



# **PRAYER**

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

## **THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER 2010 Guide**

**The LORD is a refuge in times of trouble,  
He cares for those who trust in Him.**

*Nahum 1:7*

Today, with the country as divided as ever about the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, about domestic issues like healthcare, immigration and the size of government, and with mid-term elections about to be in full swing, there are plenty of reasons to pray. But far more important are the spiritual implications of your intercessions. The President, our leaders, and every man and woman in uniform need God's presence and guidance like never before.

As believers, we are instructed to be in prayer for them. It is a mandate with a promise: that we might live peaceful and quiet lives in all goodness and holiness. And we are told that this pleases God.

This prayer guide will not only prompt you in your prayers, but will energize you in your praying.

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*Presented By*  
**The Presidential Prayer Team**

Since 2001, The Presidential Prayer Team has been the source millions of Americans have turned to for encouragement and inspiration to pray for America, our President, our national leaders and our Armed Forces.

## From Washington to Lincoln and Beyond ... An American Tradition of Faith and Prayer



*What other nation is so great  
as to have their gods near  
them the way the Lord our  
God is near us whenever we  
pray to him?*

**Deuteronomy 4:7**

National Days of Prayer have left a vital legacy in America's history. The first call to prayer came in 1775 when the Continental Congress asked the colonies to pray for wisdom in forming the nation. This great wood engraving depicting the scene appeared in a biography of George Washington by J.T. Headly, published in 1859. Of course **President Washington** was the first to recognize the importance of the nation's dependence upon God when he said, "It is impossible to rightly govern a nation without God and the Bible." He also said this:

*"Let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion. Reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle."*



Nearly a century later, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a day of "humiliation, fasting and prayer" in 1863. When he delivered his second inaugural address in 1865, the country was torn by the horror of the Civil War. No one knew if the nation could heal, but **President Lincoln** knew where he could turn for help.

Our country has been uniting in prayer on that day ever since.

## Scripture to Energize Your Prayer

*Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name, make known among the nations what he has done. I Chronicles 16:8*

*The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him and I am helped. My heart leaps for joy and I will give thanks to him in song. Psalm 28:7*

*The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. James 5:16*

*Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart that I may fear your name. Psalm 86:11*

*O Lord, I call to you; come quickly to me. Hear my voice when I call to you. May my prayer be set before you like incense; may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice. Psalm 141:1-2*

*We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. Romans 8:26*

*Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful ... that Christ may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ. Colossians 4:2-3*

*And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind always be alert and keep on praying for the saints. Ephesians 6:18*



*Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Romans 12:12*

*If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask of God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. James 1:5*

*Now we ask you, brothers, to respect those who work among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. And we urge you, brothers, warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone. Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else. Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:12-18*

## **Pray for your National Leaders**

President – **Barack H. Obama**

First Lady – **Michelle Obama**

### *In order of succession to the Presidency*

Vice President – **Joe Biden**

Speaker of the House of Representatives – **Nancy Pelosi**

Secretary of State – **Hillary Clinton**

Secretary of the Treasury – **Timothy Geithner**

Secretary of defense – **Robert Gates**

Attorney General – **Eric H. Holder, Jr.**

Secretary of the Interior – **Kenneth Salazar**

Secretary of Agriculture – **Thomas Vilsack**

Secretary of Commerce – **Gary Locke**

Secretary of Labor – **Hilda Solis**

Secretary of Health and Human Services – **Kathleen Sebelius**

Secretary of Housing and Urban Development – **Susan Donovan**

Secretary of Transportation – **Raymond LaHood**

Secretary of Energy – **Steven Chu**

Secretary of Education – **Arne Duncan**

Secretary of Veterans' Affairs – **Eric Schinseki**

Secretary of Homeland Security – **Janet Napolitano**

### *The following positions have the status of Cabinet-rank:*

Council of Economic Advisers Chair – **Christina Remer**

Environmental Protection Agency Administrator – **Lisa Jackson**

Office of Management and Budget Director – **Peter Orzag**

United States trade Representative – **Ambassador Ronald Kirk**

United States Ambassador to the United Nations – **Susan Rice**

White House Chief of Staff – **Rahm Emmanuel**

### *Pray also for:*

*Members of Congress in the House of Representatives and Senate.*

*All Branches of the Armed Forces.*

*The U.S. Supreme Court, Federal and Appellate Courts.*

*Your local elected officials.*

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## 2010 Prayer for Our Nation

*By Franklin Graham, 2010 Honorary Chairman*

*Lord,*

*We are thankful for your abundant blessings You have bestowed on America. Our forefathers looked to You as Protector Provider and the Promise of hope. But we have wandered far from that firm foundation. May we repent for turning our backs on Your faithfulness.*



*We pray that this great nation will be restored by Your forgiveness. From bondage, You grant freedom. Through Your own sacrifice, You offer salvation. From the state of despair, You offer peace. From the bounties of Heaven, You have blessed – not because of our goodness – but by Your grace.*

*You have given us freedom to worship You in spirit and in truth as Your holy Word instructs. May our lives honor You in word and deed. May our nation acknowledge that all good things come from the Father above.*

