

What Can the Church Do For America?

2 Chronicles 7:12-16

Dr. Larry Bazer

Too often we look to some political party or the latest charismatic presidential candidate to solve our nation's problems. Too often we forgot that the source of all blessing and wisdom for any nation is God Almighty. History does reveal that our country was built on a dependence on God. Many factors have corrupted our great land from what it once was. The solution for change does not ride on a donkey or an elephant but upon the back of the church of the Living Lord. What can the church do for America today?

I. We Must Humble Ourselves

1. Main obstacle of pride.
2. Humility recognizes that it is not all about me; it's about Him!
3. Satan couldn't handle that.

Isaiah 14: ¹² "How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations!

¹³ For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north;

¹⁴ I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most HIGH."

4. Was the temptation for Eve
5. At the heart of every sin.
6. God's antidote to our pride: humility

James 4: ⁶ But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."

⁷ Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

⁸ Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *you* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *you* double-minded.

⁹ Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and *your* joy to gloom.

¹⁰ Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

II. We Must Pray

1. Not believe in prayer, or talk about prayer, but pray!
2. Connected to first; prayer is our dependence on God.
3. God gives us a roadmap for prayer:

1 ¶ Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks be made for all men,

² for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.

³ For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,

⁴ who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

⁵ For *there is* one God and one Mediator between God and men, *the* Man Christ Jesus,

- For all men
- For those in authority
- For salvation of all in Jesus Christ

4. Why pray? Only way to get in on:

- God's power

Matthew 7: ⁷ ¶ "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

⁸ "For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

- God's presence
- God's Plan
- God's Provision

5. Prayer is not the least thing; nor the last thing, but the main thing!

III. We Must Seek His Face

1. Satan offers his alternatives
2. What does "seek My face" mean?
 - A Priority
 - A Person

Psalm 27: ⁴ One *thing* I have desired of the LORD, That will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD All the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the LORD, And to inquire in His temple... ⁸ *When You said, "Seek My face,"* My heart said to You, "Your face, LORD, I will seek."

⁹ Do not hide Your face from me; Do not turn Your servant away in anger; You have been my help; Do not leave me nor forsake me, O God of my salvation... ¹⁴ Wait on the LORD; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the LORD!

- His Purpose
3. The test to determine what I am really seeking in life...
 - What do I think about most?
 - What do I spend most of my time and money?
 4. Seeking God is not for wimps!

Hebrews 11: ⁶ But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

IV. We Must Turn From our Wicked Ways

1. Several obstacles:
 - I am still attracted to the world!
 - I tend to judge others' sins more harshly than mine
 - I tend to overlook my sins of the spirit
2. God's solution
 - Dare to ask Holy Spirit to reveal any sin in my life.

Psalm 139: ²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; ²⁴ And see if *there is any* wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.

- Confess that sin

1 John 1: ⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

- Repent
- Receive His forgiveness and grace today!