

PRAY FOR OUR NATION

The first Thursday each May, millions of Americans gather to humble themselves in the National Day of Prayer. The 2021 theme is "Lord, Pour Out Your Love, Life, Liberty" from 2Corinthians 3:17, "*where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.*" The NationalDayOfPrayer.org offers this outline with Scriptures to pray for seven influence centers of our culture - every day:

1- FAMILY - Pray that God would "prompt every family to bow their knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named; granting them, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit, rooted and grounded in love, and be filled up with all the fulness of God" (Ephesians 3:19-25).

Ask God to make our families instruments of love, life and liberty in our communities (Acts 17:24-28). Pray that children would hear affirmation and affection from their parents, as the Lord spoke over His Son, "You are my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (Luke 3:21).

2- CHURCH - Pray we would "be diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, knowing there is one body and one Spirit, as we are called in one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all" (Ephesians 4:3-5).

Pray for the Holy Spirit to unite believers in love, bringing churches together to spread the Gospel (Galatians 6:9-10) and that we would sing and serve skillfully and joyfully, as we work and worship in accordance with God's Word, will and ways (Psalm 33:1-5).

3- WORKPLACE - Pray that God's Spirit-filled people would "work as for the Lord" (Colossians 3:23), and "be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain" (1Corinthians 15:58).

Pray that Christ's followers are filled, taught, and inspired with the Word of God to live by it, completely equipped for every good work, by the Spirit of the Lord. (2Timothy 3:16-17).

4- EDUCATION - Pray the Spirit of the Lord to fill every campus and classroom, and that every educator and student would "learn to do good" (Isaiah 1:17), and "be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding" (Colossians 1:9).

Pray they are "taught that God's hands made and fashioned them" and pray to "be given understanding, that they may learn and discern what is holy, what is profane, and follow the Lord's commandments, so they know His love and life and liberty" (Psalm 119:73).

5- MILITARY - Pray our armed forces would "be strong, mighty, fighting for the Lord, to trample the enemy and defend the afflicted" (Zechariah 10:5), "filled with Your power as Your witnesses, worshipers and warriors, bringing love, life, liberty as they defend freedom" (Acts 1:8).

Pray they are "protected from being entangled and distracted by everyday earthly affairs; always focused in mind and body on their Lord, mission and leaders" (2Timothy 2:3-4).

6- GOVERNMENT - Pray the Spirit of the Lord would guide and guard local, state and federal government, so that "all elected and appointed leaders would be filled with the Spirit of wisdom, understanding, counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord who will judge with righteousness, and that by His Spirit they make laws and decisions" (Isaiah 11:1-5).

Pray that "America would be known and blessed as a nation whose God is the Lord, a faithful people whom He has chosen for His own inheritance" (Psalm 33:12). Pray "that America's foundations would align with the righteousness and justice in the foundation of God's throne; that lovingkindness and truth would surround us, as Christ's love, life, and liberty are found within us" (Psalm 89:14). If Christians don't work for these things, who will?

7- MEDIA - Pray that the gifts and fruit of the Holy Spirit would fill the industries of arts, media, entertainment and communication (1Peter 4:10), to convey beauty and light and truth.

Pray that Christians would not compromise their faith to get work, but be treated equitably, and that God would be magnified not mocked (Isaiah 26:7-9), and that media would speak factually, truthfully, not being politically partisan or partial in research or reports (Ephesians 4:25).

The National Day of Prayer is a seventy-year American tradition. And Scripture such as 1Timothy 2:1-6 instructs followers of the Lord Jesus Christ to pray for our nation - every day! □