



THIRTY
DAYS *of* **PRAYER**



*... The Lord was moved
by prayer for the land ...*

2 Samuel 24:25

LORD HEAR OUR PRAYERS

30 DAYS OF PRAYER FOR OUR NATION

While our country is deeply divided over political and moral issues, we are followers of Jesus, and Jesus-followers ought to be united in prayer!

This guide will help you pray and seek the Lord as you walk through the month leading up to the 2024 election.

This isn't confusing faith with politics. Instead, it's a biblically faithful response to the divisions and dilemmas that face all of us. If you are a believer, whether you tend to the left or right politically, you can pray together with brothers and sisters in our JOY FM listening family!

Please join us in prayer daily for God's kingdom to come and his will to be done on earth as in heaven!

DAY ONE - First The Kingdom

Matthew 6:33

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

We start with the kingdom of God. Why? Because the kingdom of God is bigger and more lasting than any nation, government, or leader. Christians are citizens of God's kingdom before any country (Eph. 2:19).

- Pray for the rule of Jesus in his Church.
- Pray for righteousness in your own life, church, society, and the world.

Dear Lord, your kingdom is the most important thing. I pray that your rule and righteousness might govern my life, your Church, and all the rulers of this world, in Jesus' name. Amen.

DAY TWO - Your Kingdom Come

Luke 11:2

When you pray, say: "Father,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come."

Jesus announced the kingdom of God (Mark 1:15), but none of his disciples understood that it would come through His suffering, death and resurrection. Our victory too comes through suffering and sacrifice, not domination of our political enemies.

- Pray for a right attitude as you engage political discussions and debates.
- Pray for the standards of God's kingdom to be more attractive.

Our Father, Lord of all, help us to honor your name in our churches, in our country, and in your world. Your name, Jesus, is above every other name, because you are the suffering Savior and the saving Lord. Help us to conquer through living out your sacrificial love towards all, even our opponents. In Jesus' name, Amen.

DAY THREE - Father Forgive Them

Luke 23:34

Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

Before we oppose our enemies, we must forgive them. Jesus said this is how you would know who are his true children (Matt. 5:45). If Jesus could forgive those who crucified him, interceding for his political enemies (Is. 53:12), we must do the same before we post or protest.

- Think of your political opponents and pray for them by name.
- Forgive those who are opposing you, even if they are wrong.

Lord Jesus, you were misunderstood, mistreated and crucified. Yet you forgave those who opposed you. You even took their sins in your own body on the cross in order to interceding for them, so they could be saved. Heavenly Father, please forgive and save our enemies, so that Jesus gets all the glory! Amen.

DAY FOUR - Don't Be Anxious

Philippians 4:6

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Political seasons are marked by fear that, if your party loses, all is lost. But Jesus teaches a different way. Paul wrote the words above as a political prisoner. He told the church to rejoice always (Phil. 4:4). He reminded them that the Lord is near (Phil. 4:5), and gave them assurance that their prayer would produce God's peace (Phil. 4:7), so they could live out what is good (Phil. 4:8-9).

- Ask God for what you want!
- Do it with thanksgiving, trusting him to bring what is good and right.

Lord, we want what is good, not just for us, but for our whole country. We trust you even as we hear words of fear and are concerned about losing what we value. Thank you for your peace, that we can work together for good, and not be anxious. Amen.

DAY FIVE - Strongholds

2 Corinthians 10:4

The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.

When unjust governments control, as they did during the Cold War in Eastern Europe, Christians learn to fight with spiritual weapons (Eph. 6:12). And when spiritual battles are won, justice and freedom follow. Our battle isn't ultimately in the political sphere. Since Christ won the war on the cross, we fight spiritual battles on our knees.

- Pray against evil spiritual powers.
- Pray the victory of the cross to demolish spiritual enemies and secure justice and freedom.

God, you are great, and you do wondrous things. You are more powerful than any evil. Wherever evil has a stronghold in our politics or government, we declare its downfall by the power of Christ's cross and resurrection! Amen.

DAY SIX - For Government

1 Timothy 2:1-2

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.

Right now, without any exceptions, could you pray for your government with thanksgiving? Part of faithful worship is praying for government leaders. . .why? Not only for their spiritual good, but also we pray that we can live free from civic trouble, contribute to the common good, and freely proclaim and live the gospel in the world.

