

Prayer Guide

3 November 2020

Thank you for your commitment to pray for 30 minutes on the third day of the month!

Tuesday, November 3, is a day of decision. Soon we will have either reelected a president, Donald Trump, or elected a new President, Joe Biden. We will also have a new Senate and House of Representatives. As the executive and the legislative branches, these leaders will pass laws and appoint judges that will impact our lives, the lives of our families, our churches, our land, and our culture. The contrast between the two visions is stark.

So, how should we live? There are two truths we should embrace.

FIRST, TODAY, WE SHOULD VOTE, FAST, AND PRAY. If you have not voted, make sure to vote! If you have never fasted (from something meaningful) I can't exhort you enough—fast today! Fast from a meal, two meals, fast from the news (nothing that matters will come on until the early evening). Fast and pray today!

As we saw in the October Prayer and Fasting Guide, God told King Hezekiah, when he was surrounded by a pagan army, ***“Because you have prayed to Me about Sennacherib, king of Assyria, this is the word that the LORD has spoken against him”*** (Isaiah 37:21–22). God responds when we pray. **Not when we talk about prayer but when we actually pray!**

SECOND, WE SHOULD LIVE FOR THE LORD! In Romans 14, Paul writes about what to do when Christians differ on issues. He closes his instruction with these words:

“The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains,

abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; for it is written, 'As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.' So then each of us will give an account of himself to God" (Romans 14:6–12^{ESV}).

Whoever you voted for, whoever is elected—**one thing is undeniable, Jesus is Lord!** As has been said many times, “The Lord is not here to take sides, He is here to take over.”

We will all one day stand before the Lord and give an account for how we have lived. Regardless of who is in the White House, Jesus expects and will one day inspect how we lived out His will. **We should live this day and every day for that day!**

WHAT IT MEANS TO LIVE **THIS DAY FOR THAT DAY:**

Live as citizens of a heavenly kingdom. *“For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ”* (Philippians 3:20).

Lord, help me to realize that I only live on this earth for so many years and that in light of eternity, it is indescribably brief! Lord, everything on this earth will one day pass and fade away. You have said, *“No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier”* (2 Timothy 2:4). Regardless of what happens in the election, help me to grasp that I only have one King. His name is Jesus.

Invest time in prayer every day. Bro. Steve often says, “Time in prayer is never wasted.” Prayer is a process, that starts in the morning and continues all day long.

- *“Listen to my voice in the morning, LORD. Each morning I bring my requests to you and wait expectantly”* (Psalm 5:3^{NLT}).
- *“Pray without ceasing”* (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

Intercede for others. While hopefully you pray for yourself and your family, remember to pray for others, too! If you don't have a list or an organized, intentional way to pray for others on a regular basis, do so.

- *“The LORD restored the fortunes of Job when he prayed for his friends, and the LORD increased all that Job had twofold”* (Job 42:10).
- *“But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you”* (Matthew 5:44).
- *“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by ceasing to pray for you; but I will instruct you in the good and right way”* (1 Samuel 12:23).

Pray for revival! Regardless of who is in the White House, we need to see God move. Pray big prayers—prayers so big only God can answer them!

King Jehoshaphat and Israel were surrounded by a great multitude. He was afraid and turned his attention to seek the Lord and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. Then Jehoshaphat stood in the house of the Lord and prayed, “O LORD, the God of our fathers, are You not God in the heavens? Are you not ruler over all the kingdoms of the nations? Power and might are in Your hand so that no one can stand against You... O our God, will You not judge them? For we are powerless before this great multitude who are coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are on You” (2 Chronicles 20:6, 12). God routed the enemy, and it took them three days to pick up the spoil because there was so much. Only God can do that!

I love Mark Batterson’s book, *The Circle Maker*. Batterson challenges us about praying big prayers.

The size of prayers depends on the size of our God. And if God knows no limits, then neither should our prayers. God exists outside of the four space-time dimensions He created. We should pray that way...With God, there is no big or small, easy or difficult, possible or impossible. This is difficult to comprehend because all we’ve ever known are the four dimensions we were born into, but God is not subject to the natural laws He instituted. He has no beginning and no end. **To the infinite, all finites are equal. Even our hardest prayers are easy for the Omnipotent One to answer because there is no degree of difficulty** (p. 72).

The answer is never, “Can He?” but “Will He?”

- *“The hand of the LORD was upon me, and He brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley; and it was full of bones. He caused me to pass among them round about, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley; and lo, they were very dry. He said to me, ‘Son of man, can these bones live?’ And I answered, ‘O Lord GOD, You know’...So I prophesied as He commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they came to life and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army”* (Ezekiel 37:1–3, 10).
- *“Will You not Yourself revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You?”* (Psalm 85:6).

Prayer is the hinge upon which God’s will and power are moved.

—Bill Street, Minister of Evangelism, Discipleship, and Prayer

PRAYER FOR AMERICA

By Pastor Steve Gaines

Heavenly Father, I lift up to You the United States of America. I humbly ask You to open the heavens that You might come down and send revival to the Christians in America so our nation will turn back to You. I pray You will raise up prayer warriors across America who will fervently call on Your name and seek Your face for an outpouring of Your Spirit. I pray you will raise up pastors who will preach the Word of God with conviction and without compromise. I pray You will raise up soul winners who will Share Jesus and lead people to faith in Him. I pray You will raise up disciple makers who will help new believers grow in grace and become more like Jesus. I pray for godly politicians, from the President to every mayor, who will love Jesus and uphold His Word. I pray for godly judges who will rule in righteousness. I pray You will bind Satan from dividing our nation with racial prejudice. I pray whites, blacks, Latinos, Asians, and others will understand there is really only one race—the human race. Please forgive us for abortion, homosexual “marriage”, sexual immorality, racial prejudice, greed, and prayerlessness. Help every Christian be humble in spirit, hungry for revival, and holy in thought and deed. We pray and agree with the Psalmist—*“Will You not Yourself revive us again, that your people may rejoice in You?”* (Psalm 85:6). In Jesus’ holy name amen.

PRAY FOR ALL ELECTED OFFICIALS

Pray God will bring all elected officials to their knees in humility before God, being aware that they will give an account of themselves to God. *“As I live says the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall give praise to God. So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God”* (Romans 14:11–12).

**“You cannot afford to be too busy to pray.
A prayerless Christian is a powerless Christian.”
—Billy Graham**

