

Praying for. America

40 Inspiring Stories *and* Prayers *for* Our Nation

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INTRODUCTION



America's Only Hope

E *Pluribus Unum*—“Out of many, one.” This is the traditional motto of the United States of America. From the first shots of the American Revolution to the British surrender at Yorktown when we won our independence, thirteen diverse colonies fought as one. And though passions threatened our unity during the process of ratification, in the end, compromise and conviction led to a Constitution that has become the envy of the world.

However, since *E Pluribus Unum* first appeared on the Great Seal of the United States, Americans, with the exception of the time during the Civil War, have never been more divided. Today, our nation seems to be closer to *Unum De Multis*—“Out of one, many.”

How did we get to this state of division? We could blame the radicalization of our universities, the degradation of our culture, or the politicization of our everyday lives. We could blame America's disunity on the breakdown of the family, the incivility we see in the news and on social media, or the church's loss of cultural influence. But it all comes down to a simple answer: We have forgotten God.

When people no longer love God, they can no longer love themselves rightly. The equation is simple: When we cease loving

God, we cease loving ourselves; when we cease loving ourselves, we cease loving our neighbors. Psalm 9:17 warns that “the nations who forget God” will perish. But before they do, they will lose their unity and freedom.

On March 30, 1863, after the terrible loss of life at Antietam and the disaster of Fredericksburg during the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln issued a proclamation appointing a national day of fasting and prayer. Recognizing that nations, as well as individuals, “are subjected to punishments and chastisements in this world,” the president wondered whether “the awful calamity of civil war...may be but a punishment, inflicted upon us, for our presumptuous sins.”

What did Lincoln identify as the nation's sin at that time?

We have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace, and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us!¹

What was true in 1863 is true today—America has become “too self-sufficient” for God. We have become “too proud to pray to the God that made us.” But, as Lincoln also told Congress, prayer may be the only activity that can “nobly save...the last best, hope of earth.”²

We must heed the wisdom of America's official national motto: “In God We Trust.”

Yes, we need to advocate for just laws, vote for ethical politicians who will uphold the Constitution, defend the rights of the unborn, and guard our families against moral corruption. But to do these things without asking God to attend to our work is foolish, because it cuts us off from the greatest power in the universe.

James 5:16 says, “The effective prayer of a righteous [person] can accomplish much.” So when we seek God’s help and pray about the issues that affect our lives, we influence the fate of our families, our churches, and our nation. It has happened before in history, and it can happen again. The only thing keeping America from rising to its feet are Christian Americans who aren’t yet falling on their knees.

That’s why this book was written—to encourage you to ask God to bless America and to accomplish His perfect will in our nation. Each chapter of *Praying for America* features an inspiring story that demonstrates the power of faith in the life of our nation; a prayer you can use to lift up our families, our churches, and our country; and a passage of Scripture that will biblically ground your prayers.

When Jesus taught His disciples to pray in Matthew 6:5–13, He made it clear that the purpose of prayer is not to get our will done in heaven but to get God’s will done on earth. And if ever there was a time when we needed God’s will done in America, that time is now! Won’t you join me in praying intently for the nation that we love?



For God's Will to Be Done

In 1797—just fourteen years after America won independence from Britain, with the help of France—our relationship with France had deteriorated. The French Revolution had plunged that nation into godlessness. Churches were closed, crosses were forbidden, and Christian worship was outlawed. Hundreds of thousands were murdered in the name of “brotherhood.”

France's new leaders seized American vessels and demanded millions of dollars in bribes to leave these ships alone. But America refused to pay these French terrorists.¹ This situation became known as the XYZ Affair, and it posed a great danger for the United States. As a new nation, we could not afford to lose ships, but we did not want to get mired in another war, either. With tensions mounting, President John Adams asked the retired George Washington to take charge of the army once again, and Washington agreed.