- Pray with thankfulness for your government.
- Pray for the church to spread the gospel and and make life better for all.

Dear God, thank you for our government leaders. Open their hearts to your rule. Please help them to restrain evil, to encourage peace, and to provide order so the church can flourish as the gospel is preached and public respect for laws and institutions is restored. Amen.

DAY SEVEN - God is King

Psalm 47:7

*For God is the King of all the earth;
sing to him a psalm of praise.*

The basis of our confidence in prayer is the Lord's worldwide status as King. He is King even now, in the midst of war, economic difficulties, and political turmoil. He is Lord not just of the church, but the whole universe (Eph. 1:21-23). To realize that and believe it is to break out in song, like these lines from Elevation Worship's "Praise": I'll praise 'cause You're sovereign, praise 'cause You reign / Praise 'cause You rose and defeated the grave!

- Pray a prayer of praise. Don't ask for anything. Praise and thank the King.
- Pick your favorite JOY Worship song and sing along!

Praise you, Lord! There is no king who redeems and saves like you! We have no king but you, our sovereign Savior! You are the King of creation, King of all the earth, King forever, and the King of glory. King Jesus, reign forever in your church, in this election, in your world and in my heart. Amen.

DAY EIGHT - Personal Repentance

1 John 5:21

Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.

Unlike shrines to foreign gods in the Old Testament, today we set up hidden altars in our hearts. You may be unknowingly serving an idol if good things—things like secure borders or racial justice, for example—becomes ultimate things. If you can't fellowship with someone unless they agree on your issue or position, then it may be an idol. Any political position that causes you to hate your enemies or fail to love your neighbors requires repentance.

- Pray that God would reveal anything that has become an idol in your heart.
- Pray against political idols.

Lord, search my heart and know my thoughts (Ps. 139:23). Uncover anything in my heart that may be claiming my ultimate allegiance. Jesus, you alone are my Savior and Lord. Remove any idols in my heart, and help me to trust you with my political convictions. Amen.

DAY NINE - National Repentance

2 Chronicles 7:14

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

Do you know what word precedes “If” in 2 Chron. 7:14? It’s the word, “and,” which means this verse doesn’t stand alone. It is originally given as a conditional promise of blessing as part of King Solomon’s dedication of the Temple. What has it got to do with America? Nothing, directly. But the principle on which this verse stands calls us—the church—to repent for our unfaithfulness to God’s word, for our worldliness, and for our failure to love our neighbors. Our repentance as God’s holy nation (1 Peter 2:9) serves as the basis of our impact on the nation and our influence toward national repentance. As the church repents and fulfills our purpose, we are acting as salt and light in culture (Matt. 5:13-16).

- Pray, asking God to reveal our specific failures as God’s holy nation.
- Ask the Lord to help the church in America fulfill our godly mission.

Dear Lord, we are your people, called by your name. We humble ourselves and seek you. Forgive our sins as your people and your church. Forgive us for trading the authority of your word for political influence. Forgive us for loving the world and not loving our neighbors. We ask that you will change us, that we would be a godly influence on America for everyone’s good and for your glory. Amen.

DAY TEN - Prayer for the City

Jeremiah 29:7

“Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.”

The Lord’s words to his people in exile instructed them to pray for the prosperity of the city—a city in Babylon! What? Yes, evil Babylon was to receive the prayers of God’s people while they lived there, so that as the city prospered, so God’s people would prosper.

- Pray for your city, for its government, its leaders, its economy, its marginalized, the weak and vulnerable, and for its welfare.
- Pray for the churches in your city to prosper as the city prospers.

Lord, you have cradled your people in cities of man, though they are citizens of the kingdom of God. We pray for the welfare of our city! We pray for its peace and prosperity, that your church, scattered throughout this city, will prosper. We pray for our local leaders, Christian and non-Christian, to be guided to good by your Spirit. Amen.

DAY ELEVEN - Salt and Light

Matthew 5:14-16

"You are the light of the world. . . .let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Jesus is teaching his disciples about his kingdom. It isn't like the political kingdoms of this world; instead, it works like salt, saturating the world with godliness as salt flavors and preserves meat. It brings the light of truth and reveals sin and corruption. How do people encounter the kingdom of Christ? Through his body, the church, the ones praying these prayers right now.

- Pray God will use you as salt and light where your life touches the world.
- Pray Christians do the works of Jesus, so God will be glorified.

