

## **Time to Humble Ourselves and Pray**

I made the mistake of watching the national news last night and it was so troubling and full of direful reports that my peace has been deeply disturbed. There were many tragic reports! Weather calamities, earth quakes, famines, floods and worst of all, news that all of our borders have been thrown open to invasion from people from all over the world who have learned that now is the time to split for America.

And of course any fool knows that mixed with all the ‘wretched refuse’ who come with hopeful hearts and earnest prayers for a new life, there are bad guys – terrorists, Marxists, Nazis, anarchists and other misguided lunatics bent on nothing less than America’s total destruction.

I hated to write the above paragraph, but it had to be done to lay the groundwork for the possible answers to the tsunami of troubles Satan has loosed upon our once blessed land.

So, to cut to the chase, here is the answer the Holy Spirit has lain upon my heart, even as my head is clouded with cares. It’s the same scripture my wife was given when the flood of ‘97 was licking at our doorstep, II Chronicles 7:14 – “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 will heal their land.”

“Humble ourselves?” some may ask. Well, pride, the belief that we are up to any task without any help from God – that kind of pride, always “comes before a fall.” And right now the troubles facing America are bigger than either the cunning promise-makers on the left or the trigger happy skin-heads on the right can fix, much less the honest, diligent hard-working ordinary Americans toiling to provide for their families and achieve their dreams. Our “sea of

troubles” is now so vast that only God can “heal our land” of them.

Why seek His face? Because that implies a personal day to day, hour by hour life in communication with God. Paul says for us “to pray without ceasing.” That means keeping the connections in place throughout the day, thanking and praising God for all the good we already have and thanking Him in advance for all the good He will do on behalf of the earnest, righteous, thanks to Jesus, people who need His help.

Many of us saw how quickly president Trump, in his three short pre-pandemic years, had the country clicking on all cylinders: cheap gas, most people working with hopes for a future. So it is possible for God to raise up a leader able to restore our national health. – But now we need a majority of the people to be praying. If we surrender to and descend into worry, fear, and despair, all will be lost. We need God on the case.

Another condition mentioned in II Chron. 7:14 is that God’s people need to “turn from their wicked ways.” That may seem impossible to many, for the scriptures say that “there is none righteous, no not one.” So our first duty is to “confess our sins” to Him so he will be “faithful and just to forgive us, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

The people most apt to hate this advice suffer from the greatest sin of all – unbelief. Self righteousness, pride, was what Jesus deplored most in the Pharisees who wanted Him crucified to satisfy their excessive legalism. Seems Jesus broke some of their strict laws, like healing on the sabbath. But they are most flawed: “If we say that we have no sin, we lie and the truth is not in us.”

So can our land can be healed? I think God is more than willing; He’s only waiting to be asked, and He will again “shed His grace” on us, restoring “the blessings of liberty” ... “from sea to shining sea.” Already there are places –

especially the big “sanctuary cities” where gunfire rings out almost nightly. We truly need to unite and return to the days when prayer was not only allowed, but expected, not just at home and before football games, but in our schools and workplaces. We need to restore the days when our kids can run and play and still be safe from the predators that walk in darkness, hungry to destroy them. (Psalm 91: 4-11.)

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