



How to Protect Your Prayer Life During a Presidential Election

Rev. Fred A. Hartley, III
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"First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way." 1 Timothy 2:1-2

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. Five guidelines are positive—how to pray. Five guidelines are negative—how **NOT** to pray. For those of you who recognize that this election will be won at the throne of God, I hope this is helpful.

10 Guidelines

1. **Exalt CHRIST.** Always lead your prayer time with the name of Christ. Jesus gives you access to the Father's throne, not the Republican nor the Democrat throne.
2. **Pray LOVE.** When you pray for your nation, always declare the love of Christ. It is God's kindness that leads in repentance, and our nation needs repentance. It is virtually impossible to pray for repentance out of anger. It is rarely God's anger (nor yours) that leads to repentance; what leads to repentance is God's kindness, compassion, and unconditional love.
3. **Pray the KINGDOM.** Christ's kingdom, not the kingdom of a particular presidential candidate, is what is needed. God's kingdom is righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit.
4. **Exercise your AUTHORITY.** Bind and loose. Remember, you do not wrestle against flesh and blood – nor against Republicans, Democrats, or Independents. You wrestle against the enemy. Bind what is evil—deception, greed, witchcraft, racism, anarchy, murder, fear, hopelessness. Loose what is good—truth, righteousness, salvation, humility, and the fear of the Lord.
5. **Seek and pray RIGHTEOUSNESS.** Jesus linked "the kingdom of God and His righteousness" (Matthew 6:33). Righteousness exalts a nation (Proverbs 13:34), so you want to be sure your attitudes are righteous when you pray. Remember, it is the prayers of the righteous that have great power and produce good

results (James 5:16). It is the righteous, not those who are the loudest, not those who are well researched, not those who are most opinionated, and not those who are most religious, who have the greatest influence with God.

6. **Put down your sword.** There were political zealots in the 1st century, and there are still 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 tells the modern day political zealots that Christ’s kingdom is not primarily advanced through politics, but through prayer.

7. **Avoid witchcraft prayer like the plague.** Do not pick a fight bigger than your assignment. We define witchcraft as intimidation and manipulation for the sake of domination and control. You cannot manipulate God. Witchcraft prayer tries to control people or events—for one person to win and the other to lose. Cursing or wanting evil to happen to people is demonic prayer. All such prayer is witchcraft prayer, and it is useless for kingdom advancement.

8. **Stay out of the seat of the mocker.** (Psalm 1:1-2) The news media is now 98% mockery. Be careful, particularly during a presidential election, to avoid a spirit of mockery. You should spend more time reading the Bible than watching news.

9. **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). There are certainly national issues that infuriate any sensible person, but be careful. While God loves honest, raw, and sometimes angry prayer, most of what we label “righteous indignation” is anything but righteous!

10. **Avoid partisan prayers.** Pray prayers that will bless both sides—strong voter turnout; clarity and the fear of the Lord to rule over every voting booth; an accurate and honest count of all ballots; that evil will be exposed; that God’s protection will shield each candidate and the entire election process; that the media will accurately and honestly report the issues; that our nation will be protected and that evil will be rooted out and that righteousness will be experienced.

God bless you as you heed God’s call to prayer during this election cycle. It is our intention that these ten guidelines will protect righteous prayer, as well as promote healthy thought and discussion.

“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

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