

Praying for Our Nation, the Elections, and the Church

In Paul's teaching in 1 Timothy 2:1–2, one of the major thrusts is praying for those in authority. According to Paul's reasoning, we must seek a good government that allows us to live "peaceful and quiet lives"—ultimately enabling us to worship, to work and raise families, to build safe and just communities, to serve and protect those in need, and to share the good news of the gospel.

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. (1 Timothy 4:1-2).

Praying for the electoral process is a worthy step in seeking the fulfillment of what Paul is writing about to Timothy. In prayer, we can petition the Lord that we may be graced with leaders who will lead well and wisely and truly. Praying for our nation, the upcoming elections, and the Church is thus our privilege and our obligation as those who are Christ's people.

The following list is offered to help you in your faithful and diligent prayers as the upcoming election in early November fast approaches. Please consider praying with diligence as suggested below. May the Lord's mighty hand be swift to answer these earnest petitions. May our prayers be voiced with the full assurance of His certain and perfect sovereignty over all things. All may He be glorified in and by these pleas and petitions.

1. Our Nation and the Issues It Faces

- Ask the Lord to thwart the efforts of any who would remove religious freedom from our nation. "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery" (Gal. 5:1).
- Pray for our elected officials (federal, state, and local) that they will establish and administer laws prudently and wisely, securing an ordered liberty and justice for all, tempered by mercy and compassion, and in full service of true truth. "This is what the Lord Almighty said: 'Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another'" (Zech. 7:9).

2. The Election Process

- Pray for wisdom for voters and a safe and fair election. "My son, do not let wisdom and understanding out of your sight, preserve sound judgment and discretion; they will be life for you, an ornament to grace your neck. Then you will go on your way in safety, and your foot will not stumble" (Prov. 3:21–23).
- Ask the Lord to remove those who might try to unjustly and illegally change the outcome of the voting. "I will make justice the measuring line and righteousness

the plumb line; hail will sweep away your refuge, the lie, and water will overflow your hiding place" (Isa. 28:17).

3. Candidates and Leaders

- Pray for all those who are seeking leadership in our nation, our state, and our local community. Ask the Lord to remove all envy and selfish ambition from their hearts and minds. "For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice" (James 3:16).
- Pray that those who are elected will take courageous stands that will secure liberty and justice for all. "If you do not stand firm in your faith, you will not stand at all" (Isa. 7:9).
- Ask the Lord to surround all candidates and all elected leaders with astute, wise, and honest advisors. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise" (Ps. 111:10).

4. The Church

- Pray for a spirit of humility in the Church and an outreach toward those whom the Bible calls the least among us. "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me'" (Matt. 25:40).
- Pray that the churches in our nation will declare unashamedly the gospel of Christ powerfully. "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile" (Rom. 1:16).
- Thank the Lord for the freedom we have in Him and for the wisdom to understand that freedom. "You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love" (Gal. 5:13).
- Pray for a spirit of courage to go forth within the Church to endure whatever it takes to see the fulfillment of God's purposes in this age. "Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong" (1 Cor. 16:13).
- Pray for the preachers of our nation America to fearlessly proclaim the Word of God regarding sin and God's love. "In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage-with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear" (2 Tim. 4:1-3).