



## Prayer Guide and Devotional Study

### Monday, April 6:

Hear the words of Jesus to all who would follow Him: “But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you.” – Matthew 5:44

For the German pastor and theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the enemy was obvious—he was imprisoned and finally murdered by the Nazis. Facing this persecution, he had these comments on Christ’s directive to love our enemies:

This is the supreme demand. Through prayer we go to our enemy, stand by his side, and plead for him to God. Jesus does not promise that when we bless our enemies and do good to them they will not spitefully abuse and persecute us. They certainly will. But not even that can hurt or overcome us, so long as we pray for them.

God does amazing works through prayers that seek to extend His grace to others. Truly, God’s grace knows no bounds!

Praise God for loving us even when we were His enemies; repent of any bitterness you’ve held toward others; ask for God’s blessings on your enemies; yield to Him by seeking to do good to these people.

### Tuesday, April 7:

Jesus once told a story about a widow who repeatedly asked a judge for justice against an adversary:

“Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, ‘Get justice for me from my adversary.’<sup>4</sup> And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, ‘Though I do not fear God nor regard man,<sup>5</sup> yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.’”<sup>6</sup> Then the Lord said, “Hear what the unjust judge said.<sup>7</sup> And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them?” – Luke 18:3-7

Scripture says that Jesus told the disciples this parable to show “that men always ought to pray and not lose heart” (Luke 18:1). Let us never lose heart nor take for granted the privilege of bowing before God in prayer!

Praise God for His patient teaching on prayer; Repent of those times when you’ve failed to persevere; Ask for His help to be faithful in prayer in the midst of life’s stresses; Yield to Him by joyfully persevering even when you’re tempted to give up.

## **Wednesday, April 8:**

Do you realize that you already know God's will for you today? Here it is:

“Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup> in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” – 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Prayer is our privilege of constant, unbroken communication with God. We can consistently talk with him about everything. As Robert L. Thomas says, this continual prayer commanded in the Bible “implies constantly recurring prayer, growing out of a settled attitude of dependence on God. Whether words are uttered or not, lifting the heart to God while one is occupied with miscellaneous duties is the vital thing.” Incessant prayer, says Thomas, is “the only way to cultivate a joyful attitude in times of trial.” It's also the best way to stay in tune with the perfect will of God.

Praise God for His making His will so clear: repent of any failure to be joyful, prayerful, or thankful; ask for His help in being more prayer-minded hour by hour; yield to Him by letting go of any sulking resistance to joy or thankfulness.

## **Thursday, April 9:**

In *The Master Plan of Evangelism*, Robert E. Coleman explains how Jesus showed through His prayer life how His disciples should live:

Surely it was no accident that Jesus often let His disciples see Him conversing with the Father. They could see the strength which it gave to His life, and though they could not understand fully what it was all about, they must have realized that this was part of His secret of life. Note that Jesus did not force the lesson upon them, but rather He just kept praying until at last the disciples got so hungry that they asked Him to teach them... (Luke 11:1).

Don't you long for that hunger yourself? As you study the life of Christ, try to experience Him as the disciples did, and then let His example lead you to a life of holiness and strength.

Praise God for Jesus' example of prayer; repent of any dullness in learning from Jesus; ask Him to continue teaching you; yield to Him today by praying through His model prayer (Luke 11:2-4), expanding each part with your own words.

## **Friday, April 10:**

In *Fellowship*, his devotional study of John's epistles, John G. Mitchell examines the fellowship with God that is ours through Jesus:

The great yearning of the heart of God is that we should have fellowship with Him. The purpose of redemption is not just to free us from sin nor simply get us to heaven, but rather fit us for eternal, unbroken, wonderful, personal, intimate fellowship with the living God Himself... Some people are waiting for fellowship, with its joy and peace, until they get to heaven. My friend, God wants us to have it now... It is not that we are waiting to have fellowship with God, but God is waiting for us to have fellowship with Him!

You can have that kind of incredible, intimate fellowship with God right now by falling to your knees in prayer.

Praise God for the warmth of His fellowship; repent of any ways in which you've turned your back on Him; ask that others will experience His fellowship today; yield to Him by talking to others about the value of fellowship with God.