*President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed that our nation should set apart a day for national prayer to confess our sins and transgressions in sorrow, “yet with an assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon ... announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord.*

*“We have vainly imagined in the deceitfulness of our own hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and nature of our own ... we have too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God who made us! It behooves us then ... to confess our national sins and to pray for clemency and forgiveness.”*

*Help us to pray earnestly for our president and leaders who govern, that they will humble themselves and seek Your guidance so that everything we do will shine the light of Your glory in a darkened world.*

*May our prayers as a people and a nation be heard and blessed for such a time as this. We make this plea in faith, believing in the mighty name of Jesus our Lord.*

*Amen.*

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## Prayers from Our Past Presidents

I pray God I may be given the wisdom and the prudence to do my duty in the true spirit of this great people.

**Woodrow Wilson**

In entering upon this great office I must humbly invoke the God of our fathers for wisdom and firmness to execute its high and responsible duties in such a manner as to restore harmony and ancient friendship among the people of the several States and to preserve our free institutions throughout many generations.

**James Buchanan**

So we pray to Him now for the wisdom to see our way clearly ... to see the way that leads to a better life for ourselves and all our fellow men – to the achievement of His will to peace on earth.

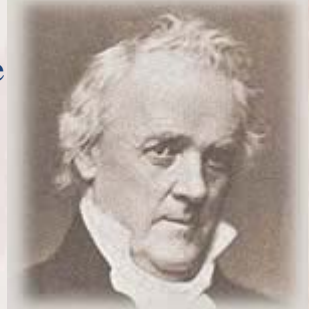
**Franklin D. Roosevelt**

I would like to have my frequent prayer answered that God let my life be meaningful in the enhancement of His kingdom and that my life might be meaningful in the enhancement of the lives of my fellow human beings.

**Jimmy Carter**

Make us strong to do Your work, willing to heed and hear Your will, and write upon our hearts these words, "Use power to help people."

**George H. W. Bush**



## **THE WHITE HOUSE**

### **NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER, 2010**

### **BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**



### **A PROCLAMATION**

Throughout our history, whether in times of great joy and thanksgiving, or in times of great challenge and uncertainty, Americans have turned to prayer. In prayer, we have expressed gratitude and humility, sought guidance and forgiveness, and received inspiration and assistance, both in good times and in bad.

On this day, let us give thanks for the many blessings God has bestowed upon our Nation. Let us rejoice for the blessing of freedom both to believe and to live our beliefs, and for the many other freedoms and opportunities that bring us together as one Nation. Let us ask for wisdom, compassion, and discernment of justice as we address the great challenges of our time.

We are blessed to live in a Nation that counts freedom of conscience and free exercise of religion among its most fundamental principles, thereby ensuring that all people of goodwill may hold and practice their beliefs according to the dictates of their consciences. Prayer has been a sustaining way for many Americans of diverse faiths to express their most cherished beliefs, and thus we have long deemed it fitting and proper to publicly recognize the importance of prayer on this day across the Nation.

Let us remember in our thoughts and prayers those suffering from natural disasters in Haiti, Chile, and elsewhere, and the people from those countries and from around the world who have worked tirelessly and selflessly to render aid. Let us pray for the families of the West Virginia miners, and the people of Poland who so recently and unexpectedly lost many of their beloved leaders. Let us pray for the safety and success of those who have left home to serve in our Armed Forces, putting their lives at risk in order to make the world a safer place. As we remember them, let us not forget their families and the substantial sacrifices that they make every day. Let us remember the unsung heroes who struggle to build their communities, raise their families, and help their neighbors, for they are the wellspring of our greatness. Finally, let us remember in our thoughts and prayers those people everywhere who join us in the aspiration for a world that is just, peaceful, free, and respectful of the dignity of every human being.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 6, 2010, as a National Day of Prayer. I call upon the citizens of our Nation to pray, or otherwise give thanks, in accordance with their own faiths and consciences, for our many freedoms and blessings, and I invite all people of faith to join me in asking for God's continued guidance, grace, and protection as we meet the challenges before us.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand ten, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-fourth.

BARACK OBAMA

## A Hymn for Our Country

*God of our fathers, whose almighty hand  
Leads forth in beauty all the starry band  
Of shining worlds in splendor through the skies  
Our grateful songs before Thy throne arise.  
Thy love divine hath led us in the past,  
In this free land by Thee our lot is cast,  
Be Thou our Ruler, Guardian, Guide and Stay,  
Thy Word our law, Thy paths our chosen way.  
From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence,  
Be Thy strong arm our ever sure defense;  
Thy true religion in our hearts increase,  
Thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.  
Refresh Thy people on their toilsome way,  
Lead us from night to never ending day;  
Fill all our lives with love and grace divine,  
And glory, laud, and praise be ever Thine.*

Daniel G. Roberts, lyricist, wrote these words in 1876 for a celebration of the Centennial Fourth of July. It has come to be a much loved hymn of the church.

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## THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER - PRAYER GUIDE

Presented By ~ The Presidential Prayer Team™



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