In July 1798, General Washington wrote to President Adams, placing the American cause in God's hands: “Satisfied, therefore, that you have sincerely wished and endeavored to avert war, and

exhausted, to the last drop, the cup of reconciliation, we can, with pure hearts appeal to Heaven for the justice of our cause, and may confidently trust the final result to that kind Providence, which has heretofore and so often signally favored the people of these United States.”²

President Adams chose to trust in God’s will. On March 23, 1798, he declared a day of prayer and fasting. A year later, on March 6, 1799, Adams issued another proclamation for the nation to pray and seek God:

I have thought proper to recommend...a day of solemn humiliation, fasting, and prayer; that the citizens on that day abstain, as far as may be from their secular occupation, devote the time to the sacred duties of religion, in public and in private; that they call to mind our numerous offenses against the most high God, confess them before Him with the sincerest penitence, implore His pardoning mercy, through the Great Mediator and Redeemer [Jesus], for our past transgressions, and that through the grace of His Holy Spirit, we may be disposed and enabled to yield a more suitable obedience to His righteous requisitions in time to come;...that He would make us deeply sensible, that “righteousness exalteth a nation but sin is a reproach to any people” [Proverbs 14:34].³

Many Americans did so, and they trusted God with the results. By God’s mercy, war with France was avoided, and America thrived.

More than two hundred years later, our heavenly Father still has the whole world—including the United States of America—in His hands. While it’s certainly true that we are facing crucial issues today, it’s hardly the first time America has been in grave danger. Throughout our history, the United States has faced numerous

threats, both from without and from within. Our Founding Fathers designed our system of government to withstand these threats.

But if we're not careful, we can give in to anxiety and worry. Every time a presidential election comes around, we hear statements like these from people across the political spectrum: "If so-and-so gets elected, our nation is doomed!" "This is the most important election of our lifetime!" "If that candidate wins, I'm leaving the country!" You may have even uttered a sentiment like this yourself.

We have a responsibility as believers to stand up, push back against evil, and influence the spiritual and moral direction of our country.⁴ And the Bible encourages us to work hard for justice, God-honoring laws, and the spread of the gospel. But one thing Scripture says we should *not* do is worry. The apostle Paul put it this way in Philippians 4:6: "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."

"Now, wait a minute," you might be protesting. "How is it possible not to worry when America is at a tipping point?"

First, we must do what we can to support God-honoring values, educate ourselves about the candidates, and participate in the voting process. We are to bring a Christian influence into our country. And one of the most powerful ways we can do that is through elections. When you cast a vote for a candidate, you are voting either for righteousness or unrighteousness.

Then, after you vote, trust in the sovereignty of God. Now, don't use God's sovereignty as an excuse for passivity in elections. Yes, God has ordained who is going to win the election, but He has also ordained the means by which that is going to come to pass—and it is through His people. You and I ought to be careful to maintain our witness during elections, never showing panic or fear or hatred toward others.

As Christians, God has called us to be salt and light in this

decaying and darkening world. We are to pray for God's will to be done, participate in the political process, and then trust God with the results.⁵

★ ★ ★ **A Prayer for America** ★ ★ ★

Heavenly Father, thank You for being in control of the universe—including the United States and our elections. And thank You for giving me a say in who represents me in my government. Help me to fulfill that responsibility faithfully by voting in our elections. Whenever I am tempted to worry about the future of our nation, remind me of Your great love and provision. Forgive me when I give in to anxious thoughts instead of trusting You to work out Your purpose in America. May Your perfect will be done in all our elections. May the candidates seek after You and Your wisdom. And let me know if You desire for me to be one of those candidates. Bring revival to America before Your Son's return. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is done in heaven. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

★ ★ ★

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

—PHILIPPIANS 4:6–7



For Religious Freedom

In the early 1600s, every nation in Europe demanded loyalty to its state church, and England was no exception. Those who disagreed with the Anglican Church were harassed, fined, or jailed. But no Englishman could leave his country without permission. So, in 1608, one congregation of Separatists—as religious dissenters were known—uprooted their families and fled their homeland in secret, traveling across the English Channel to the Netherlands, which had recently become the first nation to grant religious toleration.

