



# prayer *life!*

## Weekly Prayer Focus

April 5, 2020

### Repenting for a Nation

*Then I turned my face to the Lord God, seeking him by prayer and pleas for mercy with fasting and sackcloth and ashes. I prayed to the LORD my God and made confession ...* –Daniel 9:3-4a

As Christians, our strength and hope are in Christ alone—not in our nation or its system of government. As American Christians, we need to shift the object of our faith from our country to our God. During the global pandemic, Christians can follow Daniel's prayer of confession for His people (Daniel 9) as an example.

- **Pray for forgiveness through confession of sin.** *We have sinned and done wrong and acted wickedly and rebelled, turning aside from your commandments and rules (9:4-6).*
- **Confess God's right to judge us for our sins.** *To you, O Lord, belongs righteousness (9:7).*
- **Confess our sins as God's people.** *To us, O LORD, belongs open shame, to our kings, to our princes, and to our fathers, because we have sinned against you (9:8).*
- **Proclaim God's goodness as Lord.** *To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, for we have rebelled against him (9:9).*
- **Understand our social ills as consequences of breaking God's will.** *He has confirmed his words, which he spoke against us and against our rulers who ruled us, by bringing upon us a great calamity (Daniel 9:12-13).*
- **Entreat God's favor.** *All this calamity has come upon us; yet we have not entreated the favor of the LORD our God, turning from our iniquities and gaining insight by your truth (Daniel 9:13).*
- **Remember God's past great deeds for His people.** *O Lord our God, who brought your people out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand, and have made a name for yourself (Daniel 9:15).*
- **Ask for deliverance from God's wrath.** *Let your anger and your wrath turn away (Daniel 9:16).*
- **Pray for restoration and blessing.** *Listen to the prayer of your servant and to his pleas for mercy, and for your own sake, O Lord, make your face to shine upon your sanctuary, which is desolate (Daniel 9:17).*
- **Base all your requests on God's mercy and for His name's sake.** *O my God, incline your ear and hear. Open your eyes and see our desolations, and the city that is called by your name. For we do not present our pleas before you because of our righteousness, but because of your great mercy. O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive. O Lord, pay attention and act. Delay not, for your own sake, O my God, because your city and your people are called by your name (Daniel 9:18-19a).*
- **Pray for the sake of God's glory and His good work in His people.** *Delay not, for your own sake, O my God, because your city and your people are called by your name (Daniel 9:19b).*

In the Old Testament, God identified the sins of His people and led them in righteousness. In the New Testament, God forgives our sin and gives us Christ's righteousness. We have His Spirit, who makes us new and enables us to will and to work for His good pleasure (Philippians 2:13). And we have His promise: *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1<sup>st</sup> John 1:9).*

Ask God to show us where we have strayed in our homes, our lives, our marriages, our families. Where are we straying in our church fellowship, relationships, practices, teaching, and doctrines. Ask God to reveal where we fail in our mission.

Brokenness in society reflects brokenness in the Church. America needs God, so America needs a pure, vibrant, faith-filled Church. So Christians need to pray for revival in the Church and renewal in our nation. Pray in faith, believing that when you ask, you will receive.

To the praise of His Glory.

## Prayer for the Week

Praise is more than a fad or popular enthusiasm. As with all things emotional, praise has a deeper foundation. Emotions are about something. Internal feelings relate to external reality, and our emotions need to be trained to align with that reality. Praise is a way of lining up our personal, subjective experience with what is true, lasting, and solid. It trains our personal, subjective reality to follow what is true externally and objectively.

The enthusiasm of the first Palm Sunday was genuine and intense, but it wasn't grounded in a genuine faith in who Jesus really is. And in one week, real enthusiasm for Christ turned into a hateful condemnation of Christ to death on a cross. Their praise was out of touch with reality, because they didn't believe Jesus was who He says He is—the Lord God Almighty.

Ask God to tune our hearts to sing His praise, even during this global pandemic. By faith, allow the Holy Spirit to lead you in praise to God the Father for what Christ His Son accomplished on earth on that first Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

**Monday (Home and Sunday (Church)):** Pray for Michele Balga, Ministry Support, Administration, to be the “face of Christ” to those she serves in ministry, revealing His truth, grace, and love to each person.

**Home and Family):** Pray that your in-laws or the families of your friends will love the Lord their God with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength and their neighbor as themselves.

**Tuesday (Job/School):** Ask Christ to use you to reveal Himself to your friends and colleagues. Pray for opportunities and boldness for sharing.

**Wednesday (Neighborhood and Community):** Pray for Christ to be exalted in Home Gardens. May many people come to know and worship Him in that area of our city.

**Thursday (Our Nation):** God to restore marriage in our country and lead us to reject laws and practices that undermine the covenant of marriage and family.

**Friday (The World):** Ask God to raise up a new generation of missionaries to lift up Jesus as Savior and Lord to the ends of the earth, so everyone will know He died on the cross for all sin.

**Saturday (Praise and Rejoicing):** Give thanks! Jesus Christ suffered death for us, so we can have life in Him. His death and time in the grave paid the penalty of death for our sins.

## Prayer for Our Leaders

Pray for wisdom for our church leaders, as they lead us through the demands of this time.

1. **Our Pastors and Directors:** Tony Chute, Taylor Mendoza, Terilyn Brown, and Marti Wiegman.
2. **Our Lay Elders:** Tim East, Steve Flood, Mark Kiker, Vinoj Zechariah, and new elders who will soon come onto the board.
3. **Our Church Staff:** Michelle Balga, Bob Brown, Carolee Jefferson, Amber McEwen, Tamene Menna, Mark Norland, Corie Saunders, Karen Sherwood, and Dani Tiqui.

## Prayer Record

Record specific prayers you have below. Note when and how God answers your prayers. It will help you to see that He really is paying attention.

Date	Request	Date	Answer

*Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy. –Proverbs 28:13*