### **Saturday, April 11:**

In *Experiencing God*, Henry T. Blackaby and Claude V. King write:

Your personal prayer life may primarily be one-way communication—you talking to God. Prayer is more than that. Prayer includes listening as well. In fact, what God says in prayer is far more important than what you say...

Prayer is a relationship, not just a religious activity. Prayer is designed more to adjust you to God than to adjust God to you. God doesn't need your prayers, but he wants you to pray. You need to pray because of what God wants to do in and through your life during your praying. God speaks to His people by the Holy Spirit through prayer... Genuine prayer does not lead to an encounter with God. It is an encounter with God.

Through prayer, God quickens our spirit by the power of His Holy Spirit. That's an experience we don't want to miss!

Praise God for His eternal perfection; repent of any attempts to adjust God to yourself; ask Him to adjust you to Him; yield to Him by making whatever changes are necessary.

### **Sunday, April 12:**

Celebrate Resurrection Sunday

### **Monday, April 13:**

We sometimes feel a bit ashamed to find that most of our prayers occur during severe hardships. Yet Martin Luther seemed to view the situation differently:

Except under troubles, trials, vexations, prayer cannot rightly be made. God says: "Call on me in the time of trouble"; without trouble it is only a bald prattling, and not from the heart; it is a common saying: "Need teaches to pray."

That's a strong statement! God certainly wants us to pray at all times, not just in moments of crisis (1 Thessalonians 5:17). But Luther makes his point—when times are good, our natural tendency is to drift away from God. Likewise, trials seem to bring out our most fervent prayers. Let's thank God for allowing troubles that drive us closer to Him.

Praise and thank God for the burdens in your life; repent of any failure to be grateful for them; ask for His help in the specific difficulties you currently face; yield to Him by not complaining.

## **Tuesday, April 14:**

In Gethsemane, Jesus “came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, “What! Could you not watch with Me one hour? <sup>41</sup> Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh *is* weak.” – Matthew 26:40-41

In *A Serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life*, William Law says:

Prayer is the nearest approach to God, and the highest enjoyment of Him, that we are capable of in this life... On the other hand, sleep is the poorest, dullest refreshment of the body... so far from being intended as an enjoyment, that we are forced to receive it either in a state of insensibility, or in the folly of dreams. Sleep is essential, but prayer is even more important. Ask God to help you find the right balance in your life.

Praise God for His grace in allowing you to talk with Him; repent of any drowsiness or dullness you’ve had in prayer times; ask for more of His spiritual energy; yield to Him by changing your prayer routine to help you stay alert.

## **Wednesday, April 15:**

“The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of knowledge, *but* fools despise wisdom and instruction.” – Proverbs 1:7

A wise nation takes into account the Word of God as it makes laws. Even a cursory reading of the history of the founding of the United States demonstrates that our founding fathers seriously endeavored to base our nation’s laws on their strong Judeo-Christian beliefs. Secularists today often counter that many of those men were, in fact, Deists, and not strong Christians. Their own beliefs aside, our Founders, almost to a man, insisted that laws were based on divine revelation and not on human wisdom alone. Even as strong a secularist as Thomas Jefferson said powerfully, “And can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are the gift of God? That they are not to be violated but with His wrath? Indeed I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just: that His justice cannot sleep for ever.” (Paul Leicester Ford, ed., *The Writings of Thomas Jefferson*, 10 vols., *Notes on the State of Virginia* (New York: G.P. Putnam’s Sons, 1892-99), Query XVIII, 4:232.)

Pray that the U.S. will repent of its corporate rejection of the Word of God as the basis of law.

Pray that a holy fear of God will sweep across our nation, leading us back to a place of wisdom.

Pray that courage born of wisdom will be given to Christians in places of leadership in government, the courts, and law schools across the nation so that they will stand for a godly basis for law.

Father, I give You thanks for the godly foundation of our nation. Thank You for instilling the fear of the Lord into our Founders, so that our laws were based on Your Word. Imperfect though they were, the original documents of government for the United States made a real effort to reflect Your will and Your truth.

Forgive us for drifting from Your ways. We have turned from the fear of God to the fear of man. Our laws change with the shifting winds of human opinion. We have embraced foolishness and rejected Your discipline.

We confess our desperate need for Your truth once again to become the foundation for our country. Pour out a hunger for truth and righteousness on everyone from preachers to professors to presidents. Raise up a standard of righteousness across this nation that honors Your Word and exalts Your name!