Father, we want our lives to impact and preserve the good in our culture. We need your light to reveal what is bad and expose what is corrupt. We realize your kingdom isn't a weak, human, political organization. Your kingdom effects change through us, by the power of your Holy Spirit. Make us salt and light in this world! Amen.

DAY TWELVE - Evil and Good

2 Thessalonians 3:2

Pray that we may be delivered from wicked and evil people, for not everyone has faith.

Do you feel surrounded? Unbelief is everywhere, it seems, from our schools, to entertainment and media, to institutions of power and influence. Paul's request for prayer isn't to call out those who are struggling with faith or having doubts. It is to pray against the influence of those who are committed to a worldview that denies the reality of God and his truth, who oppose the gospel and its good, who actively recruit others to a God-denying lifestyle.

- Pray against those whose influence denies God and his gospel.
- Pray for the gospel to penetrate unbelieving hearts and hard heads.

Lord, let your word be honored! Let hardened hearts and minds be opened to your truth. Let the gospel of your grace silence unbelief. Let it penetrate even the hardened walls of media organizations and influential institutions. Let evil be vanquished by your good grace, through Jesus our Savior, Amen.

DAY THIRTEEN - Good and Evil

2 Thessalonians 3:13

And as for you, brothers and sisters, never tire of doing what is good.

You may be weary of all the fighting. Can we agree on anything, or does everything have to be a battle? Is there room for civil discourse and the common good? Do we care about our country, or just our party? Questions like these can wear us out. In fact, our enemy means them to. We do have a battle to fight, but it's not along party lines. The battle is for the good. It involves doing good, not just campaigning. Practicing gospel obedience (verse 14), working honestly (Eph. 4:28), being generous (1 Tim. 6:18), and learning to forgive (1 Thess. 5:15)—these are powerful weapons in our struggle against evil.

- Pray you will find opportunities to do good in your circle of influence.
- Pray for your church to be a force for good in your city and the world.

Good and gracious Lord, we believe your goodness and grace are more powerful than evil. Help us to do good. Give us opportunities! Let us not divide your good along party lines. Let us will and work for good for all! We pray we would set an example and encourage our leaders to work for the common good, not just their party. May we do honest work, practice obedience, generosity, and forgiveness, that we might be a witness to the world in Jesus' mighty name. Amen.

DAY FOURTEEN - Freedom to Captives

Exodus 6:6b

I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment.

As Moses was commissioned by God to speak to Pharaoh about the injustice of slavery, so the church is called to proclaim freedom to the captives and liberty to the oppressed (Is. 58:6) through Jesus' liberating work in his life, death, and resurrection (Luke 4:18). This is more than political liberation, but it is not less. We are called to work for justice and proclaim it in Jesus' name, wherever we see oppression and bondage.

- Pray our political systems will produce liberty, not bondage.
- Pray for those in bondage, suffering injustice, needing Christ's freedom.

Lord, this world is marked by injustice. Wherever political systems promote this, let them come under the influence of the gospel of freedom. Let our message and our lives bring freedom to those in bondage and those who need to know the liberty of your saving love. We pray this through the work of Jesus our liberating Lord, Amen.

DAY FIFTEEN - The Ten Commandments

Exodus 20:3

“You shall have no other gods before me.”

You might recognize this as the first of the Ten Commandments. The Ten Commandments are foundational in their application, through Christ, to any just society. The key, though, is “through Christ,” who himself fulfilled the law and the prophets (Luke 24:44). Jesus, in his life, death, and resurrection, summed up all God’s law into two categories: loving God and loving our neighbor as ourselves. Doing that means working for justice and mercy, seeking conformity to God’s word and transformation for individuals and society by the power of the Holy Spirit.

- Pray for a just society founded on love for God and neighbor.
- Pray for the transforming power of the Spirit in your life and community.

Holy Lord, thank you for giving us your law, because your law is just and true. May our laws reflect your perfect justice, and may love, which through your Son fulfills the law, govern all our thoughts and actions. Help us to love you and love our neighbors, by the transforming power of your Spirit. Amen.

DAY SIXTEEN - Justice and Judgment

Psalms 96:10

Say among the nations, “The LORD reigns.”

