



5

KEY WAYS

You Can Pray

FOR OUR COUNTRY

CBN
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5 Key Ways You Can Pray for Our Country

Informed Prayer is Powerful Prayer

The United States of America boasts overwhelming military strength, a rich economy, and citizenship with great liberty. Nevertheless, nothing happens outside of the will of God Almighty. We may cast a ballot to elect leaders, and use emails and phone calls to influence legislation, but above all we should pray to the One who is in charge of all things (Daniel 2:20-23).

President George Washington proclaimed our nation's first day of prayer in 1789, saying, "It is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor."¹

Truths to keep in mind while praying

We pray to a sovereign God.

He possesses supreme authority over all. The Apostle Paul poured out God's attributes in his letter to the Church in Colossae. He finishes with these words: "In Him all things hold together" (Colossians 1:15-20). Rather than taking matters into our own hands when faced with trials, we first appeal to the One who is in control.

We pray because it connects us with God.

The purpose of prayer is not to persuade God to fulfill a cosmic to-do list, but to be drawn into a conversation with God Himself. Through prayer we see His will more clearly and understand His heart for us and our nation more fully.

We pray for wisdom.

Governing is not easy. Our leaders are faced with complicated decisions every day—decisions that require sound wisdom. It is as important today as it was in 1797 at the Constitutional Convention, where Benjamin Franklin encouraged government leaders to pray for wisdom every morning, saying, "Have we now forgotten that powerful Friend? Or do we imagine we no longer need His assistance?"²

1 - Thanksgiving Proclamation. (n.d.). Retrieved December 08, 2017, from <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/05-04-02-0091>

2 - Madison Debates. (n.d.). Retrieved December 08, 2017, from http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/debates_628.asp

Inside This Prayer Guide

We've divided this guide so that over the course of five sessions, you'll pray for the nation as a whole, all three branches of government, and your role as a citizen. Within each section, you'll find:

- Quotes from our history's leaders to inspire your thinking
- Scripture and cross-references to inform your study
- Prayer starters to guide your words

May God meet you when you pray and
may He continue to be “our refuge
and strength” (Psalm 46:1).



One Nation Under God

Pray for God to Be Lord of Our Country

Most of our founding documents are anchored in Scripture and Christian thought. The 1783 peace treaty with Great Britain that officially declared the U.S. free begins with the words, “In the Name of the Most Holy and Undivided Trinity.”³ John Jay, Benjamin Franklin, and John Adams all signed it on behalf of the newly formed United States, indicating they held this belief sacred. Can we ever return to being a nation led by devout men and women whose moral and civil code is the Bible?

“The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; He makes the plans of the peoples of no effect. The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the plans of His heart to all generations. Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people He has chosen as His own inheritance.”

Psalm 33:10-12

“Without God, democracy will not and cannot long endure. If we ever forget that we’re one nation under God, then we will be a nation gone under.”⁴

–Ronald Reagan

Ecumenical Prayer Breakfast

August 23, 1984

3 - Treaty of Paris. (n.d.). Retrieved December 08, 2017, from <http://teachingamericanhistory.org/library/document/the-treaty-of-paris/>

4 - Remarks at an Ecumenical Prayer Breakfast in Dallas, Texas. (n.d.). Retrieved December 08, 2017, from

<https://www.reaganlibrary.archives.gov/archives/speeches/1984/82384a.htm>



Prayer Starters

- Thank God for our Founding Fathers and their faith.
- Pray that our leaders will pass legislation that follows the dictates of Micah 6:8 rather than simply embracing whatever is culturally popular in the moment.
- Pray that our fellow citizens will move beyond simply reading headlines and will instead seek a greater understanding of the real legislative and judicial challenges facing the United States of America.
- Pray that any legislation related to border security, immigration, and the continuing humanitarian crisis on our southern border will be authored with reason and compassion.
- Thank God for our military and diplomatic allies.
- Pray for the ability of our ambassadors to build strong relationships with other countries.
- Pray that our ever-growing and ever-changing economy will reflect the values of our founding and will also bring blessing to the rest of the world.

GO DEEPER: Did you know that the first 10 amendments to the U.S. Constitution, also called the Bill of Rights, originated in Scripture? Review the [Bill of Rights](#).

Executive Powers

Pray for the President and Vice President

Years ago, reporters dubbed the President of the United States “the most powerful man on earth.” With every passing term, the President and Vice President are under deeper scrutiny and are expected to weigh in on every cultural issue that arises, no matter how big or small. Our leader is expected to be perpetually wise, well-spoken, and confident. However, the President is still a human being who needs divine guidance and protection, just like the rest of us.

“For there is no authority except from God,
and those that exist have been instituted by God.”

