

A Season of Prayer and Fasting – Week One

Prayers for national conviction and repentance

Our nation is in desperate trouble! What Supreme Court nominee Robert Bork once described as “Slouching Towards Gomorrah” has become a headlong rush toward the precipice of destruction. Blinded by a powerful delusion (2 Thess. 2:11) caused by the rejection of God’s truth, our society embraces the lie that immorality and idolatry have no consequences; we are in control of our destiny. Our scripture readings will address our many sins as we plead for forgiveness and the healing of our land.

Our prayer focus for the evening will be readings that call us to look at our own attitudes and habits as we ask the Holy Spirit to fulfill one of the purposes for which He was sent: to convict the world of sin. For both prayer concerns, we approach God’s throne of grace with a confidence founded on His heart and His promises: God is merciful and just!

Monday

Morning: “Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.” Proverbs 14:34
“Then I turned my face to the Lord God, seeking him by prayer and pleas for mercy with fasting and sackcloth and ashes. ⁴ I prayed to the Lord my God and made confession, saying, ‘O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, ⁵ we have sinned and done wrong and acted wickedly and rebelled, turning aside from your commandments and rules.’” Daniel 9:3-5

- *Confess the sins of self-reliance and the worship of the idols of wealth, materialism, and sensuality.
- *Confess the rejection of the Bible and the truth it contains, on which our nation was founded.
- *Pray for mercy to be spared the punishment we deserve.

Evening: “I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! ¹⁶ So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. ¹⁷ For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. ¹⁸ I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see.” Revelation 3:15-18 (a portion of the letter to the congregation at Laodicea)

“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.” 1 John 2:15-16

- *Pray the Holy Spirit to search your heart and reveal self-reliance and desires for things the Apostle John lists that dilute your pursuit of God and His purposes.
- *Pray He will renew and strengthen you in the knowledge of His will.

Tuesday

Morning: “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. ¹⁹ For what can be known

about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. ²⁰For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.” Romans 1:18-20

*Confess the willful rejection of God in spite of all the evidence He is a holy, powerful, and present God.

*Pray that God will pour out His Holy Spirit to bring conviction, sorrow over our sin, and genuine repentance on our country.

Evening: “But godliness with contentment is great gain, ⁷for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. ⁸But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. ⁹But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction.” 1 Timothy 6:6-9

“For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things.” Philippians 3:18-19

*Pray the Holy Spirit will reveal any desire to find fulfillment and satisfaction in wealth or possessions.

Pray He will give us a deep and abiding contentment in our relationship with Him and with His people.

Wednesday

Morning: “Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, ²⁵because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen. ²⁶For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; ²⁷and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.” Romans 1:24-27

*Confess the sins of our nation for its mockery of the gift of marriage through the sanctioning of same-sex marriage and for embracing the LGBT lifestyle as normal. Confess the normalization of transgender mutilation surgeries on our children.

*Pray for repentance, salvation, and healing for those who have suffered the consequences for embracing this lie.

*Pray for the Holy Spirit to set free those deceived and in bondage to homosexuality.

Evening: “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ ²⁸But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.” Matthew 5:27-28

“Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. ¹⁹Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, ²⁰for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.” 1 Corinthians 6:18-20

*Pray the Holy Spirit reveals sexual impurity in our desires and thinking, asking Him to convict us of the use of explicit romance writings, pornography, and movies.

*Pray for His grace to set us free and to convince us our sin has been fully paid for through Jesus’s cross

and resurrection.

*Pray for His strength to recognize and to stand firm in times of temptation.

Thursday

Morning: "When a land falls into the hands of the wicked, he blindfolds its judges. If it is not he, then who is it?" Job 9:24

"If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small. ¹¹Rescue those who are being taken away to death; hold back those who are stumbling to the slaughter. ¹²If you say, "Behold, we did not know this," does not he who weighs the heart perceive it? Does not he who keeps watch over your soul know it, and will he not repay man according to his work?" Proverbs 24:10-12

*Confess the blindness and the wickedness of our judges who legalized the murder of the unborn and have upheld it, allowing the slaughter of 64 million preborn children.

*Pray that God, in His great mercy, will spare us the judgement of destruction our deeds have earned and that He will bring a nationwide conviction and repentance.

*Pray for healing of the hearts of many men and women who were deceived and sacrificed their children through abortion. May they find true comfort and hope in the Savior's promises.

Evening: "Judge not, that you be not judged. ²For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. ³Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?" Mathew 7:1-3

*Pray the Holy Spirit will reveal our habit of judging others and our pride lying at the root of our critical attitude.

*Pray He will show us the way we judge others by our interpretations of their actions, while often judging ourselves by our intentions.

Friday

Morning: Our rejection of the true God has led us to seek comfort and escape through alcohol and drugs. The bondage, destruction, and death resulting from this idolatry is incalculable.

"Wine is a mocker and beer a brawler; whoever is led astray by them is not wise." Proverbs 20:6

"Woe to those who rise early in the morning to run after their drinks, who stay up late at night till they are inflamed with wine." Isaiah 5:11

*Confess our nations reliance on drugs and alcohol to escape the pressures and to find relief from the boredom of life without God.

*Pray for a fresh release of the Holy Spirit to bring conviction leading to genuine repentance, deliverance, and sobriety.

*Pray for strength and endurance for those who seek sobriety.

Evening: "Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit." Ephesians 5:18

"Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour." 1 Peter 5:8

Pray the Holy Spirit will reveal any unholy and unhealthy dependence on alcohol or drugs in you. Ask Him to make clear to you any compromises and rationalizations which have kept you from recognizing their power over you.

Saturday

Morning: "Because the Lord was witness between you and the wife of your youth, to whom you have been faithless, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant. ¹⁵ Did he not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union? And what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth. ¹⁶ "For the man who does not love his wife but divorces her, says the Lord, the God of Israel, covers his garment with violence, says the Lord of hosts. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and do not be faithless."

Malachi 2:12-16

"Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. ⁶ And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction." Malachi 4:5-6

*Confess the broken state of the American family as evident in people living together outside of marriage, gangs, adolescent drug use and suicide, and gun violence.

*Pray God will strengthen and heal marriages and that our nation would come to see marriage as a lifelong commitment.

*Pray the Holy Spirit will convict and convince fathers of their importance and responsibility to care for their children.

Evening:

"Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, ²⁶ that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷ so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. ²⁸ In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, ³⁰ because we are members of his body. ³¹ "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." ³² This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. ³³ However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband." Ephesians 5:22-33

*Pray the Holy Spirit will give rich grace to fathers, mothers, and children to humble themselves before Him so that they may embrace and thrive in the roles of each within the family. Move all to repent of anger, un-forgiveness, and the selfishness keeping us from experiencing the joy He intends for us.