

# TEAMPRAY

PRAYING FOR THE SOUL OF AMERICA

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## THE PROBLEM

America is in trouble and the problem we face as a nation is the age old problem of human rebellion against God.

In the same way ancient Israel departed from God once she grew powerful and prosperous, so America has turned her back and walked away from God.

Ruth Graham, the wife of Billy Graham once said "if God doesn't come soon and bring judgment upon the United States, He's going to have to apologize to Sodom and Gomorrah!" She made that statement in 1965!

Over forty years later and things have only gotten worse. In every sphere of society, sin is celebrated while righteousness is denigrated. The vilest forms of perversion are now championed as "normal and acceptable" behavior while those who decry them are labeled "hateful and intolerant."

Once America was like a "city of light set upon a hill" and a beacon of hope to the whole world. Today our beloved nation stands on the brink of total collapse; economically, politically, morally and spiritually.

Our sins have separated us from God.

- The sin of Molech (abortion)
- The sin of Sodom (homosexuality)
- The sin of Babylon (worldliness, idolatry, sexual sin)
- The sin of failing to bless Israel

Abortion was made legal in America in 1973 – *forty years ago this year*; a biblical generation! Since then an estimated forty million babies have been sacrificed on the altar of selfishness. God, speaking through the prophet Isaiah clearly warned:

*When you spread out your hands in prayer, I will hide my eyes from you; even if you offer many prayers, I will not listen. Your hands are full of blood;*

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Likewise, the sin of sodomy is metastasizing like a deadly cancer across the land. Every society and empire that has arisen upon the world stage only to fall into total ruin has had this one thing in common: *the sharp rise of homosexuality as a sign of their hastening demise.*

America is now a post-Christian nation. Christians now comprise a minority influence in our country and Christian ideals of righteousness and morality are marginal at best.

The very notion of God is now being forcibly removed from every venue of public discourse. Nativity scenes are considered “dangerous” and even memorial crosses which adorn the graves of fallen heroes are being removed by court order. Jesus Christ has become someone to mock and blaspheme.

On September 11, 2001 something significant happened which indicated that the sins of America had reached critical mass. Our divine hedge of protection was lifted for a moment and the ancient enemies of Israel (and America) launched a horrific attack on the World Trade Center in New York City killing an estimated three thousand people – *the exact number of Israelites who died as a result of forging a golden calf and committing sexual sin!* (Exodus 32:28)

Now, twelve years later, the people of America are as defiant against God as ever even as our economy careens out of control toward certain disaster. With a national debt over sixteen trillion dollars and growing every minute, many economists are sounding the alarm and warning of a complete meltdown which will have a “domino effect” around the world.

And while believers should be discerning the times and streaming into churches to pray and seek true repentance for themselves, their families and the nation - most remain complacent about the future and unmoved to take action. Few, it seems, are willing to make even the smallest sacrifice for the sake of their nation if it affects their own comfort or plans.

Instead of being awakened to pray with earnest, many Christians are hedging their bets with stockpiles of gold and silver and storehouses of food! Instead of wisely investing their resources and energy into the kingdom of God they are “building bigger barns” to store up resources for themselves. *A fatal mistake!*

## THE SOLUTION

So what then is the solution?

It's obvious that people who do not know God and who do not believe His Word will *never* repent because they see no need to do so. The lost are held captive to the "god of this world." Their hearts and minds are blinded to the truth.

Therefore the solution to mitigating God's judgment on America lies at the feet of God's people. Only we have the ability to repent and turn back to God.

We must do so both on a personal level and then on the level of "spiritual identification" which is called "intercession."

When God told Abraham that the wickedness of Sodom had reached the point of judgment, Abraham bargained with God.

*He pled with the Lord, "Will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked? What if there are fifty righteous people in the city? Will you really sweep it away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous people in it? "Far be it for you to do such a thing, to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked alike. Far be it from you! Will not the Judge of all the earth do what's right." Abraham would say boldly to the Lord. And the Lord would respond: "If I find fifty righteous people in the city of Sodom, I will spare the whole place for their sake." (Genesis 18)*

Abraham proceeded to bargain downward the number of righteous that he might find in the city in order to spare it. From fifty to forty to thirty to twenty and finally down to ten. But in the end he could not move even ten people to turn back to God.

There are a few important points we can learn from this story.

First, God is not willing for people to perish. He *will* cancel or shorten the period of judgment *if* a significant remnant will turn back to Him and plead for mercy.

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*Ten* is the minimal number in this story and the Hebrew word for “ten” used here is the word “*eser*” and it means to “give a tithe.”

When we tithe our money (give ten percent) God counts the “tenth” as though we had given 100%! He counts it as *everything*.

Likewise, when it comes to staving off God’s judgment for a whole nation God requires that only a tenth of any given population repent and turn back to Him. He will count that righteous tenth as though everyone had repented.

In a church of a hundred, for instance, it would equal at least ten people. According to Jewish custom men cannot pray in a public venue unless they form what is called a “minion” which is comprised of a minimum of ten men!

## THE CALL AND THE PROMISE

The call of God upon a righteous remnant to mitigate divine judgment through intercessory prayer is found in several places in the Word of God but perhaps the best example we have is found in the words of King Solomon. In 2 Chronicles 7:14 he wrote:

*If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.*

It is God’s people (not the lost) who are called to “stand in the gap” and mitigate God’s judgment through prayer. Presently there are approximately 311,000,000 (million) people in America. God is looking for about 31 million believers who will stand before Him and pray.

