

PRAYING PSALM 31 FOR AMERICA

While reading Psalm 31 during my morning devotions I was impressed by how the message to ancient Israel could be applied to modern America. I began to pray for America and soon realized that I was praying Psalm 31 in first person. Later I began to write that prayer and I share it below.
—Barnabas—

We put our trust in **You, O Lord, You** are our rock and fortress. Therefore, for **Your** name's sake, lead us and guide us; **You** are our strength. **You** have established America as a nation that would honor and obey **Your** precepts; a nation whose motto is “**in God we trust**”.

Heavenly Father, from America's inception the Bible was our foundation and prayer was our pathway. But the adversary has deceived many educators and politicians to wreak havoc with constitutional protections. Most of the press no longer seeks to report truth, **O Lord**, but rather prints biased and deceptive articles and opinions to shape the news and laws which blatantly defy **Your** will and purpose.

Almighty God, we hear the slander against honorable citizens, while many ungodly officials take counsel together to defy **You**. They bring our culture down to levels that demand **Your** judgement. They enact laws to silence prayer and Bible reading in the public forum. They scheme to take away our Christian heritage. They re-write history to forget the protection **You** have provided for America. They don't acknowledge the wisdom and guidance found in **Your Holy Bible**. They are a law unto themselves who make war against **You** and **Your** people. But as for **Your** church, **O Lord**, we will trust in **You! You are our God!** Our times and destiny are in **Your** hand!

At the same time, **O Lord, Your** enemies welcome false religions to our classrooms and permit Muslims to stop traffic in busy cities for their sidewalk-to-sidewalk public prayers. Let the wicked be ashamed, **O God**; may they learn to fear **You** as the **God** of both mercy and justice; the jealous **God Who** declared that there should be no other gods before **You**. May their lying lips be put to silence; and may they realize that redemption comes only through **Jesus Christ**—and that eternal judgement has no end.

O God, let the lying lips and deceiving deeds in America—indeed in all the world—be exposed with appropriate judgement. Let the lawless who speak against **You** and the righteous who worship and serve **You**, be caught in the web they spin for the godly. Let today's Hamans be hung on the gallows they prepare for all the righteous Mordecais (**Book of Esther**) in America.

O God, how great is **Your** goodness toward those who fear **You**, and trust in **You!** May all **Your** saints love **You, Lord**—and seek **You** with all of their hearts. May they pray with faith and focus that **You, Almighty God**, will bless this nation—and that **You** will preserve the faithful throughout the land according to **2nd Chronicles 7:14**. Amen! Read Psalm 31 again to appreciate the above prayer parallel.

Dear **Heavenly Father**, Hallowed be **Your** name (Matt. 5) and may **Your** kingdom come and **Your** will be done in America—and in all the earth as it is in Heaven. We will be of good courage for our trust is in **You**, that **You** will strengthen our hearts—and that **You** will forgive America for its sin of rejecting Bible truth and morality as it embraced carnal, fleshly, sinful practices and life-styles. Father God, **return** to America with a spiritual awakening that will **revive** the Christian churches to be **reformed** examples—indeed light and salt in the land—so that **You** can **restore** blessing and favor upon America, indeed upon the nations. **O God**, deliver us from evil, for **Yours** is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen!

These two sample prayers of Psalm 31 and the Lord's Prayer are suggestive. Let the Lord lead you.

Psalm 71—75 Meditation About Answered Prayer For The Aging

Not all of my prayers have been answered, at least the way I wanted. I have been praying for myself and friends regarding health as we age. Reminding the Lord that He did many varieties of healing, and that He commissioned the disciples to do likewise, I seriously asked the Lord “*why*” my friends have lingering health problems. Why our prayers are not being answered—or are they and we don't understand? I asked the Lord if we can be self-reliant and mentally cognizant all the days of our lives; if we could have faith to restore all kinds of health problems for ourselves and others?

Continuing to read—**Psalm 71** reminded me that God is my hope and strength. The Psalmist pled for God *not* to cast him off in old age, or forsake him when his strength fails; but to revive him again. This made me wonder if today's Psalm reading would be an answer to my questions in the above paragraph; that God wants me (and my friends) to be revived and enjoy health and strength. This is certainly something to pray and believe for. Then **Psalm 73: 23-28** leapt out as a possible answer to my question: “*God—hold me, guide me, receive me to glory*”. This sounds like God has not forgotten me, that He will guide me and will be my strength—but maybe my life span is ending. Maybe it is my time to depart this world for that better heavenly home.

Verse 28 reminds me to draw near to God and continue to trust in Him—His love, provision presence and promised benefits (**Ps. 103**). Drawing near to Father God should be a routine, standard prayerful practice 24/7. Striving to live a life that pleases God requires ample time for praise and worship. This will leave the answers to prayer in God's hands, and I believe He will make it known to us whether to contend for healing, or to wait and trust for his presence and conditioning until He takes us to our heavenly home. So I worship.

Psalm 74:12 introduces another possible factor—God is working in all the earth. This doesn't mean that my prayers are being delayed or unanswered because God is not concerned. God is concerned for each of us, but He is also concerned about global and future issues. Behind the scenes of Job's misery God was working out bigger concerns. This should reassure us that while God's concerns are global, they also include our individual needs and prayers. So I continue to worship, pray and trust God to do what is best.

Psalm 75: 2, 7 & 8 reveal that there is a proper time for everything, that God is the final judge and that He has a “**timer**” (the cup of wine) to alert Him when to answer some prayers. It is easy for me to understand this “**timer**” and “**when the proper time comes**” when thinking of world events and the latter days coming to a climax. However the answer to personal prayer is difficult to understand because God's provisions and promises are so strong. But maybe there are things in my life that need attention or adjustment before I meet conditions to qualify for answers to my prayers. Maybe the answers to my prayer is related to other people who might be influenced when it happens, but are not yet ready, and answers are delayed.

Case In point—a friend of mine was impressed to go from Los Angeles to the Midwest and pray for a friend dying of cancer. At the hospital he prayed for his friend, who then asked him to go down the hall and pray for a dying child. God healed the child, but his friend died. The child's healing confirmed that God heard my friend's prayers—the child had a purpose to live but the man who died had finished his race and death was God's will for him.

To understand “*why*” my healing and restoration is delayed I may need to look inward to evaluate if my trust is really in God, or do I trust in doctors and medicine. Am I seeking God more than His benefits; am I seeking for deep intimacy with the Lord, or am I satisfied with the status quo. Unanswered prayers for myself may require such introspection. Unanswered prayers for friends may indicate that they need to do the same. Or, God may be testing our faith and/or wanting us to develop a greater faith. Or for His own reason God may not answer the prayers in the way we would like. When prayer is not answered we must wait in faith and continue to pray and trust for understanding (read **Psalm 37** about trust and wait).