### **Thursday, April 16:**

“The LORD also will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble.” – Psalm 9:9

If there was ever a nation that understood what it means to be a refuge for the oppressed, it ought to be the United States. As a nation, by and large, comprised of immigrants and their descendants, many of whom were fleeing persecution or oppression in their own nations, we have been a land of refuge. The United States truly has been a stronghold in times of trouble for many.

Though this is a proud heritage and a significant part of who we are as a nation, we have always served as a refuge imperfectly. Some groups were more welcome than others. Some arrived and wondered if they were, in fact, better off here. We still struggle with what it means to open our national doors to others.

The good news is that the Lord is a perfect refuge, a perfect stronghold in times of trouble. He is a refuge, not only for individuals, but for a nation as well. When a nation turns to God, He will be a refuge for them. In the midst of the chaos of current events, whether it is pestilence, famine, financial collapse, terrorism, or war, how comforting to know that God wants to be a stronghold for our nation.

Ask the Lord to turn the hearts of the citizens and leaders of the United States to Himself.

Pray that our nation will increasingly see that God is our only refuge in the midst of the troubles of this world.

Father, I am so grateful that You are my refuge and stronghold. I come to You today longing more and more to experience Your Presence and to rest in Who You are. Show me more of what it means for You to be my refuge in the midst of the storms of this life.

What I ask for myself, I also ask for my nation. Help us not to trust in our finances, our technology, or our military might. Lord, You are our refuge, our stronghold in times of trouble. We come running to You, Lord! Forgive us of our self-sufficient spirit. We need You, Lord.

### **Friday, April 17:**

“Thus says the LORD of hosts: ‘Execute true justice, show mercy and compassion everyone to his brother.’” – Zechariah 7:9

Have you considered the fact that a nation committed to justice for all is a nation that God can bless? God is passionate about justice because it is in accordance with His nature to be just in all His dealings. When nations base their laws and institutions on principles of justice for all, the God of justice is pleased.

Of course, this means that the contrary is true as well. When injustice creeps in, it brings with it the displeasure of God. God especially seems to look out for the welfare of those whom society overlooks . . . the poor, the less-privileged, the stranger, and the outcast. The nation that wants the blessing of God will ensure justice for all!

Thank the Lord that He is a God of justice.

Pray for our judicial system and lawmakers, that justice for all, tempered by mercy and compassion, will guide our nation.

I thank You, Lord, that You are perfectly just in all Your ways. You deal with us impartially, imparting justice while showing mercy and compassion. Help us to be like You in this way.

I'm grateful, Lord, that the United States has built justice into its very foundation. Forgive us when we have failed to carry out what we say we believe in. Help us as a nation to offer justice to all and not to discriminate in the way that justice is administered.

I pray for the judicial system of this nation. Restore godliness to the courts of our land. May those who make our laws do so with a deep commitment to justice for all. In the name of Jesus, we come against any spirit of privilege or special interests that would mar the true administration of justice. We cry out with the prophet Amos, "Let justice roll on like a river" (Amos 5:24). May a river of justice and righteousness sweep across our nation!

### **Saturday, April 18:**

"Do not forsake her (wisdom), and she will preserve you; Love her, and she will keep you." – Proverbs 4:6

Biblically speaking, wisdom is looking at things from God's perspective and making the right choices based on that perspective. How critical it is for a nation that wants to experience God's protection to love and embrace wisdom! As the United States increasingly accepts a secular mindset and rejects divine revelation as a basis for our laws, we move farther away from the protection offered by wisdom.

Thank God for the gift of wisdom, and for the ability to see things from His perspective as we turn to His Word.

Repent on behalf of our nation, because we have turned from making Scripture the basis of law, leaving behind wisdom, and looking to ourselves for truth.

I thank You, Lord, that You are a God of wisdom and revelation. You do not hide wisdom from us, but rather have told us that we only need to ask and You will freely give it. So, Father, we ask You for wisdom this day. We embrace the wisdom from above that allows us to see matters from Your perspective.

What we ask for ourselves personally, we also ask for our nation. Forgive us, Lord, for turning from Your ways and the wisdom that is Your Word. Our country has sought wisdom and direction from polls and surveys and other nations rather than looking to You. We have called Your wisdom "myth" and have called that which is foolishness "wisdom."

