

Challenging Christians to Pray  
PRAYER IS THE MIGHTIEST FORCE  
2 CHRONICLES 7:14



# Prayergram<sup>®</sup>

August-September 2023



## Is America, Allergic to God?

“BLESSED IS THE NATION WHOSE GOD IS THE LORD.”



**Early America:** The early puritans who came to America from Europe to establish a nation that honors God and values human lives and to build her walls of “liberty and freedom” unlike any other nation in history preceded her. First, they built their Churches, and then only they built their houses and schools. What we do an indication of what we are as a nation. As a naturalized citizen of the United State of America, I am committed to PRAY for her in this hour of “spiritual neuralgia and moral collapse.” May I respectfully call on my fellow citizens to honor her noble Christian past by returning to the “faith of our fathers”--- undying faith in the sovereign God and His beloved Son, the Lord Jesus Christ in whom dwells all things past, present and future!



**The collapse of the Roman Empire:** Someone has said that history repeats itself, and yet we refuse to learn valuable lessons from history. It is important to know how the past impacts the present as well as the future. If we do not know the past, then, how can we build a bridge to the future? The Roman Empire that once stretched from England to India was destroyed, not by outside invaders, but from moral decay within. Sounds a lot like America today, isn't it? Some people in our land have become allergic to God in whom our forefathers placed their unwavering faith and trust.



**Arnold Toynbee**, one of our greatest historians hints that we face destruction. In his book, **CIVILIZATIONS ON TRIAL**, he observes that of the twenty-one civilizations preceding ours “nineteen have been destroyed by a mixture of atheism, materialism, socialism and alcoholism.” Similarly, **Pitrim A. Sorokin** of Harvard once said, “Unless there is a change in America we are doomed. He further states that no empire, no nation has survived obsession with impurity and immorality.” **Hyman Appleman** noted American evangelist joins with those calling for a return back to God. He says, “Only a sweeping religious awakening will bring God back to America and save our land. No great revival ever began without true repentance and confession.”



**John Quincy Adams**, our 6th President was right when he said, “You will never know how much it has cost my generation to preserve your freedom. I hope you will make good use of it.” Dear friend, the moral stake is very high and we must do everything in our power to protect and preserve the freedom we enjoy so very much. When we wink at cultural craziness of the world we become complicit. In today's culture distractions are plenty; they will come, and you can be certain of that, but remember, God honors those who honor Him with their lives. Isn't it much easier to go along with God's plan than to go against His plan?



**Dietrich Bonhoeffer**, the martyred Christian was profound when he said, “The fool is capable of

any evil and at the same time incapable of seeing that it is evil.” That’s precisely where America appears at the moment. Many in this blessed land look to their wealth as their source, and not God. May we give heed to the voice of God and stand tall on our knees, pleading with our sovereign God who alone knows the end of the journey. As Christians, we must have the courage to resist the ‘social taboos’ and ‘cultural engineering’. Why should we go along with the world’s pompous posturing conformity?



There is a concerted effort on the part of humanistic and secularist thinkers to dismantle and destroy the very fabric of this great nation through the backing of the court. These sacrilegious and dreamy-eyed, progressive thinking iconoclasts who tell us that we Christians are old-fashioned, narrow-minded, puritanical, cave-dwelling and backward people who need an education of “culture and etiquette” taught by the paragons of secular virtues and cultural elitism. In America, at the present, Christians are being bamboozled by the secularists who want to make Christianity disappear from American culture. Believers in this blessed land need a “wake up call!”



It’s apparently clear that secularism is on the march to topple Christianity and silence Christians from the arena of public discourse. Morally, ethically and in matters of soul and conscience, our nation and her leaders are forsaking God. It seems America is spitting in the face of Almighty God and no wonder she is crumbling morally and spiritually before our eyes. Currently, we’re witnessing what ISAIAH, the prophet wrote seven hundred years before Christ, “Woe unto them that call evil good and good evil...” (Isaiah 5:20)



In the soul-searching words of Thomas Wang, “In America today, a gigantic force is advancing swiftly and cunningly among every walk of life (including some Christian churches.) We call this devastating impetus the Neo-Pagan Drift. If there be a day that America should decline and fall, it would not be due to enemy missile or nuclear attack from the outside, but because of this neo-pagan drift from within America herself!”



Edmond Burke, the great British historian once said, “The way for the triumph of evil is for good men do nothing.” But more importantly, we need to ‘stand in the gap’ for our land and place ourselves under the search light of the living God who sees and knows all things. America is now exactly where Israel was in Jeremiah’s time. “For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters...” (Jeremiah 2:13) Yes, it seems America is moving towards the “neo-pagan drift,” the mind is dangerously distracted; life in many instances appears to have lost its spiritual zest. Wealth has increased bringing us more opportunities for indulgence and soft living—even some so-called Christian leaders on television are advocating such lifestyles. When believers lose sight of the “holiness of God,” they immediately begin to redefine sin and cultural changes.



Moral standards are not as firm as they should be. God is no longer the center nerve-system of America and no wonder young and old are forsaking God at an alarming rate. The immortal words of William Penn are worth remembering, “If we are not governed by God, then we will be ruled by tyrants.” The silencing of Christians has become a worldwide phenomenon; our Christian brothers and sisters are being killed almost daily worldwide, and yet the American media is absolutely silent and indifferent. As Christians, we can no longer afford to bury our heads in the sand when our faith is being besmirched and the name of our Savior is blasphemed.



