

Isn't it Time that America Returned to Prayer?

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The total of people unemployed and underemployed in our country is currently at a combined level of nearly thirty percent. Since the early 1960s, violent crime, sexually transmitted diseases, unwed births, abortions, divorces, single parenthood, cohabitation, and suicide among youth have reason to alarming rates. What triggered this spiral? What possible solutions can help turn the tide? And, where do we begin? God's word offers a simple and easy starting point, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land" (II Chronicles 7:14).

Within two decades following three Supreme Court rulings in 1962-1963, which prohibited prayer and Bible reading in public schools, the moral fiber of the nation has suffered greatly, evidenced by dramatic increases in social problems (Barton, 1994): violent crime by nearly 400%, premarital sex among teenage girls by 300%, unwed births by 300%, sexually transmitted diseases by 250%, abortions by 500%, cohabitation by 700%, divorces per household by 200%, single parent households by 250%, and suicide rates among all age groups between age five to age twenty-four have increased by 250%. The United States has catapulted to number one in violent crime, divorce, voluntary abortions, illegal drugs, and number one among the Western World in teenage pregnancy and illiteracy. One thousand teachers per month are hospitalized or reserve medical care due to being attacked by a student. Numerous government officials believe increased taxation to develop new and to maintain current social programs will help fix these difficulties. In an attempt to deal with the astronomical growth in these societal problems, the government has created a plethora of programs and spent trillions of dollars, with minimal results, while the problems grow progressively worse. The moral fiber of our nation is suffering with a social plague that could lead to her destruction, yet only a return to God can heal her.

Routine prayer benefits us physically, psychological, emotionally, and equips us to cope with crises and various other major life events (Robinson, 2005). Only one marriage out of 300 (0.3%) among couples who pray together daily ever end in divorce (Fox News, 2012). If we will sincerely humble ourselves and pray to him and turn from evil, God has promised to have compassion and mercy upon else by granting his loving and kind forgiveness. Secondly, he has vowed to heal our land. However, a nation that forgets God will be destroyed, by destroying itself from the inside out. Our country must return to God to find healing. The solution begins with prayer. Will you join me by choosing to seek God in prayer and pray with your spouse, children, and other members of your household daily? May we commit ourselves to daily prayer and obedience to God's word to turn tide of humanity from imminent demise to once again a nation of hope and promise?