### **Sunday, April 19:**

"But those who wait on the LORD shall renew *their* strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint." –Isaiah 40:31

Note that our verse today likens the eagle to those who hope in the Lord. Where is our hope? Is it in whomever currently occupies the White House or Congress? Is it in our military or economic strength?

There is nothing sadder than a crippled eagle, one that can no longer soar. Healing, however, can come to damaged wings. It involves the redirection of hope. The American eagle can soar again when we learn as a people to place our hope in the Lord.

Thank the Lord how the biblical picture of a soaring eagle fits the symbol of our nation.

Pray for our nation, that we would once again soar as an eagle as we place our trust in the Lord.

Father, I thank You for this picture from the prophet Isaiah of an eagle soaring and how well that helps me as I pray for my nation today. Forgive us, Lord, for the pride that has often marked us a nation. That pride has caused us to put our hope in our own strength and might and not in You. Forgive us. If we are to run and not grow weary as a nation, it will be only because we have turned back to You as our hope. Help us, Lord, to hope in You!

### **Monday, April 20:**

“Behold, God *is* my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; ‘For YAH, the LORD, *is* my strength and song; He also has become my salvation.’ ”–Isaiah 12:2

There are many things that can strike fear into the heart of a nation. In the years following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, we have feared off-course planes, envelopes with white powder, and threats from extremists around the world. Today, we fear an enemy so small it cannot be seen with the naked eye. We take as many precautions as we can, all the while fearing that something, sometime will slip through and cause harm. Fear is tough to live with and causes a nation to react in man-made ways that are not always godly.

The Bible often warns us not to be afraid. The reason given is that God is our salvation. Salvation doesn’t always refer to eternal life or heaven. It often means deliverance from the enemy. Psalm 32:7 says, “You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance.” Isaiah reminds us that when a nation (or person) trusts in the Lord, He steps in and brings salvation. When we experience the Lord’s deliverance, fear is replaced by songs of joy, as Isaiah declares in today’s text. Has the Lord become your song?

Ask the Lord to help the United States to learn to trust Him for our salvation as a nation.

Confess (agree with God) that the Lord is indeed the salvation for our nation.

Lord, I agree with Your Word that You are our salvation. I believe that for my nation. Help us as a nation to cast aside fear and trust in You. Lord, do a mighty work in the hearts of Your people in the United States that brings about a national shift in priorities and confidence. We trust in You, Lord. Become our strength and our song!

### **Tuesday, April 21:**

“You must not fear them, for the LORD your God Himself fights for you.” –Deuteronomy 3:22

Fear can paralyze a nation, or cause it to react in inappropriate ways. President Franklin Roosevelt understood that. When addressing a nation mired in the Great Depression, he reminded the people that the

only thing they had to fear was fear itself. God gives us a very direct command when faced with enemies: “Do not be afraid of them.” Don’t give in to fear!

There is a very real reason why Israel, in Moses’ day, was commanded not to fear. God Himself had promised to step in and fight on their behalf. They still had many battles ahead of them, but God had agreed to intervene in those battles for them. This promise can only be appropriated when a nation has committed itself to honor God and follow His ways. Wouldn’t it be great to live in a nation that had so aligned itself with the purposes of God that we could live without fear because God had determined to fight on our behalf?

Ask the Lord to pour out a spirit of repentance on our nation that we might become a nation committed to following His ways.

Ask the Lord to help the United States to so line up with God’s purposes that He will choose to fight on our behalf.

Father, we turn from fear and turn to You. We indeed have enemies as a nation who seek our destruction. We have attempted to stand against them in our own strength, all the while rejecting Your lordship over us. Forgive us, Lord. Heal our land. Help us to turn back to You, so that You Yourself will fight for us.

### **Wednesday, April 22:**

“You, O LORD, remain forever; Your throne from generation to generation.” –Lamentations 5:19

In December of 2000, we held a prayer gathering on top of the World Trade Center in New York City, praying over the city. I wouldn’t have believed it then if you had told me that nine months later those towers would collapse. Something so big, solid, and sturdy should have lasted for many, many years. Yet we live in a world that, sometimes quickly and sometimes through the centuries, is disintegrating and passing away.