In the Netherlands, the Separatists enjoyed some measure of freedom. However, after eleven years, the situation began to change. Their work was hard, their children were abandoning their faith for the materialist Dutch culture, and war with Spain was looming on the horizon. If Spain conquered the Netherlands, then the Separatists would lose whatever religious freedom they had. In addition to all this, the small congregation was stopped from printing religious materials. They also desired to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ to new lands. So, after much prayer, the congregation decided to move again across the water, but this time much farther, to the brand-new English settlement of Virginia, in America.

Virginia stretched all the way up to New York at that time, and the Separatists figured they could settle there in peace—within English rule, but far enough removed to ensure religious freedom.

To procure supplies and passage, the Separatists had to become indentured servants to a shady investment company for seven years. Those who could afford to go purchased a small ship, the *Speedwell*, and set out for America on July 22, 1620. They had to make just one stop first, in England. There, the Pilgrims (as they now called themselves) met up with another small ship the investors had rented, the *Mayflower*, which would carry another group of Separatists and some Anglican colonists to the Virginia Colony.

After some underhanded dealings from the investors, both ships finally departed for America. But they had to turn back because the captain of the *Speedwell* said the ship was leaking. This happened a second time, and the captain declared the ship unseaworthy. Reluctantly, the passengers crammed together—Separatists and strangers alike—into the tiny *Mayflower*. Some families had to separate as the ship could not hold everyone.

At last, on September 6, 1620, the *Mayflower* set out alone across the vast Atlantic—a 150-foot-long boat stuffed with 102 passengers and 40 crew members, along with furniture, books, supplies, seed, livestock, and a new printing press.

Storms rocked the ship. At one point, the *Mayflower's* main beam began to crack. If it broke, they would all die. Providentially, they had the printing press. They fitted its giant screw under the beam, cranked it up, and kept the ship from breaking apart.

It seemed that God was protecting them. But the storms blew the *Mayflower* far off course northward, all the way to Cape Cod, which they reached on November 11, after sixty-six days at sea. Because of poor winds, dangerous shoals, and the oncoming winter, they decided to settle on the Cape. Since they were now outside English territory, both Separatists and Anglicans signed a document

known as the Mayflower Compact, which laid the foundation for the new colony's government.

The Mayflower Compact assured religious freedom. And God assured that this principle of freedom took root in the new land. When a landing party set out in a skiff to find a suitable settlement, a huge wave came out of nowhere. But instead of capsizing the boat, it deposited them gently on shore within sight of the ideal location: an abandoned native community that had plentiful water, a good harbor, cleared fields, a hill for defense, and buried corn and beans. They were saved from starvation! Even with this discovery, only half of the original passengers and crew survived that first harsh winter.

Over the next four months, the Pilgrims saw Native Americans only at a distance. Finally, on March 16, 1621, an Abenaki named Samoset walked into their town. "Welcome, Englishmen!" he said. The Pilgrims were stunned. Samoset had learned English from Anglo fishermen and traders. Later, Samoset brought another Native American who spoke even better English: Squanto.

Squanto had been abducted in 1614 from his Patuxet tribe by the English slaver Thomas Hunt and sold in Spain. There, he became a Christian and was freed by monks to travel to England. He learned English and found employment on a ship headed to America. But when he arrived back home in 1619, he found that his entire tribe had been wiped out by a three-year-long plague.

Squanto missed the plague but arrived back in time to help his new tribe of Pilgrims. He interpreted for them, arranged peace treaties, and taught them how to fish, hunt, and plant corn. He stayed with them until he died just a year later. Without Squanto's help, the Plymouth Colony likely would have perished.

To create a safe haven for religious freedom, God blew the Pilgrims 250 miles off course at just the right time so they would find two English-speaking Native Americans, one of whom was a fellow Christian! The Pilgrims rightly thanked God for Squanto.

They had struggled hard for religious freedom, and God had moved heaven and earth to ensure they got it.¹

What about us? In America, we enjoy freedom of religion. But do we really value it? If we didn't have religious freedom, how far would we go to obtain it?

Our religious freedoms are being taken away at an alarming rate. God is not asking us to risk a dangerous journey across tumultuous seas to an unknown continent for the sake of our children. He simply wants us to pray—and fight—to keep what others have already won for us.

