



**“Now is the Time for Spiritual Renewal in America!”  
Isaiah 40:31**

**National Day of Prayer, May 2, 2024**

In the precious name of Jesus...Amen! The inspired, never-changing words of our Almighty God, recorded by the prophet Isaiah over 2700 years ago, set the tone not only for this National Day of Prayer on the first Thursday of May, but for every day of our lives as individuals and as a nation. **Isaiah 40:31** *“but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.”*

In truth, I believe that they deliver an important message for us all: in fact, it's the only message that will renew and save America and make it great again! Presidential candidates, political leaders and parties, our military, titans of industry, even our culture or our Constitution - in fact nothing on earth or some imagined “force” beyond - can save America, and the world for that matter!

There is only One “we wait for” to be strengthened! He is our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ; only He can lead us back to Himself and revive us with His strong, guiding words. The world with all of its technology, resources, and philosophies simply cannot!

Especially in these troubled and threatening times, God urges us to pray to Him for renewal and strength. In the 85<sup>th</sup> Psalm, written centuries ago during the darkest hour of Israel, during the reign of King Solomon, the Psalm writers urged the people to cry out to God for revival: ***“Will You not renew our spirits again, that we, who are Yours may rejoice in You? Show us Your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us Your salvation!”*** This was an earnest, desperate prayer! It was not to be taken lightly. You see, God’s Word made it crystal clear that was the only thing that would save the nation of Israel. Those inspired words brought hope to a hopeless people. I believe that there is hope for our nation even now.

**The key is the spiritual revival of God’s people!** A return to the Lord with repentant and trusting hearts, that cries out to our God for what we need the most: Him lifting us up and leading us truly as One Nation, Under God!

I believe in our time now, like never before, the Cross of Christ is being lifted up for all to see, not just here in America, but all over the world. The saving words of our Lord are being spread everywhere! His forgiveness, hope, love, and peace are being freely offered to all. He wants to lift us up so that we can majestically soar above the deepest depths and darkness that trouble us. He gives hope to the hopeless, direction to the lost, peace for those who have none, and love to even the most unlovable.

But no revival ever came to a nation without prayer, a desperate kind of prayer, a prayer that moves the heart of God. God will answer and bless those kinds of prayer! Prayers that will awaken our country. Our nation CAN be blessed. God WILL keep His Word. He clearly says, ***“Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known”*** (Jeremiah 33:3).

**Now is the time! We must not wait!** Oh yes, now more than ever before on this day and every day for that matter, we need to desperately pray to our Mighty Father!

We trust and believe that Almighty God can and will refresh us in the darkest hours. Sadly, Israel had forgotten the God who had delivered them from evil, time and time again...they preferred their ways to His. Our awesome God repeatedly told them they had departed from Him and openly despised His commandments.

Today, we have to deal with the same philosophies and sinful desires that elevate man over God. **Have no doubts, the Creator of all things is waiting for the Church to wake up...more specifically for us as individuals to wake up.** I believe it is a dark time for our country. Think about all the lawlessness, innocent lives, from the unborn to the elderly that are being taken or hopelessly damaged every second in the day. This land we all love, a land that God had shed His saving light and grace upon and blessed, is full of rebellion against the One who has created us! But there is still hope for us! We are not lost and condemned! That's God's promise, for He gave His one and only Son that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have life eternal! That Son, is Jesus, our Lord and Savior! God in the flesh come to save His creation!

**Yes, despite our sinfulness God still loves America!** History tells us a great Spirit based revival and time of Godly renewal came to Europe through ordinary, imperfect people like us - Martin Luther, John Wycliffe, John Wesley, and John Calvin to name just a few. God will do the same for America. Our nation is under overt attack by the Devil and his evil ones, who are hell-bent on destroying us! The very foundations of our Land that were based on Almighty God's unchangeable word are being ignored and even blasphemed. It seems like sinful behaviors and desires are being accepted as the norm in our country. But God be praised: where sin and inequity abounds, Christ offers that much more amazing grace and love. We need only glance at the Cross of suffering and shame on which He sacrificed Himself for you and me, to see how much He truly cares for us. His empty tomb on that first Easter morning long ago assured us that His victory over Satan and evil has been guaranteed! Forgiveness and life everlasting is ours! He continually calls us back to Him with words like these:

***“If my people which are called by my name will humble themselves and pray, and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, and forgive their sin and heal their land.”*** (Chronicles 7:14). We often love to quote it but are we really doing it?

Even the spelling of the word **TURN** helps us remember what God wants us to do. **T** - for **take** time. **U** - for you to **understand** His truth. **R** - **repent** of our sins. **N** - **now** is the time! **TURN BACK TO THE LORD!!**

The results can start a God-directed revival of our land! Great is the reward! For many people will rejoice in the Lord and will be lifted up to Him! They will experience the love of the Lord. It will prompt great joy in each life and in His church on earth! There will be continual prayer and rejoicing for salvation has come to us and our Land, and even the world! Folks, we are to be those beacons of light that illuminate and give hope, the hope of Jesus Christ, the Light of the world, to all those around us! **But the light has to be turned on. That's where we come in!**

Shine like never before for Him! We pray: ***“Shine, Jesus, shine! Fill this land with the Father's glory! Blaze, Spirit, blaze set our hearts on fire...Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with Your grace and mercy...Send forth Your Word, Lord, and let there be Light!”*** (Song by Graham Kendrick).

In Jesus' name and to His everlasting glory! Amen, and Amen!!