

Lord, Hear, Forgive and Heal Us

As citizens and residents of the United States and followers of Jesus Christ, we not only have a spiritual responsibility but a civic duty as well to stand in the gap for our nation, praying that God will guide our leaders, granting them wisdom and discernment in the decisions they make.

The Bible makes that clear: *Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence* (1 Timothy 2:1-2 NKJV).



Who but God's people have the ability to enter into the very throne room of heaven with prayers and petitions?

Today is National Day of Prayer, an annual observance held on the first Thursday in May, inviting people of all faiths to pray for the nation. The theme for this year is *For Your Great Name's Sake! Hears Us ... Forgive Us ... Heal Us!* It is taken from Daniel 9:19 (NIV): *Lord, listen! Lord, forgive! Lord, hear and act! For Your sake,*

my God, do not delay, because Your city and Your people bear Your name.

Thousands of individuals, churches and communities will be working to rally millions of Christians to once again heed this call.

At this crucial time for our nation, we can do nothing more important than pray. In a national prayer, Anne Graham Lotz, daughter of evangelist Billy Graham said, in part:

We worship You, God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. You are the living God of our nation's founding fathers: George Washington, John Adams, John Hancock, Benjamin Franklin, Samuel Adams, Patrick Henry and many others. When we pledge our allegiance, it's one nation under You. Every time we use American money to buy or sell, we make the statement that in You we have placed our trust ...

We confess that we have allowed the material blessings You have given us to deceive us into thinking we don't need You. We confess that we live as though material wealth and prosperity will bring happiness. We confess that we have marginalized truth and mainstreamed lies ...

(more)

We confess that we have become one nation under many gods, divided and polarized, with license to sin and justice that no longer follows the rule of law.

Therefore, we turn to You with tears of shame and a heart of fear for the judgment we are provoking. We repent of our sin. Please, God of our Fathers, do not back away from us. Do not remove Your hand of blessing on us. As we return to You with humility ... with sincerity ... out of necessity ... with a desperate sense of urgency. Please! Return to us! Hear our prayer. Forgive our sin. Heal our land.

For the glory of Your great name ... Jesus. Amen

As you gather today in standup meetings, in a quiet corner at break time, with friends and co-workers at a lunch table, or in personal meditation, pray for our country, for our company, for the residents and patients we serve and for one another.

– Beecher Hunter