

Day of Prayer
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In case you were not already aware, today is the National Day of Prayer. The first Thursday of May has been set aside by Congress as the day we should all pray for our nation and its leaders. I believe it is significant that it is actually called the National Day of Prayer and not a National Day of Reflection or some other generic term.

Prayer assumes a deity. We cannot pray without acknowledging that there is a greater Being than ourselves. In the life of our nation, many have tried to remove references to God in public life, but it is not possible to do this without a complete re-writing of the United States Constitution, as well as the state constitutions of each of our fifty states. They all refer to God and invoke His assistance in the governance of the people. We can no more remove God from our public life than we can remove our Constitution, currency and numerous public buildings.

Prayer also assumes involvement. There is little point in prayer if we do not believe that prayer can make a difference. I believe that prayer makes a difference in my life when I pray. I also believe that it makes a difference in the object of my petition. When I ask God to guide our nation's leaders, I believe that He offers them wisdom and guidance. If they are open to God's leadership, we benefit even further.

Prayer involves commitment. I will pray for something when I believe in it and am committed to it. It is difficult for me to pray for something I do not care about. Since I care about my family, I want a place for them in which to live that is safe and free. I want to pray for my nation to remain strong to better enable it to protect the weak. I pray for my nation because I care about it and I am committed to it.

There is an old expression that a rising tide raises all ships together. It conveys the idea that when our nation benefits, the people in it benefit. But it goes further than that. We are a very influential nation in the world. Other nations' economies are affected by our economy. Therefore, when our nation prospers, others prosper. When we are godly in our national practices and policies, we are able to influence others to godliness.

Prayer involves dependence, as well. It acknowledges that we must have God's help and leadership. We must depend upon God for our very survival as a nation. We don't ever want to assume that God is on our side simply because we are the United States of America. Rather, we need to ensure that the United States of American is on God's side. We need to make sure that our customs and practices reflect God's influence on us. If we are obedient to Him, we will be spiritually, morally and ethically strong. Only then can we truly be internationally strong.

Pause today and ask for God's help for our leaders. Pray for the President, the Legislature and the Judiciary. Pray for our nation as a whole. Pray for the state and local governmental leaders. Ask God to lead them as they lead us. And pray the we will be godly in following them and that we will continue to be godly in the coming days as we elect new government officials.

Semper Fi in the Lord and I hope to see you in church on Sunday.