



Prayergram[®]



Challenging Christians to Pray — June-July, 2020

Lord, Heal Our Land!

“Wounded by sin; healed by Grace.”

It is obvious, America, a nation now hangs in the balance. The handwriting is on the wall. What does it mean to us as Citizens? Does it seem at these troubling times that everything is squeezing in upon us? How do we react when we see the level of fear that has gripped the heart of a great nation? What can we say and do? Stop for a second; let our mind wander through some of history’s troubling periods. Take a deep breath and see where we are in our spiritual journey! What images do we see? For the last few months, our nation is being **“ravaged and ransacked”** by an invisible enemy coronavirus (COVID-19). As a result, everything has come to a standstill and our nation is paralyzed.

In a similar situation, during the height of the **“Civil War”** when our nation was torn apart, President Abraham Lincoln, the reluctant warrior received an utterly discouraging letter from his friend, The Governor of Illinois. He wrote: **“Dear Mr. President, everything is going to the dogs.”** MR. LINCOLN, a man whose heart was in God, replied, **Dear Dick, “Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD...” (Exodus 14:13).** Of all the United States Presidents, none has made greater use of the Bible than **ABRAHAM LINCOLN. JOHN C. NICOLAY, one of his secretaries, said, he (the President) was “a constant reader of the Bible and (had) great faith in it.” No wonder, America can ever forget Mr. Lincoln!**

Are you being devoured by an ever-increasing cascade of **pessimism and fear** paraded on television 24-hours a day? It seems that we are moving from a phase of great **“faith and trust in God”** into a phase of **“deep cynicism and fear.”** Beloved, ours is a faith that never surrenders, hope never dies and joy never dissipates. It is no exaggeration to say that America’s enemies are relentlessly attempting to **“sabotage and hood-wink”** her spiritual heritage. Sacred biblical principles are under attack and Christians are in a desperate struggle for the souls of men, and Satan will stop at nothing. **Christophobia** is rampant in America and no wonder she is slipping into a moral abyss. Speaking of spiritual heritage, America’s founding fathers were visionaries and their thoughts and ideas were deeply rooted in biblical precepts; but now America is increasingly becoming a secular nation; secularism leads to paganism, and pagans do not believe in morals.

America is no longer **“One Nation under One God,”** it is many nations under many gods. Am I exaggerating? Of course not! The Western world is doing everything in its power to reject and repudiate its Judeo-Christian heritage. It is becoming increasingly hostile to Christ and His message. This is the most troubling situation of our times and it brings paganism into the forefront as the West is going through a **“moral and spiritual identity crisis.”** Our Puritan forefathers built a strong nation with faith in God,

but now she is on a downward spiral and collapsing before our very eyes. The early America's **spiritual movement** was a religious phenomenon of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, yet its influence continued at least to the time of **CHARLES H. SPURGEON** (1834-92) who may be regarded as the last of the great Puritans. The strength of early America's spiritual movement was rooted in the practice of "**prayer and meditation,**" and they also knew that the path of ungodliness will not create a godly nation. The people who led the movement were humble men, godly in their character and far-reaching in their intellectual acumen and mental prowess. They were devoted men like **JONATHAN EDWARDS, ROGER WILLIAMS, JOHN WITHERSPOON, WILLIAM JAY, HENRY LAW, PHILIP DODDRIDGE, WILLIAM ROMAINE, THOMAS SHEPARD, THOMAS WATSON, DAVID BRAINERD, AUGUSTUS TOPLADY,** just to name a few. But today, it is quite the contrary!

As America grew in great power, stature, affluence and enormous economic strength unlike any other nation in modern history, she became boastful, forgetful, and above all defiant of God Almighty. As always, prosperity has a way of choking spirituality and humility. If America must continue as a leader among the nations of the world, **she must humble herself and repent of her short-comings and failures without delay.** Let me humbly appeal to your "**humanity and spiritual sensitivity,**" is this virus a "**WAKE UP CALL**" for America's citizens to return to the God of our fathers? Just a thought! I do not claim to be an expert, or a conspiracy theorist or a predictor of the future. I am simply a servant of God, who has a deep-seated love and admiration for my adopted nation's **spiritual heritage.** *God blessed America when the Bible was the most blessed Book in the average home, and it was read daily for strength, comfort and divine direction.* **DANIEL WEBSTER,** America's foremost orator was on target more than 100 years ago when he voiced his love for God's Word: "**If we abide by the laws that are taught in the Bible, our country will go on prospering, but if we go against God's written and revealed Word, no man can tell the sudden catastrophe that may overwhelm us.**" A prophetic warning indeed!