Pray that our religious liberties are protected in America. In addition to prayer, we can work through the legal channels to ensure that our nation's children inherit this same blessing. But even if we lose this freedom, pray that Christians in America stay committed to Jesus Christ.

In these last days before Christ's return, Christians will increasingly be challenged to stand against those who attempt to abrogate our constitutional rights and our biblical mandate to spread the message of Jesus Christ. But in doing so, we don't have to act like jerks. We must pick our battles carefully, be respectful of the governmental authorities that God has established, and be willing to suffer the consequences of our disobedience. Whatever happens, we need to be productive in the life God has given us, especially if we in America still have our hard-won religious freedom.²

★ ★ ★ A Prayer for America ★ ★ ★

Heavenly Father, You have called Americans to worship You in freedom. May I never take that privilege for granted. May I always remember the heavy price it took to gain that liberty. And may I use my freedom to offer thanksgiving to You and sacrificial love to others. I know that You are working all things together for the good of those who love You, whom

For Religious Freedom

You have called according to Your purpose. Help me to believe that, no matter what I am going through. Thank You for loving me and giving me freedom. In Your name I pray, Lord Jesus. Amen.



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.

—GALATIANS 5:13 NIV



For Truth to Prevail

When the Pilgrims lived in England and the Netherlands, their freedom of expression was routinely stifled. When they finally came to America, they brought only the essentials for survival—which included a giant printing press. That’s how much they valued freedom of expression.

Throughout history, political tyrants have tried to promote only their viewpoint and silence any disagreement. The same still happens today in many parts of the world.

But our Founding Fathers valued freedom of expression so much that they included it as part of the First Amendment to the Constitution, along with freedom of religion, of assembly, and of petitioning the government. They knew that the free sharing of ideas kept people thinking and kept tyrants from suppressing the truth. This is why freedom of expression is one of our most cherished liberties today.

But it may not be for much longer. In America, freedom of expression is under attack. Instead of engaging in honest debate and allowing people to decide for themselves, many Americans label any views they disagree with as “hate speech” or “racist.” They even try to pass laws that ban undefined “hate speech.” And we are all aware

of “fake news,” in which media outlets engage in blatant bias and pretend it is honest reporting.

This destruction of dialogue is in full force on many of America’s college campuses as well. Any discussion that faculties do not like is often labeled “hate speech,” “microaggression,” or “bigotry.” Those with dissenting views have become the targets of open violence or have been expelled for not using a person’s preferred pronouns.

But even this is not the biggest threat to our free speech. The biggest danger we face today comes from a tool that was meant to be the ultimate source for the open sharing of ideas: the internet. Today, a few gatekeepers—who were given special privileges by Congress as the new digital “neutral public forums” under section 230 of the Communications Decency Act of 1996—have now come to dominate the worldwide web. They no longer act as forums but rather as publishers who are immune from litigation for the material they publish or refuse to publish.¹ Let’s examine just one of those gatekeepers as an example: Alphabet, Inc.

Now, you probably have never heard of Alphabet, Inc., even though it is one of the most powerful companies on earth.² You certainly have heard of at least two of the companies that Alphabet owns: Google and YouTube. Google is the number one site on the internet, and YouTube is the number two site.³ A full 93 percent of Americans use Google to search the internet, and nearly 20 percent of all internet traffic is generated by YouTube. Nearly one billion people worldwide rely on Google every day.⁴ You can see the power that Alphabet wields with just two of its many companies. People trust that Google, as a search engine, will help them find the news and views they are looking for.

But recent accusations against Alphabet are very disturbing.

