

## PRAYING FOR OUR NATION

In the Old Testament, the people of Israel faced the turmoil of having one king after another turn away from God and fall into idolatry. Few kings sought God, and those who did helped bring the nation back to worshipping Him.

Fast forward to the New Testament, and Paul writes to Timothy as he pastored in Ephesus, "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 ESV) Praying for our nation and those in authority is a biblical instruction and one that also yields the fruit of peaceful and quiet living. The God of heaven, who rules all, is calling us to earnestly pray for our leaders and nation.

With that in mind, here are a few pieces of Scripture to help guide your prayers for our nation:

★ **Wisdom and guidance**—Proverbs 11:14 says, "Without wise leadership, a nation falls; there is safety in having many advisers." (NLT)  
*Additional scriptures: Psalm 37:5, Proverbs 2:1-6, Proverbs 21:1, James 1:5*

★ **Justice and righteousness**—Proverbs 14:34 says, "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people." (ESV)  
*Additional scriptures: Psalm 82:3-4, Micah 6:8, Zechariah 7:9*

★ **Mercy and compassion**—Luke 6:36 says, "Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful." (ESV) *Additional scriptures: Zechariah 7:9, Matthew 5:7, James 3:17*

★ **Prosperity and welfare**—Jeremiah 29:7 says, "But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare." (ESV) *Additional scriptures: Deuteronomy 8:18, Jeremiah 29:11, 1 Thessalonians 4:11*

★ **Repentance and spiritual awakening**—2 Chronicles 7:14 says, "if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land." (ESV)  
*Additional scriptures: Matthew 9:37-38, Acts 3:19, 2 Peter 3:9, 1 John 1:9*

★ **Unity**—Ephesians 4:3 says, "Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." (NIV)  
*Additional scriptures: 1 Corinthians 1:10, 2 Corinthians 13:11, Acts 4:32*

Dear Father,

I ask that you give our national, state, local, and spiritual leaders wisdom and guidance in their decisions. I pray for righteousness and justice to be done in our nation, at the interpersonal level all the way to the federal level. We ask for your grace and ability for our leaders to grow in their leadership in wisdom and humility, seeking the interest of others over their own interests.

We ask that our hearts be touched and changed by your love and mercy and that we seek to give mercy and love to those around us. We ask for a spiritual awakening for our nation; that hearts would be softened, repentant, and turn back to you. We ask for your blessing and for your provision for us and we ask you for peace. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

