

NOW WHAT?

Ready to move on in 2021, or are you held back by 2020? Many Christians struggle with the current state of affairs regarding the outcome of the 2020 election. What should be a believer's "state of the union" statement of resolve for 2021? It should be to live out God's Biblical Christian worldview - by walking in God's Word and ways, by the power of the Holy Spirit within.

1- KEEP THINKING - Don't be blindsided by those who accuse Christian patriots of some sort of nonsensical "Christian nationalism" that somehow subverts the Gospel by putting politics before what they suggest to be the work of the church. Several so-called Christian writers as well as secular propagandists make these conflated claims. Don't let it confuse you.

If you're taking flak, it usually means you're over the target. Why would they want Christians uninvolved in politics? Just like you mustn't allow fake news to propagandize your thinking, don't let a 'fake Christianity' displace what God's Word and American history show to be God's pattern for changing the world. We pray "*Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done*" for good reason.

2- KEEP PRAYING - as your first line of both defense and offense. We are first and foremost in a spiritual battle, regardless of political overtones. It's what believers have faced for 2,000 years. Note that in the "spiritual armor" metaphor of Ephesians 6:10-20, prayer is the secret weapon. Invisible but invincible. It is a constant communication with our Lord, despite the foes.

"*Praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication,*" Paul commands. "*To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints.*" Prayer isn't telling God anything He doesn't already know. We lay our anxieties before God's throne of grace, and He brings our thoughts into line with His, as we consider who He is and what He is doing.

3- KEEP READING - the Bible, God's written-down truth. What God has written is what God wants His people to know and to do, in all times and places. Ephesians 6:18 says take up "*the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.*" Believers are to verbally declare what God has said, which is the same as He has written down in the Bible. Unchanging truth.

The truth of God's Word overcomes the lies of the world, of the flesh, and of the devil. You should read widely, and whatever you read, "*take every thought captive to obey Christ.*" As you compare what God says versus what others say, God's truth will "*destroy strongholds, arguments, and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God*" (2 Corinthians 10:3-5).

4- KEEP TALKING - about the gospel of truth and grace. In Ephesians 6, the apostle asks for prayer amidst the spiritual struggle, so "*that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, that I may declare it boldly as I ought to speak*" even though he was "*an ambassador in chains.*" Obedience has consequences.

Christ-followers are new creations in Christ. God has appointed us to be His own personal ambassadors on earth, to speak His words to every segment of culture and society. To kings and peasants, imploring every one to be reconciled to God through Christ (2 Corinthians 5:11-6:2).

5- KEEP OBEYING - what the Bible commands. "*As you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him. See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.*"

These words from Colossians 2:6-10 remind that the risen reigning Christ rules over all things. Even your life. And the dark world in which we live, which desperately needs God's light.

6- NEVER GIVE UP - The Christian's life and work are a marathon, not a sprint. God promises His strength, His wisdom, His encouragement, His rest, His power. God assures us that He will never leave us. He will provide and protect as we undertake His purposes. He does not promise an easy path, but a hard narrow way, with persecutions and tribulations. Expect them. Always wear your spiritual armor. Political winds may storm against believers, but we will face them.

We persevere. We will become even more diligent and determined. God may yet surprise America and the world with unexpected blessings. If God's people yet repent of their sins, in humility, asking Him to heal our land. Pray for God to raise up believers, patriots, who once again will trust and obey Him to accomplish His purposes, and to glorify His name! ☐