and correctly discern the true character of each candidate on the ballot (in both the primaries and in the general election.) Pray that they will choose wisely, seeking the LORD and becoming informed of candidates’ views related to God’s Word and ways.
- Pray that voters would seek the LORD and pray for His guidance, each one being led by the Spirit of the Most High God. Eccles. 12:14
- Pray that the voters would have clear vision to see the true needs of this nation and not vote for expediency or superficiality.

6. Pray for the MEDIA

- Pray for a miracle—outpouring of the spirit of repentance in the hearts of journalists, entertainers and broadcasters!

- Intercede that each member of the print and broadcast media will report the facts of this election cycle in truth, avoiding bias and efforts to control the outcome of the election through distortions. Isa. 50:5
- Pray that God will make Himself real and personal in their lives. Luke 19:10; John 14:21
- Pray that corrupt practices that may be present in these circles be exposed and brought to justice. Luke 12:2; Jer. 23:24

7. Take up **THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT IN JESUS NAME:**

- Bind the spirit of Lies and loose the Spirit of truth throughout this election cycle. Matt. 18:18
- Bind lies, deception, dishonesty, and distortion. Also bind any occult spirits that may be in operation.
- Loose: truth, honesty, integrity, character and ethical behavior
- Bind the spirit of lawlessness and antichrist; loose the Spirit of peace and order 1 Cor. 14:33
- Rejoice that the Word is alive and does not come back void! Heb. 4:12; Isa. 55:11
- Ask the LORD to quell any violence that may be planned in our street; pray for peace and safety in our cities. Pray that those planning to foment riots or terrorism threats, unlawful demonstrations, that they be found out before they take place and perpetrators would be brought to justice. Ps. 37:9

8. Thank the LORD for providing sufficient **RESOURCES** for every declared candidate, according to His will. Funds... Ps. 37:10-11 Volunteers... Ps. 110:3 Resources... Phil. 4:19

9. The Word of God gives excellent lists of qualities God desires in a good leader: Ex. 18:16, 21-22

Additional Scriptures on Praying for Godly Leaders for meditation and prayer:

Job 12:19	1 Sam 12:23-25	Jer. 27:5	Prov. 25:19
Rom. 13:1	Prov. 28:12	Ezra 1:1-2	Ezra 6:10
Prov. 21:1	Prov. 14:18, 34	Prov. 29:2, 16	Ps. 33:12

*“And they shall be my people, and I will be their God:
And I will give them one heart, and one way,
that they may fear me forever,
for the good of them, and of their children after them:
And I will make an everlasting covenant with them,
that I will not turn away from them, to do them good;ⁱ
but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me.
Yea, I will rejoice over them to do them good,
and I will plant them in this land assuredly
with my whole heart and with my whole soul.”* Jeremiah 32:38-41 (KJV)

ⁱ Some of the prayer points and scriptures were taken from a hand-typed handout called “Election Cycle Guidelines for Prayer” (Author unknown)