



How to Pray During This Presidential Election

Rev. Fred A. Hartley, III
September 2020

"When the Lamb opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. Then I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them. And another angel came and stood at the altar with a golden censer, and he was given much incense to offer with the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar before the throne, and the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, rose before God from the hand of the angel. Then the angel took the censer and filled it with fire from the altar and threw it on the earth, and there were peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning, and an earthquake."

Revelation 8:1-5

There may be no better Scripture that elevates the role of prayer in the last days than Revelation 8:1-5. Heaven is normally a loud place, perhaps the loudest place in the universe. These verses begin, however, with a dramatic silence in heaven. The silence is indicative of the fact that God, who is normally speaking throughout the Book of The Revelation, is now listening—He is listening to the prayers of the saints. What a picture of the dynamic interplay between heaven and earth! The sovereign God has dynamically built the role of prayer into His economy. Notice that the golden censer is full of "the prayers of all the saints." The prayers mingled with the incense smoke not only filled heaven, but filled the nostrils of God. Then swiftly a mighty angel takes the bowl full of prayer, which has now been set ablaze with the fire of God's manifest presence, and hurls it back to earth in what has been called "reverse thunder." A casual, superficial reading of the Book of The Revelation will lead you to think the world will be spinning out of control in the last days. Don't believe it! That is the devil's lie to try to paralyze the Church and fill us with prayerlessness. It's time to throw off such pagan futility, which leads to passivity, and embrace the activation of Holy Spirit motivated prayer. Intercessory prayer is that call of God on the Church in these last days. Certainly during a presidential election cycle, we must pray confidently and concertedly. **We do not dictate history; God does. We do, however, play a strategic part in shaping history by prayer.**

The following twelve guidelines will be followed through our 50-Day Prayer Countdown:

1) Declare the love of Father God over our nation.

"God's kindness is meant to lead to repentance." Romans 2:4

2) Declare the supremacy of Christ over our nation.

"Hallowed be Your Name." Matthew 6:9

3) Declare the advancing of Christ's Kingdom.

"Your kingdom come." Matthew 9:10

4) Confess your personal sin.

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

© 2020 College of Prayer International. All rights reserved.

All Scripture references taken from the English Standard Version unless otherwise indicated.

5) Confess the sin of our nation.

"Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy." Proverbs 28:13

"Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people." Proverbs 14:34

6) Loose forgiveness to others.

"Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you." Ephesians 4:32

7) Resist evil in our nation.

"The wicked flee when no one pursues, but the righteous are bold as a lion." Proverbs 28:1

8) Rebuke the evil one.

"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." James 4:7

9) Pray righteousness on our nation.

"But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." Matthew 6:33

10) Lament our national wounds.

"Come, let us return to the Lord; for he has torn us, that he may heal us; he has struck us down, and he will bind us up. After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him." Hosea 6:1-2

11) Welcome healing to our nation.

"If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land." 2 Chronicles 7:14

12) Ask for revival in our nation.

"Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?" Psalm 85:6

It is all too easy during a presidential election year to disqualify yourself from the place of influence with God in prayer. The devil is always out to kidnap your heart and hijack your prayer life, but during the presidential election cycle, he uses more deceitful schemes than usual. At the very time when God is calling for your prayer life to become more effective, if you are not on your guard, your prayer life may become impotent. This teaching is designed to give you specific steps you can take to protect your prayer life in a presidential election year.

Ten Guidelines to Protect Your Prayer Life:

This was the subject of August's "Kingdom Leadership Podcast." Visit collegeofprayer.org/podcast to listen or subscribe to our Podcast channel in your favorite Podcast app.

1) Always lead your prayer with the Name of Christ. Jesus gives you access to the Father's throne, not the throne of the Republicans nor the Democrats.

2) When you pray for our nation, always encounter the love of Christ.

3) Pray the kingdom of Christ, not the kingdom of a particular presidential candidate.

4) Exercise your authority to bind and loose. Remember, you do not wrestle against flesh and blood—nor against Republicans, Democrats, or Independents; you wrestle against the enemy.

- 5) Put down your sword. There were political zealots in the first century, and there are political zealots in the 21st century. We want to be zealots for the kingdom of Christ, not a political kingdom. Just as Jesus told His disciples in the garden of Gethsemane, “put away your sword” (Matthew 26:22), He needs to tell the modern-day political zealots that Christ’s kingdom is not primarily advanced through politics.
- 6) Avoid witchcraft prayer like the plague. Do not pick a fight bigger than your assignment. Witchcraft prayer prays for one person to win and the other to lose. Witchcraft prayer tries to control the outcome for our own personal advantage. All witchcraft prayer is demonic prayer and useless for kingdom advancement.
- 7) Stay out of the seat of the mocker (see Psalm 1:1-2). The news media is now 98% mockery. Be careful, particularly during a presidential election.
- 8) Resist anger. The anger of man does not bring about the righteous results of God (James 1:20), but the anger of man does give ground to the devil (Ephesians 4:26).
- 9) Don’t pray low level prayers; God wants you praying on a higher level. Pray wisdom, righteousness, mercy, justice, kindness, clarity, humility, and the fear of the Lord over our nation and over the political process.
- 10) Righteousness exalts a nation, so You want to do what you can to be sure your attitudes are righteous (Proverbs 13:34).