It is obvious that our nation is in a crises mode, and our experts are baffled and frantically searching for a cure for the deadly virus. Even in the midst of this pandemic, we are a divided nation that shows no **panging remorse** for departing from the precepts of Almighty God. Currently, we have a generation that arrogantly says to God, ". . . **Depart from us; for we desire not the knowledge of thy ways. What is the Almighty that we should serve Him? And what profit should we have, if we pray unto him?**" (**JOB 21:14-15**). It is very typical of us, what do we get if we pray? **Hit-and-run prayer** is a sign that it is not God we want but only His blessings. America, "**how long will ye turn God's glory into shame? How long will ye love vanity and seek after leasing?**" (**Psalms 4:2**).

The root of all sin is pride. I want to be my own boss and live my life the way I choose. It is such **twisted thinking** that causes human beings wanting to be like God and rearrange His creation. America has been kicking God to the curb for a while, and now it's imperative that she must seek the face of God for mercy and forgiveness as Daniel, God's servant did long ago, "**And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes: And I prayed unto the Lord my God, and made my confession, and said, O Lord, the great and dreadful God, keeping the covenant and mercy to them that love him, and to them that keep his commandments; We have sinned, and have committed iniquity, and have done wickedly, and have rebelled, even by departing from thy precepts and from thy judgments . . .**" (**DANIEL 9:3-5**).

"**And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint.**" (**LUKE 18:1**) We are instructed to "**Pray without ceasing.**" Whenever some calamitous incident like the coronavirus (COVID-19) occurs, we are prone to ask, "**Where is God in all these?**" "**If you think God seems far away from you, guess who moved?**" A man who walks with God does not stumble or attempt to trace the path of the Almighty. He

knows the path and he follows the Architect of the universe. **Oh, LORD, “Thy way is in the sea, and thy path in the great waters, and thy footsteps are not known . . .” (PSALMS 77:19-20). Have you ever tried to trace the footsteps of Almighty God?** When things are going great and the nation is prosperous and plenty of cash on hand to do the things that tickle our fancy, who needs God? But when there is a shift in our economical and social status, **God becomes the culprit.** It’s ironic that we expect (demand) God to be faithful to us, but at the same token, don’t we have a responsibility to be **“loyal and faithful”** to our Maker?

Today, many people use prayer as an escape mechanism, insurance policy against accident and natural disasters—but not as an opportunity to fellowship with our Lord. We should always be conscious of our Father’s presence and should be on speaking terms with Him. Jesus did not recruit His disciples to pray; **He led them to a Prayer Chamber.** They saw Him rising up early in the morning and going to the hillside or the seashore to communion with His Father. The disciples were marveled at his prayer life and moved to ask, **“Master, teach us to pray.” Have you ever wondered why they didn’t ask Him to teach them how to preach?** He who has learned the art of prayer has learned the art of preaching. As **CHARLES SPURGEON** once said, **“I would rather teach one man how to pray than ten men how to preach.”** We are instructed to pray in all circumstances of life and prayer has no season. Why do we always wait until the roof collapses on us to call on God? We can pray if we want to; we can pray when we are picking up the trash, pulling the weeds, sweeping the floor, mowing the lawn, washing dishes. **Prayer should be our first and foremost action, not the last resort. To a natural man prayer seems to be stupid and foolish, but to a spiritual man prayer is just as “natural as breathing.”** God, give us **“men and women” of faith and biblical integrity who can “WEEP” for the healing of our nation (AMERICA) and the world!** Citizens of the world, be careful of what you say and do; **God is listening and watching!**

Prayer for Cleansing

Merciful Father in Heaven, King of our life, cast us not into utter destruction, drive us not from thy presence, but deliver us from the impairment left by sin. Forgive us for often loving darkness rather than light; we have rejected thy grace, trampled under foot thy beloved Son, mocked thy holiness, and broken thy covenant. Have mercy on us and our nation as we appeal for divine clemency! Lord, thank you for HEALING our land and HEARING our prayers. We desire nothing but thy glory. We pray in Jesus’ holy name. Amen!

