

- Rev. Grant Mangold, [www.RiversideChurchIowa.com](http://www.RiversideChurchIowa.com)

## WAKE UP AMERICA !

Where were YOU last night? Or this afternoon? That's when millions of Americans gather in homes, churches, schools, and businesses, for the National Day of Prayer. We're bowing before Almighty God, in repentance and faith, to ask His mercy to change our nation. Especially in this election year!

Are YOU among the 30 percent of Americans who say they pray every day and attend church at least once a week? That's a just-released result of a recent study by the Pew Research Center looking at "religion in everyday life." Only 45 percent of respondents believe prayer is essential to their religious faith. Depending how they identified themselves, people pray only 27 to 90 percent of the time even when they have major life decisions to make. This data helps us understand our dire situation.

**WHY PRAY?** - The psalmist asked, "*When the foundations are being destroyed, what can the righteous do?*" (Psalm 11:3). Rev. Franklin Graham has some answers. He leads the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association and the international relief and evangelism organization Samaritan's Purse, and an honorary chairman for the National Day of Prayer. The 2016 theme is **Wake Up America!**

Graham writes, "I believe our nation is in trouble today, probably more than I've seen in my lifetime. We are contending with issues that are causing the very foundation of our country to crumble. Our moral and spiritual roots are eroding, the economy is misleading, family life is disintegrating, and political forces are at unprecedented odds. There seem to be very few leaders who will take a stand for God and for His Word.

"It can be tempting to believe that America has reached a point of no return. While these factors cause despair, we are reminded in Scripture that with God, nothing is impossible. No problem is too great for Him. Seasons of distress and uncertainty and hardship call for faithful, fervent prayer by God's people and remind us of our responsibility to humble ourselves before Almighty God. We cannot expect healing to come to our nation apart from obedience to God through His Holy Word.

"God longs for His people to humble themselves and to seek forgiveness and pray for guidance. God's Word says, '*Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord*' (Psalm 33:12). The Bible commands that we repent of our sins and turn to Almighty God. And because we are confident that we serve a God of mercy and compassion, we know that He stands ready to respond to our cries out of the abundance of His divine wisdom.

"It is a crucial time for us to individually and collectively seek God's divine intervention for the challenges facing us. We need to pray not only for our nation, but we need to pray for our leaders, for all those who govern us, that they will turn to God with humble hearts and follow Him. Our military leaders need our prayers as we have dedicated men and women serving on battlefields and sacrificing their blood to protect our nation and many innocent people around the world. God is faithful to bless those who turn to Him.

"Pray that as a nation we would return to God. As we call on God, let us do so by genuine faith, believing that He hears our prayers. God can heal this great land, for which our forefathers fought and died. We need spiritual renewal, we need a revival in America, and we need each and every one to pray. Lord, Hear Our Cry!" — Franklin Graham

**LET US PRAY!** - The Apostle Paul gives similar instruction in 1 Timothy 2. "*I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one mediator between God and mankind, Jesus Christ.*"

If these words resonate with you, you know that changing a nation begins with YOU - one heart at a time. Pray today, and every day, for God's peace through Christ Jesus for the people around you. You can get more information and several helpful prayer resources at [www.NationalDayOfPrayer.org](http://www.NationalDayOfPrayer.org)

- **Wake up. Be a prayer warrior, not a worrier.** Take it to the LORD in prayer!