The world is firmly established, it cannot be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity. Nobody loves judgment, but everyone wants justice. It’s impossible to have one without the other. Biblically, judgement isn’t usually condemnation, but correction—putting things right. God will carry out righteous judgment on behalf of the vulnerable, and a nation that doesn’t want to fall under judgement must recognize in their laws God’s determination to protect the voiceless, the family-less, and the home-less.

- Pray for our nation’s laws to reflect God’s justice.
- Pray God spares America from harsher judgment by protecting the vulnerable.

Lord, you see the plight of those who have no voice, no family or home. We encounter the vulnerable in our cities, at our borders, in the womb, and at the margins of society. Help us to be a voice for the voiceless, and spare us from your judgment. We pray for upcoming legislation, court decisions, and executive actions, that they would reflect your justice. Amen.

DAY SEVENTEEN - Institutions: Family

Genesis 2:24

That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.

Today begins several days of asking for God's saving grace in our institutions. In the pages of Scripture, not just individuals are created, but also various institutions, specifically, the family, the church, and the government. First, we'll pray for the family, the basic institution of society, founded on the marriage covenant of a man and a woman establishing a household under God. Families aren't necessarily just "nuclear" (father, mother, two kids), but they aren't fluid either. If the basic unit of society comes under attack, and the institution of the family based on the covenant relationship of man and woman created by God breaks down, then the fabric of society unravels.

- Pray against the forces threatening to tear families apart.
- Pray for husbands and wives and for godly marriages filled with God's love.

Heavenly Father, we pray for your grace in our earthly families. So many homes are wrecked by abuse, cheating, divorce, and loveless marriages. Other families are fatherless, impoverished, or at risk, so we are tempted to re-invent what you have created. The pattern your word teaches works when we are committed to Jesus as Lord. We need your grace. Strengthen the family, and through strong families give us a more godly society. Amen.

DAY EIGHTEEN - Institutions: the Church

Matthew 16:18b

I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

Jesus is building his church. No government can establish the church. The church can't be reduced to a building or denomination. It's not built on an individual personality, wealth, or any merely human institution. Because the church is instituted by God, its wellbeing isn't dependent on government; however, it is government's responsibility not to hinder or control the church. Some favor the language of a "wall of separation" between church and state, others don't. Regardless, such separation shouldn't be construed as removing symbols of faith from public spaces or the influence of religion from society. The government needs the church for public morality and ethics, and the church can benefit from good government.

- Pray for the church to be faithful to Jesus in public spaces.
- Pray for the government to respect the institution of the church in society.

Jesus, Head of the church, as you are faithful to your promise to build the church, help us be faithful to you in our public life. Help our government to allow the church to be the church without interference or control. Strengthen the church in America, so that even the gates of hell won't prevail against it! Amen.

DAY NINETEEN - Institutions: Government

Romans 13:1

Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.

Christians often hear this verse quoted as if it is the only thing the Bible has to say about government. Sometimes it is misapplied when there is a challenging moral dilemma that pits our faith against public policy. In such situations, Acts 5:29 applies, “We must obey God rather than human beings!” Still, our general disposition towards government is that it is instituted by God for our good (Titus 3:1; 1 Peter 2:13-14). We should never participate in denigrating public servants, in personal attacks or name-calling. Nor should we believe every half-baked, anti-government conspiracy theory. Instead, we should pray for government leaders, respect and obey them whenever we can, for our own good.

- Pray for good government that Christians can submit to with a clear conscience.
- Pray for Christians who are facing a moral dilemma in their interaction with government.

God, we want to submit to our government leaders, because we know they are your servants for our good. Please help them to do good. When we must resist, help us to do so with full submission to Jesus and his word, trusting in his Lordship over all, being willing to suffer for doing what is right (1 Peter 3:17) rather than falling for the world's hateful rhetoric or half truths. We pray for leaders to know you and submit to your righteous rule. Amen.

DAY TWENTY - Good Policies

1 Peter 2:16–17

Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.

Let's turn our attention to specific challenges we face as Christians in a pluralistic society. An election tends to reduce complex moral debates down to soundbites and campaign hot takes. Much is at stake in this and every election. Public policy—the way government translates their vision into regulations, laws, and programs—affects our schools, churches, families, businesses, and individual lives. The goal of all government policies ought to be to take just and good action in line with what is right and good for the citizenship. Christians are called to set the standard for what is right and good, and thus be a moral compass for government leaders.