Several senior engineers at Google admit that leadership at their company has a very left-leaning slant and that the search results they turn out are designed to give you what they want you to see

and believe.⁵ In other words, if you type in a controversial topic—say, “abortion”—then Google will give precedence to articles with their point of view. Opposing viewpoints appear way down the list, if at all.⁶ In fact, Google recently included a “fact-checking” feature for search results that almost exclusively targeted conservative sites.⁷

Even Google’s “autocomplete” program pushes their agenda. For instance, at the time of this writing, on Google’s search page, if you start typing “men can” and then hit the space bar, Google auto-completes with “have babies,” “get pregnant,” “have babies now,” “cook,” “have periods,” and “think about nothing.” Likewise, if you type in “women can” and then hit the space bar, Google auto-completes with “fly,” “vote,” “do it,” “do anything,” and “be drafted.” These suggestions do not reflect the most popular searches beginning with those words.⁸ But Google wants you to think that they are. This is not speculation; it has been confirmed by internal documents and by programmers captured on insider videos.⁹

Speaking of insider videos, Google’s sister company, YouTube, has banned those videos. In fact, YouTube has removed, shadow banned, or demonetized thousands of videos that express views that they do not like.¹⁰ For example, YouTube placed G-rated educational videos about the Ten Commandments, the Korean War, and the formation of the nation of Israel on the “restricted list”—the same list as pornography.¹¹ This designation prohibits children in schools and libraries from viewing them. Members of Google’s “transparency-and-ethics” group have also labeled Orthodox Jews Dennis Prager and Ben Shapiro as “Nazis.”¹² Thousands more examples like this could be listed.

We could chalk up these designations to mistakes, except that these “mistakes” disproportionately happen to those on one side of the political spectrum.¹³ And Google does not correct these designations even when confronted about them.¹⁴ This is dangerous.

It is clear that this bias has a political motivation. Google

executive Jen Gennai and senior Google engineers Zach Vorhies and Greg Coppola openly admit that Google's goal is to manipulate our political elections to one side.¹⁵ And it has worked. Robert Epstein claimed that Google's one-sided influence on undecided voters in 2016 gave between 2.6 and 10.4 million extra votes to Hillary Clinton! This should alarm anyone, regardless of political persuasion.¹⁶ Epstein voted for Hillary Clinton, but he values truth and free speech more than his preferred candidate getting into office. He worries that so much power over free speech—wielded by a handful of like-minded technology companies—will destroy our democratic process. As Dennis Prager testified before Congress on July 16, 2019, “Google and YouTube’s (and for that matter Twitter and Facebook’s) suppression of internet content on ideological grounds threatens the future of America more than any external enemy. In fact, never in American history has there been as strong a threat to freedom of speech as there is today.”¹⁷

For our nation to survive in the internet era, Christians need to pray that Congress and the Justice Department break up technology monopolies and aggressively protect our free speech. You can also put pressure on your congressperson or senator to hold tech companies accountable for censoring speech, which is illegal under section 230 of the Communications Decency Act. Pray also that those who manipulate information and stifle free speech would repent.

You can also develop a healthy skepticism over anything you hear or read online. Realize that right now, most internet sites—even news or search sites—give you their perspective on the world, which may be true, partly true, or outright false. Check out alternative search websites, social media sites, and streaming video sites. And pray that your fellow Americans develop a healthy skepticism about what they hear or read online as well and that the truth prevails. American democracy depends on it.

★ ★ ★ A Prayer for America ★ ★ ★

Heavenly Father, I thank You that You are in control of every minute detail of this universe. Lord Jesus, You are the ultimate embodiment of truth. When You walked the earth, the rich and powerful tried to silence You because You spoke hard truths to them. They killed You, but they could not suppress the truth, for You rose again. Thank You, Lord, that truth will ultimately prevail. But that is no excuse for my complacency. You have called every Christian to stand up for the truth. In the short term, lies can do immense harm. Motivate Your people to stand for truth and free speech. Protect the free speech of every American and of every person worldwide. May honest debate and discussion happen freely. May we boldly speak the truth in love. And may those who suppress the truth repent before Your wrath comes upon them. In Your name I pray, Lord Jesus. Amen.

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The wrath of God is revealed from heaven against
all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men
who suppress the truth in unrighteousness.

