

Upcoming Events:

Monday, October 9th

Celebration Breakfast and Golf Classic

[Online Registration Link](#)

Monday, November 6th

Election Eve Prayer Walk

Introduction

The phrase “in God we trust” calls each American to the greatest action—dependence upon God!

In 1787 our forefather, Benjamin Franklin, during the final weeks to form our constitution, spoke to the President of the assembly with a lengthy statement of reliance upon God, here is an excerpt of his words:

*“I have lived, Sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth- that God governs in the affairs of men, and if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without his aid? We have been assured, Sir, in the sacred writings, that “except the Lord build the House they labor in van that build it.” I firmly believe this;...”*¹

Franklin is never recognized as proclaiming himself to be what we would refer to as a born-again Christian, but he did recognize that this nation needed God. As a matter of fact, all of our rights are anchored in God. “We the people” is established on the existence of a Creator who gave us inalienable rights. Yes, America was founded with dependence on God. The very cry of Franklin’s letter called for prayer every morning in congress. In time of disagreement prayer drew the assembly together and as a result the Constitution of the United States was formed. President George Washington called it: “nothing short of a miracle” and James Madison recognized it as “an astonishing act...of the finger of that Almighty hand...”²

Your prayer life reveals your dependency on the Lord. Paul prayed this prayer for the church at Ephesus and ultimately for all the Christians of that first century.

Ephesians 3:14–21 (ESV) *For this reason I bow my knees before the Father,*¹⁵ *from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named,*¹⁶ *that according to the riches of*

*his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being,*¹⁷ *so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love,*¹⁸ *may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth,*¹⁹ *and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God....*

Review:

The body of the prayer focused on;

1) Paul kneeling before the Father for He is the authority to be feared. Paul points out that the entire human race descends from God the Father, and the whole earth is made up of people created in God’s image. This truth means that it is evil to be racially divided because the image of God is in every human being. It declares that there is one race- the human race!

2) Paul was burdened that every person would be at peace with God through Jesus Christ.

3) He prayed that Christians would be “strengthened to comprehend” the love of Christ. The love of Christ is so amazing that it is described in four dimensions: “breadth, length, depth, and height.” A reliable scholar pointed to how Scripture interprets these dimensions. He states, “the ‘breadth’ implies Christ’s world-wide love, embracing all men: the ‘length,’ its being extended through all ages (Eph 3:21); the ‘depth,’ its profound wisdom which no creature can fathom (Rom 11:33); [and] the ‘height,’ its being beyond the reach of any foe to deprive us of (Eph 4:8).”³

This study will focus on the last two verses of this prayer.

“Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”

1. God is able to accomplish your concerns.

God is able to do all things. Therefore, ask and allow God to direct you to attempt remarkable things for God! The word “able” is δύναμις (*dynamis*). Our word dynamite is from this word. This refers to the ability of God’s supernatural strength. He is omnipotent meaning all powerful. John the Apostle wrote: “Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world” I John 4:4.

¹ Eric Metaxas, *The Forgotten Promise of American Liberty*, (New York, New York: Viking, 2016), 205

² *Ibid.*, 206-7.

³ Jamieson, R., Fausset, A. R., & Brown, D. (1997). *Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible* (Vol. 2, p. 348). Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

William Carey stated: “Expect great things from God, attempt great things for God.” Known as the founder of modern missions, William Carey opened the door of God’s Word to India and flooded it with a Biblical education. He aided in 44 language translations of Scripture, started Serampore College in 1818, and founded the Agri Horticultural Society in 1820. The light of God’s Word changed that society by turning them away from the evil practices of sati and infant sacrifice. It opened India to be a productive society. In Carey’s passion to attempt great things for God he once said: “To know the will of God, we need an open Bible and an open map.”⁴

William Carey had the right order. Know who God is, spend time with Him, and let Him direct you to do things only God can do! This loudly proclaims reliance on the all-powerful God.

Attempting to do great things without God is disaster and bears no eternal work. Jesus stated, “for apart from me you can do nothing” (John 15:5b).

2. God is able to do more than you could dream.

Not only is God all powerful, His power is able to act “beyond measure.” God is not the proverbial “bull in the China shop” – his actions are able to knit together for good that which is beyond our comprehension. The account of the life of Joseph in Genesis chapters 37-50 illustrates just how powerfully great and good God is! He is able to even take evil actions and turn them around for good. In Genesis 50:20 Joseph says, “they meant it for evil, but God meant it for good...” The ultimate illustration of that is the cross of Christ. What could be more evil than nailing our Creator to the cross? Yet in that most evil act of crucifixion God meant it for good (Acts 2:23) so that people could be freed from evil’s dominion and have peace with God through the forgiveness offered by God through Jesus Christ (Romans 5:1). Understanding the relationship between a good and all powerful God and evil is in many aspects beyond our comprehension. God is not evil. Evil has a strong dominate place in this world because of mans’ free will to choose against God.

Man does not grasp how evil – evil is; nor does man grasp how great and good God is! Paul points out that our asking of God in prayer falls short because of our inability to comprehend God. God answers our prayer - “far abundantly more than we ask or think.” These answers are

sometimes seen proclaiming the genius of God, but often are not understood in the immediate and sometimes not even in our lifetime. Yet God is always working and is always good. Our measure of goodness is often- what is in it for me, rather than seeing the big picture of eternity. God sees the big picture. Often, we feel as if we are “ants in a Rembrandt painting. We walk in the shadows, not seeing the beautiful portrait the grand artist in painting!”⁵

In Ephesians 6 Paul teaches these Ephesians how to pray, more effectively. Paul states in Ephesians 6:18, “praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication.”

What is praying in the Spirit? First, it is being right with God. This involves a pattern of prayer that many, including myself, use. **Adoration** – I pray in adoration for who God is and giving Him praise! **Confession** – I allow God’s Spirit to search my heart and I confess any sin while seeking His cleansing, (I John 1:9). **Thanksgiving** – Thankfulness is a spiritual weapon destroying covetousness and discontentment. There is always something to thank God for! **Supplication** – Lifting burdens, cares, and requests before God.

I would add one more “S” to the acronym “ACTS” as outlined above. The “S” would stand for “still”. It is so important to “be still and silent” in God’s presence. This quiet, still time allows God the Spirit to prompt you how to pray. God, in that stillness, impresses upon your heart His prayer for your need, family, state, and nation. Being still means saturating your mind with the Word of God. The Spirit of God works in hand with God’s Word to direct our prayers.

3. God is able to change you.

It is the Holy Spirit that is the power at work within. This power calls us to be sensitive to what is wrong and what is wise, and what is good. It leads us to fear God, be reliant upon Him, and do unto others as you would have them do to you. *This power is life transforming. It is the power that raised Jesus Christ from the dead.*

He is able more than able to accomplish what concerns me today. He is able, more than able to handle anything that comes my way. He is able, more than able to do much more than I could ever dream. He is able, more than able to make me what He wants me to be.

⁴ Thefamouspeople.com, William Carey, August 17,1761 –June 9,1834.

⁵ Irwin Lutzer, message on God’s Sovereignty, 2009.