

Prayer Focus for our Nation

Pastor Eddie Turner

Wednesday, May 2, 2018

2 Chron.7:14(NIV)- if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

National Day of Prayer

The observance of a day of fasting and prayer was brought to all of the colonists by the [Continental Congress](#) in 1775.

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Congress issued a proclamation recommending "a day of public humiliation, fasting, and prayer" be observed by the "English Colonies" on Thursday, July 20, 1775, "and to bless our rightful sovereign, King George the Third..."

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The text, written by [John Witherspoon](#) and [John Hancock](#), instructed the colonists to pray for a resumption of "the just rights and privileges of the Colonies" in "civil and religious" matters. A proclamation to this end was sent to every town in the colonies. [John Adams](#) wrote that the popular response was gratifying, that the special day was more widely observed than the practice of going to church on Sunday. After this success, Congress determined to call for a day of fasting and prayer each spring, and a day of thanksgiving and praise each fall.

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In his role as [Commander-in-Chief](#) of the [Continental Army](#), General [George Washington](#) acknowledged a day of "fasting, humiliation and prayer" proclaimed by the Continental Congress to be held on Thursday, May 6, 1779. To enable his soldiers to observe the day, Washington ordered a one-day cessation of recreation and "unnecessary labor". In March 1780, Congress announced a day of "fasting, humiliation and prayer" to be held on Wednesday, April 26, 1780.  
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The practice of calling for national days of fasting and prayer was abandoned from 1784 until 1789, even though thanksgiving days were observed each fall. On October 3, 1789, President Washington called for a national day of prayer and thanksgiving to be observed on Thursday, November 26, 1789; President Adams continued the practice of proclaiming national days of prayer in the spring and fall but President Jefferson did not, as he considered prayer to be a matter for personal rather than state involvement. After James Madison, none of the next eleven presidents issued prayer proclamations.
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In January–February 1952 during the [Korean War](#), the desirability of a united national prayer was stated by Reverend [Billy Graham](#), who said, "What a thrilling, glorious thing it would be to see the leaders of our country today kneeling before Almighty God in prayer. What a thrill would sweep this country. What renewed hope and courage would grip the Americans at this hour of peril."  
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Representative [Percy Priest](#) from [Tennessee](#) observed that Graham had issued a challenge for a national day of prayer. Members of the House and Senate introduced a joint resolution for an annual National Day of Prayer, "on which the people of the United States may turn to God in prayer and meditation at churches, in groups, and as individuals."
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On April 17, 1952, President [Harry S. Truman](#) signed a bill

proclaiming a National Day of Prayer must be declared by each subsequent president at an appropriate date of his choice.

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In 1982 a conservative evangelical Christian organization called the "National Prayer Committee" was formed to coordinate and implement a fixed annual day of prayer for the purpose of organizing evangelical Christian prayer events with local, state, and federal government entities.

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In his 1983 declaration, Ronald Reagan said, "From General Washington's struggle at Valley Forge to the present, this Nation has fervently sought and received divine guidance as it pursued the course of history. This occasion provides our Nation with an opportunity to further recognize the source of our blessings, and to seek His help for the challenges we face today and in the future."

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In 1988, the law was amended so that the National Day of Prayer would be held on the first Thursday of May. Two stated intentions of the National Day of Prayer were that it would be a day when adherents of all great religions could unite in prayer and that it may one day bring renewed respect for God to all the peoples of the nation.

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[Ronald Reagan](#) and [George H. W. Bush](#) (1981–1993) each hosted special National Day of Prayer events at the [White House](#).

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[Bill Clinton](#) (1993–2001) did not hold any such events during his time in office.

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[George W. Bush](#) (2001–2009) made his first presidential act be the announcement of a National Day of Prayer, and he held events at the White House in each year of his presidency. [Barack Obama](#) (2009–2017) did not hold any public events at the White House

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President Donald Trump and First Lady Melania Trump attended church services in observation of a special National Day of Prayer, which Trump previously declared, in support of the victims of Hurricane Harvey dwelling in the state of Texas, to "uplift one another and assist those suffering from the consequences of this terrible storm."

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..... "if my people, who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray..."

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God places the responsibility of the healing of the nation upon His people.

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Prov. 14:34(NIV)- Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin condemns any people.

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Prov. 29:2(NIV)- When the righteous thrive, the people rejoice; when the wicked rule, the people groan.

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Psalm 33:12(NIV)- Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people he chose for his inheritance.

1 John 5:14-15(NIV)- This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. ¹⁵ And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.

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1 Tim. 2:1-4(NIV)~ I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— <sup>2</sup> for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. <sup>3</sup>This is good, and pleases God our Savior, <sup>4</sup> who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

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1). Pray for our elected officials  
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2). Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem

Psalm 122:6-7(NIV)~ Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: “May those who love you be secure. ⁷ May there be peace within your walls and security within your citadels.”

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3). Pray for God to send workers into the harvest fields

Matt. 9:35-38(NIV)~ Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. <sup>36</sup> When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. <sup>37</sup> Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. <sup>38</sup> Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”