Romans 13:1

*“Make me always watchful over my heart,
that neither the terrors of conscience, the
loathing of holy duties, the love of sin, nor
an unwillingness to depart this life, may
cast me into a spiritual slumber, but daily
frame me more and more into the likeness
of thy son Jesus Christ.”⁵*

–George Washington

Prayer journal on display
at Mount Vernon



Prayer Starters

- Pray for the physical protection of the President and Vice President. Pray for their health, sleep, exercise, and nutrition.
- Pray that their words—whether given in national addresses or online—would be tempered, measured and wise.
- Pray that as topics and news cycles come and go, our leaders will remain focused on matters that are true, just, pure, lovely, and full of virtue (Philippians 4:8).
- Pray that the economy, abortion, border security, immigration, civil rights, health care, and more can be discussed and debated within the context of the total situation, not through opposing sound bites. Pray that God will use people and circumstances around the President and Vice President to reveal His truth.
- Thank God for the opportunity the United States has to influence other countries. Pray that in the President and Vice President’s dealings with foreign leaders, they will be “wise as serpents and harmless as doves” (Matthew 10:16). Pray that their dealings with other nations will benefit individuals seeking religious liberty.

GO DEEPER: Pray specifically for the President and Vice President. Learn more about each of them, and their families, at www.WhiteHouse.gov.



Both Sides of the Aisle

Pray for Congress

Article 1 of the U.S. Constitution addresses the creation of the bicameral legislature. Together, these two chambers—the House of Representatives and the Senate—form Congress. As our elected representatives write, debate and pass federal laws, it's also their duty to ensure those laws respond to our needs. Their job is important and impacts us every day, yet statistics demonstrate that many Americans don't even know the names of their elected representatives.

“The LORD has established His throne in
heaven, and His kingdom rules over all.”

Psalm 103:19

***“It should therefore be among the first objects
of those who wish well to the national prosperity
to encourage and support the principles of
Religion and morality, and early to place the
youth under the forming hand of Society, that by
instruction they may be moulded to the love of
Virtue and good Order.”⁶***

–Abraham Baldwin

Member of the U.S. House of Representatives
First Session of Congress, 1789



Prayer Starters

- Thank God for the wisdom of our Founders to represent us as fairly as possible.
- Pray that the voices of the citizens (individually and through organizations) will be amplified.
- Pray that each Member of Congress will be grounded to a moral code and not be “tossed by the wind” (James 1:6).
- Pray that each Member of Congress has the courage to vote according to the will of those they represent, not according to what will help their careers or please specific groups.
- Pray that they will seek clear and powerful legislation, not vehicles to which they may be tempted to attach frivolous or self-serving amendments.
- Pray that as debate and rhetoric surrounds the profoundly important policy issues of our day, wisdom and common sense will be present in full measure.

GO DEEPER: Pray for your Representative and Senator by name.

Judge Ourselves Rightly

Pray for the Federal and
Supreme Courts

The idea of a “president” as chief executive is relatively new when considering all of recorded history. The idea of a senate dates back as far as the Roman empire. The idea of a judge, however, is one of the oldest roles of government and is the first discussed in Scripture.

Our Supreme Court Justices are appointed and confirmed for life. Voices in our culture often try to pigeonhole judges by predicting how they will rule on a narrow topic, but to make wise decisions, our judges need to see the entirety of an issue and how it integrates with thousands of others.

“It is God who executes judgment,
putting down one and lifting up another.”

Psalm 75:7

“The Bible is the best of all books, for it is the word of God and teaches us the way to be happy in this world and in the next. Continue therefore to read it and to regulate your life by its precepts.”⁷

–John Jay

First Chief Justice of U.S. the Supreme Court



Prayer Starters

- Pray for our judges to express wisdom, discernment, common sense, understanding, and fortitude.
- Thank God for more than 232 years of stable government and law.
- Pray for the health and protection of our Federal Judges and Supreme Court Justices, mentally and physically.
- Pray for the selection of clerks and staff. They serve as gatekeepers for what our Supreme Court Justices see and discuss.
- Pray for our Supreme Court Justices as they hear controversial and divisive cases from lower courts.
- Pray that news outlets—and our nation as a whole—will listen to both majority and minority opinions offered in cases to better understand rulings.

GO DEEPER: Pray by name and docket for our Supreme Court Justices.



Freedom Begins With You and Me

Pray for Our Role in Government
and the Issues That Affect Us

Our country grew from a loose association of British colonies into the greatest nation in history. How? Not because of the expertise of career politicians and diplomats, but by the will and wits of everyday people and the Providence of God. As it was then, our country is sustained today by regular people—you, your family, your neighbors, and your coworkers. Their actions matter, and prayer still moves the Hand of God.

“First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.”

1 Timothy 2:1-2

“Let us not be afraid to help each other—let us never forget that government is ourselves and not an alien power over us. The ultimate rulers of our democracy are not a President and Senators and Congressmen and Government officials but the voters of this country.”⁸

- Franklin D. Roosevelt

Address at Marietta, Ohio
July 8, 1938



Prayer Starters

- Thank God that, even with all of its shortcomings, you live in the most free country on Earth.
- Pray that you will not become complacent; that you will be a caring citizen educated on the issues of the day.
- Pray that civic duties like elections will be a priority for all citizens.
- Pray for opportunities to discuss our nation's history and its challenges with your children and grandchildren.
- Pray for your neighbors and coworkers who don't agree with you; pray for the opportunity for calm discussion and debate so we can better understand the issues from each other's perspective.
- Thank God that our unique system of government was created to recognize "unalienable rights" that are endowed by our Creator. Pray that our current government leaders continue to acknowledge and protect our unalienable rights.

GO DEEPER: Pray through [today's news stories](#) and for today's newsmakers.

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Scriptures referenced are from the following
translations: NIV, ESV, and NKJV.