—ROMANS 1:18



For Protection from Our Enemies

On December 7, 1941, at 7:48 a.m. local time, the Empire of Japan launched an unprovoked surprise attack on the US naval fleet stationed at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Before the day was over, the Japanese had killed over 2,400 innocent Americans and wounded another 1,143. Japan perpetrated this attack in an attempt to continue their brutal expansion over Southeast Asia and the Pacific. The Japanese had been taught that their emperor was a god and they were a chosen race, destined to rule inferior humans. This belief motivated them to perpetrate barbaric acts of brutality and aggression. The United States simply stood in the way of their advancing empire of blood.¹

On another morning—September 11, 2001—radical Islamic terrorists hijacked four US airliners filled with fuel and crashed them, unprovoked, into the World Trade Center Twin Towers, the Pentagon, and a field in Pennsylvania. Their combined attacks killed almost three thousand innocent people and wounded another six thousand. The terrorists had been taught that America opposed

Allah's purposes and that killing themselves while killing Americans would please Allah and guarantee their place in heaven.²

At 9:02 a.m. Central Time on April 19, 1995, Timothy McVeigh, with the help of two accomplices, detonated a truck containing nearly five thousand pounds of homemade explosives in front of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City. The attack killed 168 innocent people (including 19 children) and injured more than 500 more. The men committed this terrible act of mass murder on the two-year anniversary of the fire at the Branch Davidian cult compound near Waco, Texas. The cultists had been in a standoff with federal agents for fifty-one days. McVeigh and his conspirators believed the government had started the fire (a claim that was later debunked). The Waco siege occurred less than a year after another deadly standoff in Ruby Ridge, Idaho, which McVeigh also blamed on the government. McVeigh and his accomplices somehow thought that killing innocent adults and children would avenge what they saw as government overreach and would overthrow the authorities. They fancied themselves as heroes and believed that any act of violence they committed was justified.³

From foreign threats like radical Islamic terrorists, to cyber threats like the Chinese government, to domestic terrorist threats like Antifa, to people who are taught to hate our country or to disrespect authority, Americans share this world with many enemies who would harm us.

Why is so much hatred aimed toward America? For several reasons. We are not perfect, but many people want to destroy America because they are misguided. They have a skewed view of our nation and the world. They disproportionately focus on our faults to the exclusion of our many virtues. Others want to harm or destroy us so that they can become more powerful. Still others want to destroy us because we support Israel or because we are a nation built on Christian values. Whatever the reason, hatred for America abounds.

And we should not be surprised. America is a large, wealthy, and freedom-loving country. That makes us an equally large target for those who want to steal our wealth, use us as a scapegoat for their problems, or get us out of the way of their global plans.

All irrational hatred begins with evil desires and the lies of Satan. At root, it is a spiritual problem. And at the spiritual level, believers fight evil and falsehood with Christian love and gospel truth. However, even though the battle begins in the spiritual realm, it often extends into our physical world. When it does so, it threatens physical harm to us and to our countrymen. And we must oppose it.

If we didn't know the Lord, this dangerous world could paralyze us with fear. Thankfully, Romans 8:28 tells us that "God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose." That means Christians.

Even though God is in charge, that is no excuse for us to ignore threats to our nation. This principle goes all the way back to the Old Testament, to God's chosen people: Israel. God chose the Jews as His special possession. He loved His people, and He was in complete control of their circumstances. But Nehemiah 2:17–20 tells us that God still expected Nehemiah to build a wall around Jerusalem for protection.

As Christians, God loves us and has chosen us for salvation. But God has also called us to be responsible. We should take reasonable steps to protect our nation. That is why we have a military, intelligence agencies, and cybersecurity, and it is one reason we try to protect our border.

We must pray that God protects our nation from the very real enemies that threaten us. Ask God to give wisdom to America's leaders, so they will know how best to accomplish this goal. And pray for our military, border patrol, and intelligence agencies to do their jobs well.

As Jesus tells us in Matthew 5:44, we should love our enemies

and pray for those who persecute us. Ask God to open their eyes to the truth before they face destruction. And pray for peace—both for your heart and for the world. Finally, pray for Christ’s swift return, when He will implement His perfect peace on earth.