These next few days will focus our prayers on four areas of public policy: two normally considered “conservative” and two often deemed “liberal.” All are complex and probably can't be reduced to a simple partisan label.

- Pray to be discerning about political rhetoric and social media soundbites.
- Pray for Christians to work and witness for the common good.

Lord, we want good policies, and we ask for good government. But too often discussions and debates become shallow performances. Please help us be discerning in how we represent you in public forums, like social media. Please help our commitment to work for good and do what's right to be an example to our government, so they can see and desire good for all citizens. Amen.

DAY TWENTY-ONE - Sacredness of Human Life

Genesis 1:26

Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness. . .

Every human life is a reflection of God. Nobody is worthless or deserves less than the full dignity of humanity and protection of society in just laws. This biblical ethic encompasses such issues as life in the womb and abortion, policies and practices regarding the disabled and elderly and euthanasia, and action protecting our children from abuse and human trafficking. These issues reflect the biblical value of protecting life at its most vulnerable points, as witnessed by passages like Psalm 139:13 along with the sixth commandment against murder (Exodus 20:13), the prophetic indictment of unjust societies for abortion (Amos 1:13-14), and the incarnation and birth of Jesus, which dignified human life at all stages of development, even as his existence as an infant was considered a threat to the state (Matt. 2:16).

- Pray our society would recognize the value and dignity of human life.
- Pray for the most vulnerable to be valued and protected.

Lord of life, you created us in your image and likeness; indeed, you knit us together in the womb (Ps. 139:13). All human life reflects you, so help our society and laws to protect the unborn, the elderly, the disabled, and children being exploited. Lord, help your people rescue the perishing through your power and wisdom. Give us a heart for those whose burden is increased by their choosing to care for the weak and needy. Preserve a culture of life in America, and deliver us from a culture of death. Amen.

DAY TWENTY-TWO - Heart for the Foreigner

Deuteronomy 10:18 (NIV)

He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing.

As you read through the Old Testament, you'll notice God calling his people to special care for four categories: the widow, the orphan, the poor, and the alien, or foreigner. Jesus echoes this in the New Testament story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10). Whatever your position on the status of immigration policy and potential reform, there are many poor and vulnerable among us, and we shouldn't despise them. In fact, we should share with them in order to help meet their basic needs. America is a melting pot. Our government leaders need wisdom to both protect our borders from criminals and continue to extend welcome, as a nation of immigrants, to those seeking a better life in America.

- Pray for good immigration policies that protect our citizens.
- Pray for compassion for immigrants seeking a better life as foreigners in our midst.

Lord, your people were often strangers and aliens, sojourners in a foreign land (Lev. 19:33-34). All of us as Christians were aliens, but you took us in by grace, and we are now citizens (Eph. 2). Help us to value citizenship in your kingdom first, and then in our country. Make our borders secure even while you soften our hearts for immigrants. Give us compassion for the poor, especially those seeking a better life. Give us good policies regarding reform. And help us to remember that all people are made in your image (Gen. 1:26). Amen.

DAY TWENTY-THREE - Sexual Ethics

Ephesians 5:3

But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people.

When biblical sexual ethics are abandoned, many things go wrong in society (Rom. 1). Christians are called to purity, keeping our hearts from lust, being faithful in marriage, and refusing to trade the givenness of our biological sex and sexual practice for societal trends regarding gender and romantic love. Still, Christian “purity culture” may have unintentionally weaponized biblical sexual ethics by idolizing the nuclear family. Genuine sexual purity isn’t legalistic; it intensifies the joy of marriage and frees us from temptations that lead to ruin. Society is confused about sexuality, and it is reflected in our laws and widely accepted public virtues. But the Bible isn’t confused. It calls us to faithfulness and holiness, even in our sexual identity and sexual expression.

- Pray for the virtues of Christian sexual ethics to be desirable to society,
- Pray against sexual confusion in our public morals and policies.

Lord, you made us sexual beings. You gave us the gift of sex, and you called us to faithfulness in our sexuality. Help us to show the world that the path of sexual purity is more desirable than the false promises of sexual liberation. Help those who are gender-confused, and help our society to embrace your creation as male, female, married, and single, learning to pursue your path for each. Guard our children from confusion, and give us your truth. Amen.