That’s hard to hear when you speak of nations, especially if you happen to be praying for your own nation. Yet the testimony of history is that nations rise and nations fall. Certainly this gives urgency to our prayers for America. But it also causes us to realize that the reign of the Lord lasts far beyond any individual nation. In times of turmoil and change, we hold fast to the truth of God’s Word: His rule is not dependent upon any nation. His throne endures forever.

Ask the Lord to awaken the church to the temporary nature of the nations and to the eternal nature of the reign of God.

As you pray for the United States, ask the Lord to help us as a nation to fulfill His purposes for us.

Lord, what peace fills my heart as I consider Your eternal throne. In a world in which everything seems to change so fast, and so many things fade and fall, how good it is to know You never change. Your throne, Your rule, continues from generation to generation. There will never be a generation for which You are not Lord, even if that generation does not acknowledge You.

Even as we pray for our beloved nation, we realize that there will come a time when it ceases to exist. My prayer, Lord, is that before that time, we would fulfill the purposes You have for us. Help us, Lord, to be a nation that brings honor and glory to Your name!

## **Thursday, April 23:**

“No weapon formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue *which* rises against you in judgment You shall condemn. This *is* the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness *is* from Me,” Says the LORD.” –Isaiah 54:17

We live in a day of terrible weaponry. A push of a button from far away can destroy whole cities. No longer is war confined to the combatants, but to entire populations. Years ago, President Ronald Reagan directed our military scientists to develop a shield to protect us, especially from nuclear attack. The “Star Wars” shield certainly could provide some protection, but couldn’t keep us from all attacks.

What if there was something (Someone) who could shield us from all attack? The promise of God to His people is astonishing. No one would suggest this verse gives a nation some kind of divine protection from physical weaponry or attack. But men and women of God down through the years have stood upon this verse to handle the attacks of Satan and have experienced the astonishing protection of God. What if we began to pray prayers of spiritual protection over our nation? Could we as believers, in prayer, blunt the attempt of the Enemy to sideline our nation and remove us from our place in God’s plan?

Thank the Lord for His promise of protection for the servants of the Lord.

Ask the Lord to raise up a shield of protection over our nation.

Father, Your promises are always sure. Thank You that You give Your servants the privilege of walking in victory and refuting every lie spoken against us. Now, Lord, help us in wisdom to do this on behalf of our nation. Lord, awaken Your people out of apathy and help us to stand against the attacks of Satan against our nation. Forgive us for our passivity. May no weapon of the Enemy prevail against our nation, but may every one of those weapons come to naught against our Shield and Deliverer!

## **Friday, April 24:**

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” –Matthew 6:21

Years ago I heard a famous preacher tell about a conversation he had with the president of a South American nation. The president of that nation told the preacher that he had discovered the roots of the difference between the United States and his own nation: “Our ancestors came to these shores looking for gold, but your ancestors came looking for God.” That’s a profound difference. And probably a little distorted, in that certainly there were some early settlers in America who came looking for gold, too. But that leader was right in understanding that there was a solid segment of those who came to the American colonies with a sincere desire to seek God and religious freedom.

What are we seeking now as a nation? God or gold? All too often we have been known as a nation that is interested more in money and things than in God and people. This attitude has infected the church as well as the nation. There is no doubt that the love of money is one of the key idols in our nation, and is standing in the way of another great move of God in our midst. Where is your heart today? Your answer indicates where your treasure is.

Ask the Lord to reveal clearly to you where your treasure is.

In Jesus’ name, tear down the idol of mammon (money) that has taken up residence in America today.

Lord Jesus, You spoke so often about money and the danger it can represent to us. Yet, You also used the wealth of the rich to accomplish Your mission. Help us to walk in that biblical understanding of both the danger and blessing of money. Forgive us for making an idol out of money or material things. Especially, Lord, forgive us when such idolatry happens in Your church. Help us to live lives that are free from greed and coveting, that we might be a prophetic voice to our nation. May we become a nation that treasures You far more than we treasure gold.

### **Saturday, April 25:**

“When you go to war in your land against the enemy who oppresses you, then you shall sound an alarm with the trumpets, and you will be remembered before the LORD your God, and you will be saved from your enemies.” –Numbers 10:9

Today’s Scripture speaks of fighting battles within our own land. Though written to Israel, there is certainly a spiritual principle for us today. And we need to hear it because we are indeed in a war in our own land. It is not melodramatic at all to declare that there is a war in the spirit realm for the soul of America. Years ago, someone once reportedly said, “America has the soul of a church.” Is that how you would describe the soul of America today?