★ ★ ★ A Prayer for America ★ ★ ★

Heavenly Father, thank You for loving me and for sending Jesus to save me. And thank You that every detail of my life is in Your hands. Help me not to become complacent in Your love. Rather, let Your love motivate me to action. I want the best for my neighbors and countrymen. Protect us from those who want to harm us. Stop Satan from deceiving people into thinking that murdering Americans is somehow good. Give our leaders wisdom in how to protect us from all threats, both foreign and domestic. Help our military, border patrol, intelligence agencies, and cybersecurity experts to perform their jobs with skill and excellence. In Your name, Lord Jesus, I pray. Amen.

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Deliver me from my enemies, O my God;
Set me securely on high away from those
who rise up against me.

—PSALM 59:1



For National Unity

In the 1950s, America had won the war against fascism. Our economy was booming, and so were our birth rates. But America still had an enemy: the Soviet Union. We were in a cold war with communism, which was spreading its oppressive godless philosophy from Eastern Europe to China, Korea, Cambodia, and Cuba. The Soviets' stated goal was to see the fall of all democratic capitalist societies—especially America—and the worldwide implementation of atheistic communism. The United States and the Soviet Union were rivals in almost every imaginable way.

Then, on October 4, 1957, the Soviets launched the *Sputnik* probe into Earth's orbit. The satellite circled Earth sixteen times a day. No one in America knew what this piece of machinery was capable of. All we knew was that the Russians had twenty thousand hydrogen bombs! Fear gripped many Americans. It seemed that the atheist slave-state was beating the land of the free. America had to do something. So, on May 25, 1961, President John F. Kennedy announced our goal of sending a man to the moon before the end of the decade. The space race had begun.

While NASA was steadily building our space program, America

began exploding with cultural changes. The 1960s turned out to be the most turbulent and divisive decade in America since the Civil War. In 1961, the Communists built the Berlin Wall, and in 1962, they placed nuclear warheads in Cuba, just ninety miles off our coast. President Kennedy was assassinated on November 22, 1963. As the decade wore on, Americans got entangled in Vietnam, the sexual revolution, and a general spirit of rebellion.

The chaos seemed to peak in 1968. On January 23 of that year, communist North Korea captured a US Navy vessel and held its crew hostage for eleven months. On January 30, the communist North Vietnamese launched the Tet Offensive, causing heavy US casualties. This caused support for the war—and for President Lyndon Johnson—to wane. Members of Johnson's own party began to challenge him, including John F. Kennedy's younger brother Robert Kennedy. On March 31, President Johnson announced that he would not seek a second term.

On April 4, Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated. Waves of riots swept the nation, causing much damage and bloodshed. On June 5, Robert Kennedy was assassinated, and Alabama governor George Wallace entered the presidential race as an independent with the slogan "Segregation now, segregation tomorrow, segregation forever." This split the Democratic vote, leading to Nixon's victory.

Amid this cultural chaos, NASA's program continued unabated. From October 11 to 22, the *Apollo 7* mission orbited Earth, spending more time in space than all the Soviet flights to that time combined. Then, on December 21, the *Apollo 8* mission launched, carrying three astronauts to the moon. Their mission was to circle the moon ten times and then return. As they came around the moon on Christmas Eve, becoming the first humans ever to see Earth in its entirety, astronaut Bill Anders radioed back to the largest audience in history, "In the beginning, God created the heaven

and the earth” (Gen. 1:1 KJV). The other astronauts then took turns reading from the first ten verses of Genesis.

A mere seven months later, on July 20, 1969, almost every person in America—204 million people, and millions more worldwide—listened live as Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin descended to the moon. After the immortal words “the Eagle has landed” were spoken, the nation erupted with cheers. Aldrin then pulled out a chalice of wine and a wafer, and invited those back at mission control to join him as he became the first human to celebrate Christian Communion on another world.¹

The moon landing united all Americans in a national pride and celebration not seen since World War II. Once again, we had a common cause, a common identity, and a common enemy that we had defeated.

Today, many people think unity in America is impossible. We are a diverse country with diverse worldviews. Many even believe that unity within the body of Christ is impossible. But Jesus calls Christians to unite. As believers, we share a common enemy—Satan—whom Jesus will one day vanquish. Ephesians 6:12 says, “Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.”

