

MY HOPE FOR OUR NATION

2 Chronicles 7:14, Psalm 33:12

- **On *Independence Day* the U.S.A. celebrates our 247th birthday; and since 1776 our nation has grown to become the most powerful, prosperous nation on Earth.**
- **One reason our nation has been blessed is that, while it has always been far from perfect, it began and has continued with many Christian beliefs and values.**
    - "For the glory of God and for the advancement of the Christian faith." - Commitment of Pilgrims to the *Mayflower Compact*
    - "To the distinguished character of a Patriot, it should be our highest glory to add the more distinguished character of a Christian." - George Washington
    - "The highest glory of the American Revolution was this: it connected in one indissoluble bond the principles of civil government with the principles of Christianity." - John Quincy Adams
    - "Without God there could be no American form of government, nor an American way of life. Recognition of the Supreme Being is the first - the most basic - expression of Americanism." - Dwight D. Eisenhower
- **In our day we face many challenges in our nation, challenges that are probably too big for governments or even well-intentioned human beings; but not for GOD.**
- The LORD - *"If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their land."* (2 Chronicles 7:14)
- ***What steps can we take individually and collectively to help make the U.S. a healthier, happier and holier nation?***

Bringing Health To Our "Land" Requires:

STEPPING UP TO BE <u>GODLY</u> <u>PEOPLE</u> IN AN UNGODLY WORLD

- The LORD - *"If My people who are called by My name . . ."* (2 Chronicles 7:14)
- **Just like the Lord called the Israelite people to higher standards than the nations around them, the Lord has called Christians to stand up and be different from the rest of the world around us.**

- *"Give your bodies to God because of all He has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice - the kind He will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship Him. Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect."* (Romans 12:1-2)
- *"You are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for He called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light."* (1 Peter 2:9)
- **The great needs in our nation of justice, respect, restoration and spiritual awakening requires God's people stepping up and making a difference.**
- ***What are some steps I can take to "stand up" for good and for God?***

Bringing Health To Our "Land" Requires:

HUMBLING OURSELVES BEFORE THE <u>LORD</u> AND OTHERS

- The LORD - *"If My people . . . will humble themselves . . ."* (2 Chronicles 7:14)
- **There are many misconceptions about what humility and pride really are.**
- **Pride is a preoccupation with ourselves and our achievements, and pride has brought down the Devil (Isaiah 14:12-14), humankind (Genesis 3:1-6), many individuals (Proverbs 16:18) and many nations.**
- **True humility is recognizing our helplessness without God and being willing to completely and utterly put our hope and trust in Him.**
- **Humility is the key to greatness in the Christian life.**
- Jesus - *"Those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."* (Matthew 23:12)
- *"God sets Himself against the proud, but He shows favor to the humble."* (James 4:6)
- ***In what areas of my life do I need to humble myself, acknowledging my need for God's help, strength and resources in my life?***

Bringing Health To Our "Land" Requires:

SEEKING GOD'S PRESENCE THROUGH <u>PRAYER</u>

- The LORD - *"If My people . . . will pray and seek My face . . ."* (2 Chronicles 7:14)
- **One of the outstanding sins among Christians today is the sin of prayerlessness.**
- "The principal cause of my leanness and unfruitfulness is owing to an unaccountable backwardness to pray. I can write or read or converse or hear with a ready heart; but prayer is more spiritual and inward than any of these, and the more spiritual any duty is the more my carnal heart is apt to stay from it. Prayer and patience and faith are never disappointed. When I can find my heart in frame and liberty for prayer, everything else is comparatively easy." - Richard Newton
- **Many Christians don't prioritize prayer, and therefore aren't really connecting with the Lord, experiencing His power, and making a difference in the world.**
- *"When Daniel learned that the law had been signed, he went home and knelt down as usual in his upstairs room, with its windows open toward Jerusalem. He prayed three times a day, just as he had always done, giving thanks to his God."* (Daniel 6:10)

- **"Seeking God's face" is praying so fervently we don't settle for less than being in His presence, discovering His will, and receiving answers to our prayers.**
- "The power of prayer can never be overrated. They who cannot serve God by preaching need not regret. If a man can but pray, he can do anything. He who knows how to overcome with God in prayer has Heaven and earth at his disposal." - Charles Spurgeon
- *"Then King Darius sent this message . . . 'I decree that everyone throughout my kingdom should tremble with fear before the God of Daniel. For He is the living God, and He will endure forever. His kingdom will never be destroyed, and His rule will never end. He rescues and saves His people; He performs miraculous signs and wonders in the heavens and on earth. He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions.'"* (Daniel 6:25-28)
- **God changes hearts, lives, circumstances, families, churches and nations when His people rise up to pray.**
- ***What are some steps that I could take to strengthen my prayer life?***

Bringing Health To Our "Land" Requires:

TURNING FROM OUR <u>UNGODLY</u> WAYS

- The LORD - *"If My people . . . will pray and . . . turn from their wicked ways . . ."* (2 Chronicles 7:14)
- **In our nation we've struggled with the sins of Hedonism (an all-out pursuit of pleasure, Intellectualism (an all-out pursuit of knowledge) Materialism (an all-out pursuit of possessions), Racism (an all-out pursuit of power), "Selfism" (an all-out pursuit of self-promotion), "Success-ism" (an all-out pursuit of achievement), "Thrillism" (an all-out pursuit of fun) and other major sins.**
- *"Because we have these promises . . . let us cleanse ourselves from everything that can defile our body or spirit. And let us work toward complete holiness because we fear God."* (2 Corinthians 7:1)
- ***What are some "wicked ambitions, attitudes and actions" that are hindering my prayer life and keeping me and others from experiencing God's power?***
- *"People who conceal their sins will not prosper, but if they confess and turn from them, they will receive mercy."* (Proverbs 28:13)
- ***What are some sinful strongholds that I need to repent of and turn from?***

Bringing Health To Our "Land" Requires:

TRUSTING THE <u>LORD</u> COMPLETELY

- The LORD - *"If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their land."* (2 Chronicles 7:14)
- **We have to trust in the Lord's closeness, character, compassion and power if we're to see our lives, families, region and nation "healed by the Lord."**
- *"Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take. Don't be impressed with your own wisdom. Instead, fear the LORD and turn away from evil. Then you will have healing for your body and strength for your bones."* (Proverbs 3:5-8)

- ***In what areas of my life and our world do I need to better "trust the Lord"?***

- *"What joy for the nation whose God is the LORD, whose people He has chosen as His inheritance."* (Psalm 33:12)
- ***What is the Lord communicating to me through this message, and how do I need to respond to it?***
    - **Join the *Celebration Prayer Team* (www.celebrationchurch.org/prayer)**
    - **Register for the *UNIFY Conference on Biblical Justice And Unity* (www.celebrationchurch.org).**
    - **Join a Life Group or Serve Team (www.celebrationchurch.org)**