



Prayer Resources

Online Articles

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How To Pray For Our Country

To see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary. Psalm 63:2

When Israel's King David observed his nation in decline and spiritual dryness, he prayed for a movement of God that would impact every facet of society. His different points of prayer provide us with a well-balanced perspective in our own prayers for our country and our new president.

David prayed for personal piety. (*O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is; v 1*) David saw the absence of the Lord in his nation. He saw the false gods of security and prosperity. Though he desired to see the rejection of these false gods among his people, he immediately recognized that change must begin in himself. He addressed God, but was compelled to make God more personal by acclaiming Him as "my God." The Hebrew implication of the second name used for God is that which is the source of strength. In the text the reader can almost see the king examining the different false gods of his backsliden nation and turning to his personal God to declare Him as his preference over all the others. If we desire to see our nation revived from the overwhelming absence of God's presence, we must first pray for piety in our own lives. Only by a personal disciplined time each day before our Lord will we attain that piety which empowers us to pray outwardly. Corporate prayer meetings for revival have power before God only if they are supported by a prayer-closet longing for His presence.

David prayed for public perception. (*To see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary. v. 2*) David knew the truth, but his people had embraced lies to such an extent that they were blind to the truth even when they saw it. David prayed that his people would have the blindness removed so that they would see the truth in their lives as He had seen it in his personal times with the Lord. As we see the power and the glory of God displayed through believers in leadership of our nation, we must pray for a removal of blindness that years of embracing lies has produced in the general public. The questioning at John Ashcroft's confirmation hearing for nomination as Attorney General reveals the extent of our national blindness. Many who have embraced the lie that there are no absolutes and no absolute authority could not comprehend how a Christian man who believes in the sanctity of life for the unborn child could also be obedient to his God by enforcing the laws of the land. This blindness will never be removed by the believer's persuasion and logic. It can only be removed through prayer! We must pray that our nation will not merely be perplexed and stunned in silence as our godly leaders live godly lives, but that their eyes will be opened to the truth displayed before them. How our hearts long for our nation to perceive the power and glory of our Lord as we have seen in Him in the sanctuary of our personal lives!

David prayed for practiced priorities. (*Because thy lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee. Thus will I bless thee while I live: I will lift up my hands in thy name. My*

soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness; and my mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips; When I remember thee upon my bed, and meditate on thee in the night watches. Because thou hast been my help, therefore in the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice. My soul followeth hard after thee; thy right hand upholdeth me. vrs 3-8) When David compared the Lord and His truth with even life itself, he lifted up his hands in surrender to the Lord. He recognized the satisfaction and joy only the Lord can bring. Yet each night upon his bed, because he had been so polluted by the lies in his environment, he needed to reprogram the truth into his being through meditation upon the Lord and His words. He knew that the source of his help was only found in the privacy of the shadow of the Lord's wings. Without the upholding that comes through hard seeking, David's priorities would slowly, but surely be overshadowed by the lies within his fallen environment. In his benediction at President Bush's inauguration, Pastor Kirby Jon Caldwell emphasized how misplaced our national priorities are when he asked for forgiveness for our "choosing pride over progress, popularity over principles, and materialism over morals." Those sins of misplaced priorities are not only the sins of the unsaved in America, they are the blatant sins of American Christians! We must pray for believers to practice proper priorities that the world may see and know the truth.

David prayed for purged perversion. *(But those who seek my soul, to destroy it, shall go into the lower*

parts of the earth. They shall fall by the sword; they shall be a portion for foxes. vrs 9,10) David prayed for the destruction of those who sought to destroy his soul. He prayed for the purging of that which was perverted. It is often difficult to pray as David prayed. He knew warfare praying. He did not wield his warfare sword of destructive praying at every thing that he did not like, but when he discerned that there was nothing redeemable, he prayed destruction. We must be discerning as we serve as intercessors for our nation. We must recognize that we are not in a battle with mere flesh and blood, but a spiritual battle against spiritual wickedness in high places. We should always search for that which is redeemable, but when the Holy Spirit fulfills His role of prayer by giving discernment that purging of the perversion is the only solution, we must be faithful to pray!

David prayed for presidential praise. *(But the king shall rejoice in God; every one that sweareth by him shall glory: but the mouth of them that speak lies shall be stopped. v 11)* David knew that when he, the king of the nation, would rejoice personally and publicly through submission to the Lord and His truth, two things would happen. Those who supported him would glory in the Lord and the benefits of obeying His truth; and the lies of the environment would be stopped! Praise God for such a motivation to pray for our president and our beloved country! Oh, that our children and our grandchildren could live in a land where truth is revered!