

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Today thousands of believing Christians across our land will gather together in humble repentance and prayer before Almighty God, on behalf of our nation, communities, families, churches, and world. The National Day of Prayer was established in 1952 by Congress, and is founded on the Constitutional rights of freedom of speech and freedom of religion. This year's theme is "Love One Another."

A DIVIDED AMERICA - the current president of the National Day of Prayer Task Force (NDPTF), pastor Ronnie Floyd, observes, "Government cannot fix us. Politics will never heal us. Those who follow Jesus Christ and identify themselves as Christians need to understand and believe the first two sentences of this article, or you will live a highly disappointed life. Disunity is triumphant in our nation today. Some pride themselves over creating it, while others grieve when our nation experiences it."

He notes, "Division does not honor Jesus Christ. Jesus is always right. In *Luke 11:17*, Jesus said, "Knowing their thoughts, He told them: "Every kingdom divided against itself is headed for destruction, and a house divided against itself falls." America does not get an exception to this basic principle. Neither does a family, church, business, or even a long-term friendship. Therefore, how should we respond as Christians when America is divided like it is today?" NDPTF points to three responses:

RESPONSE #1 - Christians need to pray for America. "Many Christians are so disappointed and fed up with matters about America, they struggle even to pray for our nation. Is this right? Is this justified? Absolutely not! Because where America is today *IS* the reason we DO need to pray. If all was perfect and unity abounded across our nation, we may enjoy praying for America more regularly, but whether we enjoy it or not, it is needed. Praying for America should be our first choice, not our last choice! God is our hope; our last, great, and only hope. Therefore, we need to pray like we believe this with all we are."

NDPTF says, "The alarm clock is going off in our nation and this is not the time to push the snooze button. America needs to experience the next great move of God. That is why we pray. That is why we will prioritize praying for America on our upcoming National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 2. Will you join us? Prayer precedes every great movement of God Biblically and historically. Therefore, we need to pray and ask God for a mighty, great spiritual awakening across America. That is why the National Day of Prayer is a nationwide movement of prayer for America."

RESPONSE #2 - Christians need to love one another. NDPTF says, "Christians need to follow Jesus' teaching in *John 13:34*, 'Love one another, just as I have loved you.' This what we are calling our nation to do on Thursday, May 2. We need a *Love One Another* movement that begins in the church of Jesus Christ. Christians should never take pride in being filled with skepticism or criticism of other people. We should love all people just like Jesus did and does: *willfully, sacrificially, and unconditionally.*" Floyd says "*Love One Another*" needs to become a movement that also infiltrates every part of American life when the church is experiencing this movement within their own fellowship."

He continues, "Followers of Christ need each other more than ever before. While certain secondary doctrinal differences will exist, we need to unite around the beliefs that: 1- *The Bible is God's infallible Word; it is Truth without any mixture of error.* 2- *Jesus is the Son of God and the hope of the world; therefore, salvation is faith alone in Christ alone.* 3- *We must focus our lives, churches, and futures on taking the gospel of Jesus Christ to every person in America and across the world.*" He encourages, "We need to stop fighting over secondary issues and rise up together to become the spiritual light in this darkening America and World. The church needs to model loving one another, or we forfeit our right to speak into the future of our nation. It is time to come together in unity."

RESPONSE #3 - Prepare for the future. NDPTF asks, "What will the Church become in the future of America? Will we lose our freedom, or have it affirmed? We need to prepare for the future realistically, but also with great hope. Regardless of the present cultural tide that is rising in direct opposition to the ways of God, we are a gospel people committed to Christ alone. Our future is not in the hands of the United States government; our future is in the hands of our Sovereign God. Yes, our times are in His hands!"

And: "We need to prepare future generations spiritually and vocationally for what God wants them to be and how He wants them to live for Him. That is why I believe our greatest hope lies only in Jesus Christ, His Gospel, and the advancement of this Good News message reaching every corner of America and across this world. While we call out to God for His Church to be revived by the Spirit and begin to love one another, resulting in coming together in unity, we need to simultaneously pray extraordinarily for the next Great Spiritual Awakening in America. This is our greatest hope in America. Now is the time to lead."

YOUR RESPONSE - Make the time to join in prayer in your local community. Use the above thoughts as you pray, and get more prayer guidance at www.NationalDayOfPrayer.org - check it out today! ☐