

Remnant Life Church
November 10, 2024

Four Ways to Pray for Your Country Rom 13:1; Matt 6:10

My cell phone has gotten much quieter, the phone at the house is not ringing near as often, and I am no longer hearing terrible things said about people in TV commercials.

- The 2024 election has come and gone
- Regardless of whether the outcome of the various national and state-wide races went the way you wanted them to or not, it should serve to remind us that, as Christians, we need to pray for our nation.

But what do those prayers sound like?

- How do you pray for an entire nation without it being just general words of concern?
 - Do I pray for each state?
 - Do I pray for one politician and against another?
 - Does God even care what happens to this country since we have obviously rejected Him at every opportunity?
 - I can tell you without hesitation that He does care
 - And He commands each of us to pray for our country
 - And to pray regardless of the politics or our views on them
- So, again, how do you pray?
 - While we would all like to believe that our thoughts are right and pure that is obviously not the case
 - There is only one source that is without error – The Scriptures
 - And because of that truth, we ought to pray the Scriptures when praying for our country
 - When you do that, the election itself is not the final word or the final say for our nation

Here are four ways that you can pray for our country using the infallible Word of God

1. Pray for the Leaders and Authorities in Office

- 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.*
- Is there one thing in this verse that might be especially difficult to wrap your head around?
 - Yes – Every leader in place now and every one of them in the future have been placed there by God
 - He has sovereignly put them in place for His purposes!
 - This is truly what it means to trust Him even when we do not understand
 - This likely brings many questions to mind
 - All of them must be addressed in faith!
- What you must remember is that God is never caught off guard or distraught over the events of this world

- i. When Paul and Timothy were ministering in Philippi and then writing to them later here is what they reminded them
- ii. **Phil 4:6** - *Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.*
 - 1. Can you honestly say that you live this verse?
 - 2. I can promise you that anxiety and worry will always lead to a host of problems that grow out of them if you are feeding them when you encounter something that you do not like or did not plan for.
- d. Paul's words to Timothy regarding his situation as a young pastor still ring true for us today.
 - i. **I Tim 2:1-3** - *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. This is good, and pleases God our Savior...*
 - ii. Notice again what this verse says
 - 1. You pray for all people – not just the ones you like, are nice to you, or agree with you.
 - 2. Pray for all those in authority
 - a. Again, not just those you like or represent your party affiliation
 - 3. Then it tells us why we should do this
 - a. That we may live peaceful and quiet lives
 - b. In all godliness and holiness
 - 4. Finally, it pleases God when we do this

2. Pray for Justice and Righteousness

- a. One of the major themes of the OT
- b. It is through the writing of the prophets and in the books of wisdom that we are taught the righteousness of God
 - i. **Prov 14:34** - *Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin condemns any people.*
 - 1. This was not just true back then
 - 2. It is a truth that still applies today
 - a. It is one of the reasons your prayers are so important
 - b. And why they are important for those in positions of leadership
 - ii. There was time not that long ago that the rule of law still applied
 - 1. But more and more we are weakening the law, the penalties, and even the wrong-doing itself has become permissible as injustice and unrighteousness continue to take hold
 - iii. **Micah 6:8** - *He has shown you, O mortal man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.*
 - iv. Not only pray for the people in leadership, but pray for our nation to pursue what is good – what is just, what is faithful and submit itself to God.

3. Pray for Unity

- a. Jesus said in **Matt 12:25** - *Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand.*
- b. To be united takes work and effort
 - i. Division is easy
 - ii. It means you get to do what you want all of the time
- c. That is why satan loves division
 - i. It is about pride and selfishness
 - ii. It is a primary goal of his to bring division to families, churches, government and any place that God has created or calls good.
 - iii. This is why you have seen such a horrific attack on the biblical definition of family
 1. Because within that biblical structure is unity
 2. It is when we deviate and remove ourselves from God's plan that we become selfish, want our own way, and separate ourselves from anyone who tries to prevent that from happening
- d. And then pray not only for unity within our country but unity within our churches
 - i. So that we may be an example of what it means to live in love and cooperation
 - ii. We must be a witness to the world
 - iii. And that is best seen through the Fruits of the Spirit that are an outpouring of God's love seen in us for one another

4. Pray for Revival and God's Will to be Done

- a. When Jesus taught His disciples to pray, one of the things He told them to say was...
 - i. *Your kingdom come, Your will be done* (**Matt 6:10**)
- b. God's will is that no one should die in their sin
 - i. But His righteousness requires that we obey His word
 - ii. His blessings, for a person, a people, or a nation come through obedience
- c. And it is going to take a revival of the heart for that to happen
 - i. What is a revival?
 - ii. It is an extraordinary work of God in which Christians repent of their sins as they become intensely aware of God's presence in their midst.
- d. Revival means we repent of our sins
 - i. We recognize and embrace the powerful presence of God
 - ii. We not only repent but we desire to follow ALL of God's Word in our lives
 - iii. And we care about the lost we encounter
 1. Not merely by words
 2. But by our actions

2 Chron 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.*