DAY TWENTY-FOUR - Creation Care

Psalms 24:1

*The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it.*

Have you ever thought about praying for our stewardship of the earth? Care for the natural world and environmental ethics are commended in both the Old and New Testaments. It is a gospel issue, since creation is often the theater of God’s glory, especially in the miracles of Jesus and the promise of a new heaven and new earth (Rev. 21:1-8). Our care for the material world—waste and pollution, the idolatry of consumerism, and climate concern—reflects the depth of our grasp of Christ’s Lordship. We may have differing opinions on how these issues should work out in policy, but ecological responsibility is matter for Christian prayer and action.

- Pray for Christians to be good stewards of God’s creation.
- Pray for policies that protect our environment without idolizing it.

Lord of all the earth, hear our prayer of thanksgiving for this good creation! Though it is marred by the fall, you are redeeming the earth along with our souls (Col. 1:20), both for the glory of Jesus (Eph. 1). Help us to be good stewards of creation, to care about how the environment is affected by our consumption, and ensure that the policies our lawmakers put in place are directed at helping the problems, not using the issue to consolidate their power. Amen.

DAY TWENTY-FIVE - The Supreme Court

Proverbs 21:15 (NIV)

When justice is done, it brings joy to the righteous, but terror to evildoers.

There has lately been much political wrangling over the Supreme Court. Small wonder. In 1835, Alexis de Tocqueville said this about the Supreme Court in *Democracy in America*: “The peace, prosperity, and very existence of the Union rest continually in the hands of seven federal judges.” It is no less true today. The Court is a final appeal for matters that protect liberties, curb wickedness, and promote the good, even if many of its rulings have not met those standards. Historically, the Court was not supposed to be partisan. Those who served were shaped by a vision of justice drawn largely from the Bible in foundational verses on justice, like Isaiah 33:22, “For the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver.” Today’s landscape reveals a partisan contest to control the court; however, many legal experts on both sides agree that a Supreme Court controlled by a partisan ideology stands to lose its foundational ability to exercise justice for the common good.

- Pray for a biblical vision of justice at the foundation of the Supreme Court.
- Pray for the Justices to resist political forces that threaten the integrity of the Court.

Lord, your word teaches that you love justice and hate wrong (Is. 61:8). You are a God of justice, and your call your people to do justice (Micah 6:8). We pray for justice in America at every level, especially in our legal system and courts. We pray specifically for the Supreme Court, the final arbiter of laws enabling a just and free society, laws that are based on your truth. Help our Court to remain independent, and give our Justices your aid in wisdom, fairness, and mercy. Amen.

DAY TWENTY-SIX - Congress

Romans 13:10

Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

How is it possible to have a society that upholds the common good? The governmental basis for such a society finds wise principles in Scripture. The Bible teaches that God is the ultimate authority, and governments derive authority from God (Rom. 13:1). The U.S. Constitution recognizes this, and so it divides and limits governmental powers. As the legislative branch, Congress passes laws that affect all our lives. This is personal, and the best legislators exercise power in love for their constituents. In a representative government, members of Congress represent our interests, and so we should pray for our individual Representatives and Senators.

- Pray for your U.S. and state representatives and Senators by name.
- Pray for wisdom and biblical principles to be upheld in our laws.

Supreme Lord, all our powers are derived from you, our Creator, and limited and directed by you. Help us to use our limited powers wisely. I pray for my Congressional representatives (name them) and Senators (name them). Help them to seek your will and wisdom. Help them to pass laws that are just and beneficial for the common good and a free society. Remove those who are too power-hungry to serve well. Correct those who are off track, and let our laws ultimately reflect your love for our neighbors, that you might be glorified as Lord over all. Amen.

DAY TWENTY-SEVEN - Wars and Threats

Matthew 24:7

Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places.

Does Jesus' sober assessment of the future make you fearful? Consider this: his prophetic words have undergone 2000 years of fulfillment already! Today our world is in turmoil, as it has been its entire history. Current crises in our world are like birth pangs, as all creation longs to be free from the effects of sin and the fall (Rom. 8:22). In other words, "wars and rumors of wars" (Matt. 24:6) are signs that point to the new heavens and the new earth, the end of history following Jesus' return. We need not fear, nor should we be indifferent to those presently suffering. Instead, we should pray.

- Pray for peace in our world's conflicts and trouble spots.
- Pray that, until Christ's return, government leaders would seek peace.