Speaking Prayerfully by Matthew Skariah

“Weep or Sleep”

Today, we have too much religiosity, but not enough **“spiritual grit”** to wage an ongoing **“prayer warfare”** on our knees, against the very powers of darkness that now threatens the entire world. When it comes to prayer, there are no protocols. Never mind religious **“hype and popularity;”** let’s bend our knees before the Almighty God for His divine help!

America is a wounded nation, and now more than ever, she needs the prayers of God’s intercessors. Will you enlist yourself in the army of God’s praying people as they stand in the gap for our beloved land? I call upon my brothers and sisters to **“cry aloud, weep, blow the trumpet in Zion and declare a national moratorium on disobedience and rebellion.”** Remember, when we are in God’s holy presence, **we won’t be dazing but blazing! Beloved, we must either “weep or sleep” for we cannot do both!**

“No man stumbles when he is on his knees.”

Spiritual 'Navigation' System

by Matthew Skariah

When at a time some Churches and Christians are moving away from the centrality of the Cross, we need a "Spiritual Navigation System" to take us back to the spirit of the early Church. The present day religious polarization and worldly gimmicks resorted to by "prayerless men" trying to fill empty pews are a detestable commentary on the condition of so many modern churches today! We do not win the lost by the power of persuasion or charisma. The preacher may be "telegenic or photogenic," or a powerful orator—but none should excel his 'prayer life' in the Church or the community in which he resides.

The work of the Lord is not a human endeavor; it is empowered by the spirit of the living God working through "humble and obedient vessels." Today, people don't need "theological facts" as much as they need "subjective experience" with the living Christ. The profound words of DIETRICH BONHOEFFER come to mind, "I was a theologian, but not a Christian." Oh, the "baptism of honesty" is the crying need of the hour! No wonder we can't forget BONHOEFFER and his love for the Savior! It is true that one can be religious and not necessarily a Christian, a follower of Christ. Christianity is Christ and Christ is Christianity.

Christianity must become a force, a force of justice in a world of injustice; a force of mercy in a merciless society; a force of faith where men live by doubt, hopelessness and despair; a force of love in a world of prejudice and hate; a force of compassion in a ruthless world; and a force of spiritual strength in a world of acquiescence, fear and pathetic excuses. In the Church, we have only one altar and that's the altar of the living God and anything else is just superficial. In the Church, we have only one pulpit and from that pulpit, we preach Christ and Him crucified and nothing else. If obedience and devotion to Christ are not practiced daily—all our theologizing is just pious humbug.

For the moment, we are doing alright with personalities, charisma, programs and hype, but in the long run it would prove to be catastrophic. The message of true brokenness and repentance is muted as a matter of 'societal evolution' which appears to be nothing more than going with the flow. Oh, beloved, if there is no "weeping," there can be no "reaping." The early Christians were few in numbers, but powerful on their knees, and no wonder they were able to conquer the world for Christ. They did not circumvent the law or raise money to overthrow the emperor or file religious discrimination law suit; instead, they simply prayed and the power of God fell upon an unbelieving world. Furthermore, there was no mutiny in the camp of the early Church as far as obedience to Christ was concerned. Today, it is quite the contrary; obedience is not the most popular word in our Christian vocabulary.

We live in a society that is constantly at odds with sacred values and biblical principles unlike any other time in history. In some Christian conclave people are primarily concerned with how "obedience to Christ" cramps their lifestyle and no wonder they are looking for ways to pacify the flesh. Christianity is a lifestyle and obedience to Christ is much more than following what seems to be popular at the moment. With a little "perceptive thinking," we can really avoid many widely practiced religious hooplas and pitfalls. Let's be certain that we're in God's hands, and not in those of people!

An intimate fellowship with God is the KEY to staying on course, both socially, and spiritually. To keep your "Spiritual Navigation System" in proper working order, be sure to review your "Prayer Life" regularly and adjust when necessary.



◆ Intercession ◆ Prayer Conferences ◆ Revivals
◆ One to One Outreach ◆ Publications ◆ Overseas Crusades

World Prayer Band • P. O. Box 686 • Roswell New Mexico 88202-0686 • U.S.A.
(575) 623-6925 • Cell Phone: (575) 626-5097

E-mail: mwpbs@yahoo.com

Website: www.worldprayerband.com