Scripture always portrays Satan as attempting to maneuver nations against the kingdom of God, and he is often successful. For many years, the godly foundation and prayers of the faithful kept our nation at least somewhat close to the purposes of God. This spiritual war, though, has intensified through the years, and we certainly find ourselves in a battle in our own land against an enemy who desires to oppress us.

Thank the Lord for His promise of remembering us and of rescuing us from our enemies.

Ask the Lord to help strengthen the trumpet call to intensive prayer, so that it is heard throughout the church in the United States.

Father, forgive me for not always being aware of the war that is going on in our nation. Awaken me and all of Your people to the reality of what the enemy is doing to destroy our foundations. Teach us to pray as You taught us to pray, so that we would be delivered from the evil one. Help us, Lord, to heed the call of the trumpet to pray as never before. Show us the extent of the battles and help us not to wage war in the flesh but in the Spirit. Thank You, Lord, for Your promise to remember us and to rescue us!

### **Sunday, April 26:**

“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” –Romans 12:2

The nation cannot afford a sidelined church, taken out by worldliness and confusion. The Apostle Paul commands believers to allow ourselves no longer to be conformed by worldly patterns, but rather to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. Only then we will understand the will of God, not just for our own lives, but so that we can be a prophetic voice to our nation. Sometimes the best way to pray for our nation is to pray for revival in the church!

Pray for a transformation in the church through a renewing of our minds through the Word of God.

Ask the Lord for the church to rise up with a strong voice of truth in America.

Lord, forgive us, Your people, for our timidity, worldliness, and failure to be the light and salt that our nation desperately needs. Transform us! May Your Word bring lasting change to our minds and lifestyles. Help us then to speak with boldness as we understand more and more of Your will. Help us not so much to seek political power as to seek to speak Your wisdom into political situations.

### **Monday, April 27:**

“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness.” –Romans 1:18

Do you suppose that the above verse, speaking of the wrath of God, is true for every nation except the United States? Is there some way that we are somehow exempt from the wrath of God? We don't like to think about this, but the truth of the matter is that there is no exempt nation. Godlessness and wickedness will attract the wrath of God, both for individuals as well as for a nation. When godlessness and wickedness are embraced by a nation, then the wrath of God will be directed against that nation.

Repent on behalf of our nation because we have allowed the suppression of God's truth.

Pray that God's wrath on the wicked will bring about repentance.

Father, I tremble as I read Your Word today. I fear for my nation as I see godlessness and wickedness on the rise and the increased suppression of truth. I pray for mercy in the midst of Your wrath. Pour out a spirit of repentance upon the ungodly. Turn their hearts to You. As Your church sees Your wrath poured out, I pray that we will be those who tremble at Your Word and draw near to You in intimacy. Give us boldness to stand for truth and not to shrink back.

### **Tuesday, April 28:**

“And you will seek Me and find *Me*, when you search for Me with all your heart.” –Jeremiah 29:13

Can you even imagine living in a nation where we talk about seeking the Lord together as a people? It certainly has happened before in the United States. From presidents to preachers, we have employed this sort of language through the years to describe the spiritual longing we should have for God. But somewhere along the line we quit seeking. Even those who should have known better did not pursue God with their whole heart.

God is not hiding. He desires to be found. But His people are so caught up in so many other things that we have forgotten our first love. We must repent and turn. It is time for revival in our nation that begins with those who commit to seek the Lord with all their hearts.

Pray for a spirit of repentance to fall upon the church in America that would cause us to turn back to God and seek Him.

Pray for bold leaders who begin to speak in all spheres of life of the need to seek the Lord.

Lord, forgive me for getting caught up in so many activities and things that I have failed to put You first. Give me a seeking heart. Help me not to be content with anything less than You Yourself. What I ask for myself, I ask for the whole church. May our church services be filled with the weeping of those who realize how we have failed to seek You passionately. Help us to be a people desperate for Your presence and not content with anything else. Please raise up those in every aspect of life who will call for and model the seeking life.