“Anti-Christian prejudice is the last respectable bigotry, and it’s worse in Canada than anywhere else in the developed world,” says Jewish American Scholar Michael Horowitz, D.C.S’ Hudson Institute. Tolerance for everyone else, but not for Christians! It is fashionable to talk about worldwide tolerance and international brotherhood. It’s almost laughable everyone in America has a right to speak except Christians. If you are a member of some other religion, you are given much leverage and latitude to do anything and say whatever you want without any repercussion, but if you are a Christian you are out of the mainstay. Let’s remember, America is still “One nation under God,” and our assignment comes from Him and He is our “Fortress and Refuge.”

Dear brothers and Sisters, let's stand up for Jesus and speak what is on our mind. By God's grace and power we will be silent no more. God will save our beloved land if Christians will cry out to Him for mercy and forgiveness! "LORD, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hast formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God" (Psalms 90:1-2). We're so enamored in our own passions, desires, and too solicitous about transitory things. We are becoming slave to computers, I-phones or some other electronic gadgetry. We are not to rewrite history, or change "biblical precepts" to suit our fancy, but to reveal Christ to the world and live for Him and keep His name holy. Tell me, if Christians don't "pray and weep" for America, who else will?



Dr. Paul S. Rees was profound when he said, "Our trouble lies in our unwillingness to follow God's recipe for spiritual recovery and revival. If America wants a revival, she can have it. If the church wants a revival, she can have it." Believe me, there can be no revival without a praying Church, or a praying Christian. Why there is no 'hunger and urgency' for "REVIVAL" among Christians today? In the past, God's people who were not ashamed to carry "The Holy Bible" to the house of the Lord, and now many proudly carry their I-phones. Speaking of being persuaded by a culture that has no reverence for God or His holy Word! "Thus says the LORD; Behold, I set before you the way of life and the way of death" (Jeremiah 21:8)." It's time for America to make a "course correction" by choosing the way of the Lord than the way of the world. America at once must return to the "faith of her fathers," holy faith!



Prayer for My Adopted County: America needs another preacher of righteousness and thinker like Jonathan Edwards, a revivalist like Charles Finney, a soul-winner like D.L. Moody, an evangelist Like Billy Sunday, an intercessor like David Brainerd. Oh, God, give us such people in our time of "Spiritual apathy," and "moral bankruptcy," is my prayer!

--- Matthew Skariah



# The Culture of Rebellion and Profanity

Words... Words... Words

"Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thy heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few" (Eccles. 5:2).



Empty words, words without substance, degrading words, humiliating words, cutting words, hurting words, insulting words, words that do not inspire lives, do not enhance one's relationship with others, do not heal the cultural divide, and do not lift our sagging spirit. There are many who think that our country is steadily slipping into a moral abyss. According to a poll conducted by U. S. News& World Report many years ago, "A vast majority of Americans feel their country has reached an ill-mannered watershed. Nine out of 10 Americans think incivility is a serious problem, and nearly one-half think it is extremely serious." (Now, it's even worse!)



People in general have lost the capacity to distinguish the "profane from the profound," is it any wonder reverence for God is noticeably absent? The words that make life rich and inspiring are lost in the blur. He who has no control over his language is like a paralytic craftsman on the finishing board. The people who take God's name in vain get rousing cheers when they reinforce irreverent use of the language. The word of God tells us, "Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain" (Exodus 20:7).



One writer pointed out in a 1995 edition of Ethics magazine, "We rely on manners and civility for the upkeep of a decent society." How can we maintain a decent society if we continue to use gutter language? Our language affects our witness. So many in our society smear and defame the name of God without a twinge of conscience. People who use God's name without relationship are people who function without the knowledge of the holy. Do you know that Socrates and

Christ never wrote down a word, and yet they changed the course of human history through the meaning of their life existence? Life and being always come first, living a wholesome life, a simple life, a Christ-filled life, a peaceful life, a responsible life, a life that keeps on living and keeps on giving with simple human values.



It seems our world is full of beings—living in “progressive jungles”—but the human aspect is missing. What makes one a human being in a world of “robots and zombies?” As human beings, we have the capacity to weep with those who weep, and rejoice with those who rejoice. Beloved, soft answers turn away wrath. May God help us use “thoughtful and kind words” that foster “decency and civility” in a world that has gone wacky and mad! Our WORDS should be eminently constructive, not destructive; gloriously uplifting and not nauseatingly demeaning! Today in society, people speak much about nothing; and say something about everything and always sharing and splattering out one’s feelings on social media. We know men and women by the wholesomeness of the language they use. Currently, there is a lot of “babbling” going on in America while ‘Rome Burns.’

--- Matthew Skariah



## On Revival

Revival praying is “desperate praying!” In times of “spiritual and moral disintegration;” we do not quibble with theological phrases; we cry out in ‘anguish and agony’ for a world that’s on the verge of annihilation and a church that’s comfortable in its ubiquitous slumber! When the world is at its worst, it needs a Church that’s at its best--- vibrant and undeniably apostolic.

--- Matthew Skariah

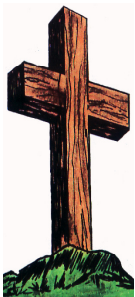


### REVIVAL with Matthew Skariah Grace Baptist Church

Durant, Oklahoma

Anthony Williams, Pastor

September 17-22. 2023

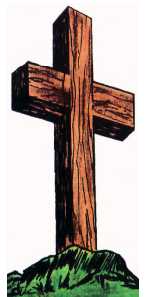


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