

For the Love of God and Country

Excerpt - Part One

When God directed me to write about praying and interceding for my nation, the United States of America, and her leaders, I thought I was doing a short article about election outcomes and that I had good insight into the topic. How wrong could I have been!!!

My ideas, my understanding, my opinions, and my wisdom were so earthly and of the natural man, I am almost embarrassed to admit it. In yielding to the leading of the Holy Spirit in writing this book, I hope I have grown spiritually. For, it is not what I think or what I know that makes much difference. It is all about God and His ideas, His understanding, His opinions, and His wisdom. That's what makes a difference.

If you are an American, the bottom line is that our nation and her leaders are not about me and what I think, nor about you and what you think. It is about God and His awesome plans for His sons and daughters. It is about His kingdom and the remainder of eternity. It is about His will, His purpose, and America's place in His plan.

If you do not live in the United States, this book can still be profitable to you. I am, however, writing these truths in application to the United States. Why? Because that is the arena God spoke to me about when He told me to write this book. Its truths, though, can be applied to any and all nations in which a Believer lives. Simply trust God to reveal how these truths can be useful as you pray for your nation and leaders.

I know that there are some things that are going on in my nation that are just not right. I am not unaware nor am I uninformed. However, the word of God gives us an admonition that I think applies to my nation and your nation, even if it is different from mine. It is found in Philippians 4:8, *"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."* Although it seems like some people have a difficult time understanding plain English, I get the point: pray for the good, focus on the good, be grateful for the good, and ask God to take care of the rest!

Easier to say than to do!

If you are reading this excerpt today, then I know you are concerned about the situation that is upon us. God has outlined a plan for us in His Word that addresses every situation or circumstance that the enemy can bring. It is our responsibility to ask the Holy Spirit to guide us to the truths in the Word that will address each situation and then reveal to us how to pray that "word" out, bringing the results that God Himself desires.

The word "responsibility" is a powerful word for the Christian who is willing to take possession of it. What does it truly mean? If you break the word down, it is made up of two ideas – response and ability. In other words, responsibility means simply the ability to respond. I like to add a qualifier to that -- responsibility means the ability to respond to the situation *appropriately*. That qualifying word reveals the awesome privilege we have been given as a child of God: We have been given the Holy Spirit. He is the one who reveals to us the *appropriate* response to the situation – if we ask Him and if we follow His guidance and direction.

Today, focus on all the benefits we have as a Christian. Next, acknowledge the gracious help of God in His fulness. Then, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you exactly what He wants you to pray in regards to the future – the election, our nation, the ongoing violence, the overwhelming need of those who live around us, etc. Ask God what He would have *you* do in action and then get busy.

We are the mouth, hands, and feet of our Master, Jesus Christ. Let us get to work by following Him even as He declared in John 9:4-5, *"I must work the works of Him that sent Me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."* And then own His declaration and commission regarding us as found in Matthew 5:14 & 16, *"Ye are the light*

of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. . . Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”

Be assured: you are not in this alone. God is with you and the Church is as well. Whether the Holy Spirit instructs you to pray for a specific outcome to a situation, pray for a specific leader or authority, or to start a food bank for your neighborhood -- just do it. If He guides you in that direction, He will be with you and cause it to be effective. Go forward and be exceedingly blessed today!

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