### **Wednesday, April 29:**

“Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the LORD your God, He *is* the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you.” –Deuteronomy 31:6

We will need courage to face the battles ahead of us in our nation. For too long the church has been timid and passive, afraid to stand against the attacks of the enemy. Our nation cannot afford a silent church, afraid to speak truth into the issues of the day. The Lord speaks loudly to us today, “Be strong and courageous!”

Thank the Lord for His promise never to leave us or forsake us.

Pray for a spirit of courage to rise within the church.

Father, forgive me for my fears. I hear You say in Your Word again and again, “Do not be afraid.” Today, I cast all my anxiety on You because You care for me. I hold onto the promises of Your peace. With Your presence, Lord, I choose courage as a way of life. Please pour that spirit of courage into the life of Your church in America. Help us to rise up in truth against the evils of our age. Help us to live in such a way that we are able courageously to model Your life, Lord Jesus, in the midst of our world.

### **Thursday, April 30:**

“...looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” –Hebrews 12:2

We often forget that it was the politics of His day that were the immediate cause of Jesus’ death. The Roman occupation of Israel, coupled with the jockeying for power among several Jewish sects, created a tension that simply couldn’t allow for a popular miracle-working teacher who offended all of the powers that were present. Much of Jesus’ teaching dealt with how to live in such a politically tense situation.

So in our day, as we struggle sometimes with even knowing how to pray for our nation, this is a critical command to embrace: Fix your eyes on Jesus. We don’t have to do this on our own. Jesus understands political and national situations and struggles. As we pray for our nation, we keep our eyes fixed on Him.

In prayer, fix your eyes on Jesus. Ask Him to show you how to pray for our nation.

Commit to enduring whatever it takes to see the fulfillment of God’s purposes in our nation.

Lord, today and always I choose to fix my eyes upon You. You lived in a land of political tensions and struggles and overcame, though at a great cost. Teach me how to pray and how to live in the midst of the

battles we are facing as a nation. Give me the courage that You had to endure whatever comes in order to please the Father and see His purposes fulfilled.

## **Friday, May 1:**

“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.” –John 14:1

There are many things going on in our nation that has us troubled. The coronavirus, economy, decisions (or indecisions) in Washington, D.C., the terrorist threats? The list could get long. How can we not have troubled hearts?

Jesus gets really practical here with His Word to us: Don't have a troubled heart; instead, trust Me. He doesn't just tell us not to be worried, which doesn't work unless there is something that can replace the worry. And that's right where Jesus places Himself. “Trust Me,” He says. Such trust will be lived out in us as we pray. Are you anxious and troubled about our nation? Take your concerns to Jesus.

Jesus doesn't want us to have a troubled heart. Confess what is troubling your heart today.

Now, in trust, bring the issues of our nation that trouble you and lay them at His feet.

Lord, it is very easy to have a troubled heart as I look at my nation. We are so divided, and it looks like nothing can bridge the growing divide. It seems like daily there are news stories which indicate that we are moving farther and farther away from the standards of Your Word and Your righteousness. No one seems to have the answers we need.

So, Lord Jesus, I turn to You. I trust You. What no political party or individual can do, I believe You can do. Would You step into this situation and bring about Your righteous purposes? I trust You. I choose not to have a troubled heart, but will instead entrust my nation to You.

## **Saturday, May 2:**

Praying for Revival in America

What is it we are asking for as we pray for revival? Ultimately, it is for the people of God to begin to live out the directives of Christ. All other results flow from that. Changed lives in the Church as well as transformation in a culture come not from human effort, but the power of God made manifest in the lives of His people.

This isn't about praying for a better life or that things would go smoothly for us. It is about God and His purposes being accomplished.

Some look for a great awakening in this nation as the solution to all of our problems. That would be wonderful but unlikely. It is more likely to take place in the midst of great difficulties and even persecution. If it is widespread and lasting, it may well slow or delay the judgment of God against our sinful nation.

All past revivals have had tremendous evangelistic outreach, and I believe the one to come will as well. In addition, the repentance and humility that will be occurring in the Body of Christ will be a key element in

preparing the Bride for the Bridegroom. Revival in the Church can bring a restoration of New Testament purity, passion, and holiness.

How do we pray for revival? Certainly Psalm 85:4-7 gives us a clear picture and we would do well to use this in our own prayers.

