

## NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Will you pray? Thousands of churches across America will gather to observe the National Day of Prayer on this the third Thursday of May, proclaimed by President Donald Trump. These gatherings provide an extraordinary opportunity of visible union under God, asking for a sweep of His hand across our land for unity, humility, healing, and awakening. "There is no great movement of God that has ever occurred that does not begin with the extraordinary prayer of God's people," says Dr. Ronnie Floyd, president, National Day of Prayer Task Force, and Senior Pastor, Cross Church. Here's the "national prayer" of the 2018 National Day of Prayer Taskforce. Make words like these your personal prayer:

**HUMILITY** - "Our Dear Heavenly Father, while we come to You in complete humility, we also come to You with boldness in the authoritative name of Your One and Only Son, Jesus Christ, who is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. In Jesus' name, fill us now with Your Holy Spirit and lead us as we pray in Jesus' name for America. Oh God, we are burdened for our nation today. We turn from the sins that we have committed against your Word and your Name. We turn away from our contentious words and ways toward one another that has led us to division and polarization. We turn away from our disrespect and lack of dignity toward each other, and we turn away from our continual devaluation of all human life from the womb until death in this world.

**UNITY** - "We also turn away from and refuse to participate in skepticism, criticism, and cynicism in our nation. We turn away from anything that divides us, and we run toward the gospel of Jesus Christ that is the only thing that has the power to unite us together. Lord, in this critical hour in our nation, we pray for unity in America. Only You can bring unity, harmony, and oneness in America. As your Word calls us in Ephesians 4:3, '*Making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace*', we ask You to empower us to make every effort to live in unity, to call for unity, and to forward unity in America continually. We pray for the churches in America to unify in Jesus Christ and to pray as one unified spiritual family for America. May Your Church pray for America passionately, perpetually, privately, and publicly.

**HEALING** - "We pray for God's power to unify families, workplaces, communities, and cities in America. By Your Spirit, lead us to forgiveness, reconciliation, healing, and unity. We pray for people of all ethnicities and races in America to come together as one, living in peace and unity together. Oh Lord, because each of us is created in Your image, please give us the courage to stand against all racial and ethnic division, denouncing it as evil and sinful, while simultaneously coming together in unity with all persons knowing this is God's will for us. We pray in unity for the security of our nation. We ask You to preserve the United States of America from the forces of evil that are threatening our lives and our future. God, please guard all persons in public and private settings from anyone or anything that desires to harm us or take our lives. Our future is in Your hands.

**AWAKENING** - "We agree clearly, unite visibly, and pray extraordinarily for the next Great Spiritual Awakening in America. Oh Lord, wake up Your church spiritually and convict Your people to agree clearly, unite visibly, and pray extraordinarily until the next Great Spiritual Awakening occurs in our generation. Oh God, we stand together upon Your words in *Psalms 133:1*, "*How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in harmony.*" Through Jesus' name and by the Holy Spirit's power, we pray for all Americans to unify and to live together in unity. In the mighty and majestic name of Jesus Christ who is the Only Savior and the Only Hope in this world, we pray. Amen."

**CONTINUALLY** - while our nation observes an annual day of prayer, regular prayer is a daily spiritual discipline of believers. Will you pray everyday? As the apostle Paul enjoins us 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, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.*" More information at [www.nationaldayofprayer.org](http://www.nationaldayofprayer.org) □