50-Day prayer countdown leading up to the election:

- Day 50 Monday, Sep 14 Declare His love over our nation Romans 2:4*
- Day 49 Tuesday, Sep 15 Declare the supremacy of Christ over our nation Matthew 6:9*
- Day 48 Wednesday, Sep 16 Declare the advancing of Christ’s Kingdom Matthew 9:10*
- Day 47 Thursday, Sep 17 Confess your personal sin 1 John 1:9*
- Day 46 Friday, Sep 18 Confess the sin of our nation Proverbs 28:13, Proverbs 14:34*
- Day 45 Saturday, Sep 19 Loose forgiveness to others Ephesians 4:32*
- Day 44 Sunday, Sep 20 Resist evil in our nation Proverbs 28:1*
- Day 43 Monday, Sep 21 Rebuke the evil one James 4:7*
- Day 42 Tuesday, Sep 22 Pray righteousness Matthew 6:33*
- Day 41 Wednesday, Sep 23 Lament our national wounds Hosea 6:1-2*
- Day 40 Thursday, Sep 24 Welcome healing to our nation 2 Chronicles 7:14*
- Day 39 Friday, Sep 25 Ask for revival in our nation Psalm 85:6*
- Day 38 Saturday, Sep 26 Declare His love over our nation Romans 2:4*
- Day 37 Sunday, Sep 27 Declare the supremacy of Christ over our nation Matthew 6:9*
- Day 36 Monday, Sep 28 Declare the advancing of Christ’s Kingdom Matthew 9:10*
- Day 35 Tuesday, Sep 29 Confess your personal sin 1 John 1:9*
- Day 34 Wednesday, Sep 30 Confess the sin of our nation Proverbs 28:13, Proverbs 14:34*
- Day 33 Thursday, Oct 1 Loose forgiveness to others Ephesians 4:32*
- Day 32 Friday, Oct 2 Resist evil in our nation Proverbs 28:1*
- Day 31 Saturday, Oct 3 Rebuke the evil one James 4:7*
- Day 30 Sunday, Oct 4 Pray righteousness in our nation Matthew 6:33*
- Day 29 Monday, Oct 5 Lament our national wounds Hosea 6:1-2*
- Day 28 Tuesday, Oct 6 Welcome healing to our nation 2 Chronicles 7:14*
- Day 27 Wednesday, Oct 7 Ask for revival in our nation Psalm 85:6*
- Day 26 Thursday, Oct 8 Declare His love over our nation 2 Chronicles 20:21b*
- Day 25 Friday, Oct 9 Declare the supremacy of Christ over our nation Philippians 2:10-11*
- Day 24 Saturday, Oct 10 Declare the advancing of Christ’s Kingdom Matthew 11:12*
- Day 23 Sunday, Oct 11 Confess your personal sin Isaiah 1:18*

Day 22 Monday, Oct 12 Confess the sin of our nation Psalm 32:1-3
Day 21 Tuesday, Oct 13 Loose forgiveness to others Matthew 6:14-15
Day 20 Wednesday, Oct 14 Resist evil in our nation Revelation 18:4b
Day 19 Thursday, Oct 15 Rebuke the evil one 1 Peter 5:9
Day 18 Friday, Oct 16 Pray righteousness in our nation Romans 14:17
Day 17 Saturday, Oct 17 Lament our national wounds Isaiah 53:4-6
Day 16 Sunday, Oct 18 Welcome healing to our nation 2 Chronicles 7:14
Day 15 Monday, Oct 19 Ask for revival in our nation Psalm 85:6
Day 14 Tuesday, Oct 20 Declare His love over our nation 1 John 4:10-11
Day 13 Wednesday, Oct 21 Declare the supremacy of Christ over our nation Isaiah 9:6b
Day 12 Thursday, Oct 22 Declare the advancing of Christ's Kingdom Revelation 11:15b
Day 11 Friday, Oct 23 Confess your personal sin Psalm 51:4
Day 10 Saturday, Oct 24 Confess the sin of our nation Proverbs 14:34
Day 9 Sunday, Oct 25 Loose forgiveness to others Ephesians 4:32
Day 8 Monday, Oct 26 Resist evil in our nation 1Corinthians 10:13
Day 7 Tuesday, Oct 27 Rebuke the evil one James 4:7
Day 6 Wednesday, Oct 28 Pray righteousness in our nation Matthew 6:33
Day 5 Thursday, Oct 29 Lament our national wounds Hosea 6:1-2
Day 4 Friday, Oct 30 Welcome healing to our nation 2 Chronicles 7:14
Day 3 Saturday, Oct 31 Ask for revival in our nation Psalm 85:6
Day 2 Sunday, Nov 1 Declare His love over our nation Psalm 103:8
Day 1 Monday, Nov 2 Declare the supremacy of the Christ over our nation Colossians 1:18

**Get more great resources for spiritual growth at www.collegeofprayer.org.
Connect with us on social media at [/collegeofprayer](https://www.collegeofprayer.org):**