As Christians, we all have one heavenly Father through our one Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, whom we celebrate with one faith and one baptism. And we are united in truth and love by one Holy Spirit in one goal of spreading Christ’s kingdom. The apostle Paul put it this way in Ephesians 4:4–6: “There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.”

Jesus calls us to be united just as He and the Father are united. John 17:22–23 records His prayer for us: “that they [believers] may

be one, just as We are one; I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.”

As our nation seems to grow ever more divided, pray that Christians will unite in truth and love. Pray that in the essentials of the faith we show unity, in the nonessentials we show liberty, and that in all things we show charity. And pray that those around us see our example, come to saving faith, and extend that same spirit of love to others.

Pray also that God will bring unity to our divided nation. Ask God to silence those who strive to spread division and hatred and to bring any slanderers in the media to repentance. Learn how to engage in civil dialogue, especially with those with whom you disagree.

If Christians across America become united in spirit, love, and truth, then our nation will take notice, and Christ’s kingdom will take off in unstoppable ways! Our nation will also benefit as divisions are healed and we together look to heaven for guidance.

★ ★ ★ **A Prayer for America** ★ ★ ★

Heavenly Father, our nation shares a common enemy, and it's not each other! Save us from Satan's divisive schemes. You call all Christians to live in unity. Even though we are all different, we have one Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Our love for our Christian brothers and sisters is a strong witness to the rest of the world that we are Your disciples. Forgive us when we argue over petty differences, and help us to restore our fellowship again. We can never compromise on sin, but we always strive for peace. Help us to be united in seeking first Your kingdom. And heal our divided nation. May we seek the welfare of our fellow citizens and engage in civil discourse with those with whom we disagree, and they with us. In Your name I pray, Lord Jesus. Amen.

For National Unity



He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

—EPHESIANS 4:11-13

Acknowledgments



No single person can be credited with the creation of the United States of America. George Washington might be considered the father of our nation, but he was not alone in fighting the revolution for independence or in molding thirteen separate colonies into a unified whole. The birth of our beloved country required a dedicated group of people, whom we call founding fathers and founding mothers.

Creating a book is not the same as creating a country, though they do share one thing in common: the commitment of more than one person. My name may appear on the cover of this book, but it really belongs to the team that makes my ministry possible. To them, I am deeply indebted.

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DR. ROBERT JEFFRESS is Senior Pastor of the 14,000-member First Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas, and a Fox News contributor. He is also an adjunct professor at Dallas Theological Seminary. Dr. Jeffress has made more than two thousand guest appearances on various radio and television programs and regularly appears on major mainstream media outlets such as Fox News channel's *Fox and Friends*, *The O'Reilly Factor*, *Hannity*, *Lou Dobbs Tonight*, *Varney and Co.*, and *Judge Jeanine*; ABC's *Good Morning America*; and HBO's *Real Time with Bill Maher*. Dr. Jeffress hosts a daily radio program, *Pathway to Victory*, that is heard nationwide on more than eight hundred stations in major markets such as Dallas–Fort Worth, New York City, Chicago, Los Angeles, Washington, DC, Houston, and Seattle. His weekly television program can be seen in 195 countries and on 11,283 cable and satellite systems throughout the world, including China, and on the Trinity Broadcasting Network and Daystar.

Dr. Jeffress is the author of more than twenty books, including *Choosing the Extraordinary Life*, *When Forgiveness Doesn't Make Sense*, *Countdown to the Apocalypse*, and *Not All Roads Lead to Heaven*. Dr. Jeffress recently led his congregation in the completion of a \$135 million re-creation of its downtown campus. The project is the largest in modern church history and serves as a “spiritual oasis” covering 6 blocks of downtown Dallas.

Dr. Jeffress has a DMin from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, a ThM from Dallas Theological Seminary, and a BS from Baylor University. In May 2010 he was awarded a Doctor of Divinity degree from Dallas Baptist University, and in June 2011 he received the Distinguished Alumnus of the Year award from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Dr. Jeffress and his wife, Amy, have two daughters, Julia and Dorothy, and a son-in-law, Ryan Sadler.

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