How many people in America describe themselves as Christians? About 225,000,000 (million) or 85% of the total population! It would seem like a small feat to call a mere 31 million of those 225 million to fast and pray for the future of America. But like Abraham learned, finding even ten men in all of Sodom was not possible.

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We are here because we know that America's destiny can be salvaged through prayer and fasting. We are willing to be part of that small but important remnant which will heed the words of Solomon and facilitate the healing of our land.

We realize that the "call" to stand in the gap and pray is not an exercise in futility. The *call* comes with a *promise!* God promises to hear the prayers of a righteous remnant and heal our land!

How do we do this?

- Prayer
- Humility
- Seeking a relationship with God
- Turning from personal sin

## PRAYER

Most importantly, God is calling us to pray – not only as individuals – but as people gathered and bound together by this common cause. Solomon wrote: "If my people (plural)..."

There is cumulative power when people come together to pray. Yes, we can all pray at home or in our car or anywhere and everywhere. But something mysteriously powerful happens when we are willing to set our own agendas aside and make the extra effort to actually gather together to pray. It speaks volumes about how seriously we have taken the call to heart. Grapes must cling together on a vine and actually touch the "skin" of one another for the fruit to ripen properly. Likewise, we need to actually come together and our lives must "touch" for our prayers to ripen and mature.

When the Apostles were taken prisoner – the *whole church* gathered to pray for their deliverance. The Bible says they "lifted their voices to God as one man (or with one accord...)" (Acts 4:24) – *and God acted!*

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How should we pray?

When the nation of Judah was threatened with destruction and exile, Habakkuk enjoined the people to pray with “intense emotion.” (Hebrew: shigionoth)

The Bible also says that the “fervent prayer of a righteous person avails much” (James 5:6)

The word “fervent” means “boiling over.” Sometimes we come to prayer meetings and never actually pray. We come and listen as others pray. Maybe you are not comfortable praying out loud but praying out loud is important. You don’t have to form beautiful sentences. Simply say what comes to your mind. It can be as simple as “Lord, help us!”

Sometimes the Holy Spirit even groans through us in prayer. In a time of great emergency, this is probably the most appropriate kind of prayer. If all you can do is groan – then groan! (Romans 8:26)

## FASTING

Humility is a key factor in prayer that avails.

Approaching God with humility means that we do not approach him to pray for “those wicked people” who stand apart from us - but rather to identify with those we pray for *personally*.

On the Cross, the intercession of Jesus was most effective because He actually *became* personally identified with our sins. He mediated them by taking them *inside* His own body.

When we pray, we pray as the “body of Christ” and therefore we need to take the sins of our nation into our own circle of prayer.

We need to pray for them as if they are our own sins – whether we have actually committed them or not. We do so, because at that moment we are standing or kneeling before God as *representatives* of others.

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Another facet of humility is the act of fasting.

We know this from the example of Christ Himself along with the prophets and apostles.

Fasting moves us out of our daily routine and reminds us to focus our energy upon the need at hand.

The Holy Spirit uses our fasting to reveal to us of our true spiritual condition which can lead to deeper brokenness, repentance and change.

There are different ways of fasting. You are encouraged to seek the Lord and make your own decision as to what you will do. Here are some suggestions:

- Fast all meals on the day the Team meets
- Fast one meal on the day the Team meets
- Fast the last meal of the day on the day the Team meets
- Fast “meats and sweets” (Daniel fast) on the day the Team meets
- Fast until three o’clock in the afternoon on the day the Team meets

These are only suggestions, but fasting in some form is part of the Prayer Covenant we have made.

If you have medical issues which would be affected by fasting consult your doctor.

Do not fast water. This is dangerous to your health.



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### SOAKING PRAYER

Finally, notice that Solomon not only said that God's people must pray – but also that we needed to “seek His face.”

While it might seem that these are the same thing they are not.

The Hebrew word for “seek” means “to desire and long for” and it refers to building an intimate relationship with the Lord.

Coming together once a month to pray as a Team is the minimum commitment we are asking you to make. But in reality, if all we do is *this* we are still falling short of what God desires from us as intercessors.

That is why we will focus our energy and time on what is called “soaking prayer” the other Wednesday nights of the month.

“Soaking” is just another way of describing what it means to wait upon the Lord in prayer. It involves finding a quiet place to sit, recline or stand before God, bask in His love and worship Him.

*The King's Chamber* (Prayer Room) will be available anytime you wish to use it.

Call the church office to make your appointment.

Worship music plays in the King's Chamber twenty-four hours and seven days a week.

It is also recommended that you read Pastor Mark's books [Becoming the Beloved](#) and [Breaking the Seal](#) if you have not done so already because they will help you as you seek to develop an intimate relationship with Christ as His Bride. We also recommend reading the timely book [The Harbinger](#) by Jonathan Cahn.

OUR PRAYER COVENANT

## *Prayer Covenant*

*We, who are called by your Name covenant with you, O God, and each other to make it our priority to gather together on the first Wednesday of every month for one year to humble ourselves with prayer and fasting and to intercede for ourselves, our families, our church, government leaders and most of all for Israel and America. With confidence that you, O God, will hear our cry, turn our hearts back to you and heal our land. This twenty third day of February the year of our Lord twenty thirteen.*