Lord, our world is shaking. We see the places where evil is advancing and people are suffering from war and invasion. We pray for them now (name them). We also are not strangers to the ravages of storms, fires, earthquakes. Be with those suffering loss right now. Help them. We pray for your soon return, Lord Jesus, and we look forward to your freeing the earth from corruption and sin. Amen.

DAY TWENTY-EIGHT - The Economy

Matthew 6:24b

"You cannot serve both God and money."

What you have in your bank account right now and what you want to buy say a lot about your priorities. Wealth can be a wonderful servant. It can also be a trap. Our country's robust economy does great good, allowing us freedom to own property, to supply needs and wants for ourselves and others, and to enjoy a good life and future. But as times get tough economically, do we fall apart? Do we borrow without restraint? If so, we might have fallen into the trap of believing our money is our security. This is true for us as a country as well as individually. In Matthew 6, Jesus has a lot to say to his disciples about money and security. He also promised to supply our daily bread. We would do well to heed his teaching and curb our appetite for more, bigger, newer, but rather to learn to trust him to meet our daily needs. Ultimately, if we are servants of Jesus, we will never be enslaved by economic forces.

- Pray for yourself, that money wouldn't have a grip on your heart.
- Pray for those who are struggling to meet their daily needs.
- Pray for our economy, for prosperity and the freedom to use it well.

Lord Jesus, you warned your disciples about letting their lives be ruled by money, having it or lacking it. You told them not to worry, but to make God their security (Matt. 6:25-34). Help us to trust our heavenly father, and help our leaders to govern in ways that allow us to prosper and do good to others, especially those in need or want. Amen.

DAY TWENTY-NINE - Election Integrity

Proverbs 11:1

The LORD detests dishonest scales, but accurate weights find favor with him.

If you've ever raised kids, you know you can't build a life on freedom without character. The freedom of democratic government relies on character, and integrity refers to consistency of character. As a modern democratic republic, our very survival rests on the freedom and integrity of the electoral process. Integrity happens behind the scenes, but integrity shows up in public confidence. When people suspect dishonesty, or worse, when some irregularity suggests a lack of integrity, then we lose favor. Then it doesn't matter who wins the election, if it comes at such a price.

- Pray for absolute honesty at the polls in this election.
- Pray for integrity in our electoral process and confidence in the results.

Jesus, you are the same yesterday, today, and forever (Heb. 13:8). Help us as a community, as a nation, to imitate your character. We don't pretend to be perfect, but we can be consistent in our pursuit of honesty and integrity. Help us to value these character qualities, even if by them our candidate doesn't win. Help America to regain trust in our electoral process. Help us to have confidence in the results. And help us to be people of integrity. Amen.

DAY THIRTY - For the President

Daniel 2:21

He changes times and seasons; he deposes kings and raises up others. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning.

Today is the day when American citizens will elect the executive branch of government for the next four years. Who will it be? Your candidate? Their opposition? Ultimately, God is sovereign over elections. The prophet Daniel's prayer echoed what he saw God do with King Nebuchadnezzar. Ironically, the king's dream was a prophecy of the coming, universal, unshakable kingdom of Jesus! No matter who wins this election, God truly is in control through Christ his King! It is with that confidence that we pray for our incoming President, whoever they are. We pray according to 1 Timothy 2:1-4, as we started to do on Day 6.

- Pray for our President, that he or she will be guided by God and govern us in peace.
- Pray for their cabinet and administration, for good policies and practices, for wisdom and integrity.
- Pray for our dignity, godliness, and influence as Christian citizens.
- Pray for salvation for our leaders and those they lead.

Sovereign Lord, you raise up leaders and let others fall. Leadership is ultimately in your hands, for which we give thanks. Please help our new President to accept their role as a public servant. Help them to know who the True King is, and help them to serve him. Help them to put together a cabinet and administration that is competent and leads with good character, that we might not be burdened with harsh or unjust situations. Help your church to thrive under this administration, and bring all to salvation and obedience to the truth. We pray these things, Father, by the power of your Spirit, in the name of Jesus the King. Amen.



LORD HEAR OUR PRAYERS

If you have used this prayer guide and it has benefitted you, go back through and study the Scripture passages as a way to build a habit of meditation and prayer for the subjects mentioned.

Thank you for following along with us and praying for America and this election.

God bless you, and God bless America.

The JOY FM.