



## **Pastoral Answers to Life's Questions: How Can We Repair Our Broken Nation?**

### **Introduction:**

In the prayer room of Congress is a stained glass window of George Washington, kneeling in prayer. Surrounding him are the words of Psalm 16:1 "Preserve me O God for in Thee do I put my trust." Above his head are the words: "This Nation Under God"

"It is the duty of nations, as well as of men, to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God and to recognize the sublime truth announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord." (Abraham Lincoln)

"...this nation under God shall have a new birth of freedom..." (Abraham Lincoln)

### **Are we still a nation "under God"? How do we repair our broken nation?**

2 Chronicles 7:12-14 "Then the Lord appeared to Solomon at night and said to him, 'I have heard your prayer, and have chosen this place for Myself as a house of sacrifice. If I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or if I command the locust to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among My people, and My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray, and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.'"

#### **I. The Practice**

2 Chronicles 7:14 "...and My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray, and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways...."

#### **The Steps To Healing A Broken Nation**

##### **Step 1. Humbling Ourselves Before God**

2 Chronicles 7:14 "...and My people who are called by My name humble themselves..."

"Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace...too proud to pray to the God that made us." (Abraham Lincoln)

Psalm 33:12 "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord."

##### **Step 2. Becoming a People of Prayer**

2 Chronicles 7:14 "...and My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray..."

1 Timothy 2:1-4 "First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, in order that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."

- God granted Joseph, a man of prayer, favor in the household of Pharaoh of Egypt. The result? From that one man the entire nation of Israel was brought out of famine in the land of Egypt and preserved from destruction
- God granted Daniel, another man of prayer, favor in the sight of his government officials in Babylon (Dan. 1:9). The result? He became mighty in government affairs and was used by God to soften the Babylonian kings heart toward God's people.
- God granted Nehemiah, also a man of prayer, favor in the sight of Artaxerxes, the King of Medo-Persia (Neh. 2:1). The result? The king provided all the equipment and materials needed to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem so that the Jews could once again survive as a nation. "And the King granted them to me because the good hand of My God was on me." (Nehemiah)

Calling for a season of prayer for our leaders...

...for our President and Vice-President, Congress (Senators and those in the House of Representatives), Supreme Court (federal and state), Joint Chiefs of Staff and our military leaders, Governor, Lt. Governor, State Assembly, State Senate, Mayor, City Council, County Board of Supervisors, Police, School Board and for all of the governing authorities in our lives

### **Step #3. Seeking The Lord's Face**

2 Chronicles 7:14 "...and My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray, and seek My face ..."

1 Chronicles 16:11 "Seek the LORD and His strength; seek His face continually."

Seeking God's face means...

- ...living in such a way that we depend on His guidance
- ...realizing that everything we do is done in the presence of a holy God.
- ...seeking God's answers to the human condition
- ...being interested in how God feels about what we are doing as a nation

e.g. It means knowing how He feels about issues...

### **Step #4. Turning From Our Wicked Ways**

2 Chronicles 7:14 "...and My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray, and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways..."

Proverbs 14:34 "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people."

"America is great because she is good. When she ceases to be good, she'll cease to be great." (Alexis de Tocqueville)

"Lord, purify me first. Then purify Your church. Then purify this nation."

## **II. The Promises**

2 Chronicles 7:14 "...and My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray, and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

**Promise #1. THEN God will hear from heaven**

**Promise #2. THEN God will forgive our sin**

**Promise #3. THEN God will heal our land**

## **III. The Proof**

cf. Ezra 1:1-4; 6:8-9, 10-12; 7:6; 21-23, 27-28

### **Concluding Challenge:**

"When God's people return to the Lord, governments tremble!"

"All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing." (Edmond Burke)

"So let us pray that our beloved country will have a new birth of freedom; not a freedom from God - which always leads to ultimate moral slavery - but rather a freedom built upon God and His commandments apart from which any nation will perish."