“Restore us, O God of our salvation, and cause Your anger toward us to cease.<sup>5</sup> Will You be angry with us forever? Will You prolong Your anger to all generations? <sup>6</sup> Will You not revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You? <sup>7</sup> Show us Your mercy, LORD, and grant us Your salvation.” – Psalm 85:4-7

One of my personal favorites in revival praying is found in Isaiah 63-64. It is a long passage of Scripture that speaks of Israel’s realization that they were missing the presence of God. They remember days in the past when that was not the case and cry out for God to come back to them. Taking this Old Testament passage and bringing it into New Testament circumstances is a powerful way of praying for revival.

### **Sunday, May 3:**

“For the needy shall not always be forgotten; The expectation of the poor shall *not* perish forever.” –Psalm 9:18

God’s Word is filled with reminders that God is always watching out for the needy and the afflicted. He wants us to do so as well, for He has blessed us to be a blessing to others in physical, material and spiritual ways. If we would faithfully follow Jesus in this way, there would be no need for the government to take care of those in need. God wants His people to get serious about being His hands, feet and voice in our families, our communities and in our nation!

Begin to pray for those you know who are hurting financially and physically, and ask God to show you how to respond.

Pray for a spirit of humility and an outreach in the church toward those whom the Bible calls the least among us.

Father, I am so thankful for your love. Help me to be like You. Give me a compassion from You for those who are poor or afflicted in any way. Show me not only how to pray but how You might want me to follow my prayers with actions. Lord, please pour out that attitude upon all Your people. May Your church rise up in compassion and good deeds to minister to those who are hurting in every way in our nation. Forgive us, Lord, for allowing or expecting the government to do this work that really belongs to us.

### **Monday, May 4:**

“And what great nation *is there* that has *such* statutes and righteous judgments as are in all this law which I set before you this day?” –Deuteronomy 4:8

As our nation began, our laws were made in recognition of God. Though not all of our founding fathers were church-going Christians, they all had a respect for the laws of God and literally based the new nation’s laws upon what they considered divine law. God blessed their decision, and greatness was achieved.

Over the years the making and understanding of law has drifted from that strong godly perspective. Increasingly, lawmakers are looking to other nations or cultural trends for guidelines in laws. It could be argued that our greatness as a nation is drifting with that trend. It is time to begin praying for a return to laws that have their basis in God's Word.

Thank God for a good foundation for this nation in the nature of its laws.

Pray for the judges of this nation, that they would seek the wisdom that comes from above.

Father, when I read the founding documents of our nation, I give thanks to You for the wisdom given to the men who wrote them. They clearly tried to base their writings on Your revelation. Would You pour out that wisdom on those who are currently in leadership in our nation? We have been drifting from Your Word, and our laws are increasingly in opposition to Your revealed will. Turn us, Lord. Line our laws up with Your Word so that we might once again achieve greatness as a nation because we reflect what You desire.

## **Tuesday, May 5:**

“For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father’s house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for *such* a time as this?” –Esther 4:14

The well-known story of Esther becoming queen at a crucial time in the history of the Jewish people has inspired many through the years. The Jews faced annihilation at the hands of their enemies. Esther would be putting her life in danger by speaking out, but her cousin Mordecai’s words gave her the courage she needed. He appealed to the timing of her part in this drama, “for such a time as this.”

I believe it is God’s timing that you have prayed your way through the past month for our nation. Like Esther, we are living in perilous times in which our nation is under assault from virus, foreign enemies, and from those within who have failed to understand the critical role of the Christian faith to the greatness of America. It is a situation that cannot simply be fixed by a new leader, new plan, or different strategy. We need the intervention of God!

God steps in when His people passionately ask Him to. The most important thing Christians can do for America is to pray. In these days of distress, the Lord is raising up a people who will intercede with faith and fervency! You are answering the call. Pray . . . for such a time as this!

Pray for a clearer understanding of the days in which we live and how we should pray.

Pray for a spirit of prayer to come over the church in America.

Father, I am so grateful that You hear when we call. For weeks now, we have been praying for our beloved nation. Thank You for calling us to prayer and showing us how to pray. Give us an understanding of the times in which we live and Your purposes for our nation. We want always to line up our prayers with Your desires. Would You pour out a spirit of prayer upon the church in America? Show us that we are indeed called to pray for our nation for such a time as this.

**NOTE: Thursday, May 7 is the National Day of Prayer**