

## PRAYING FOR OUR NATION WITH AN INTERCESSOR'S HEART

I gave my attention to the Lord God to seek Him by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth and ashes. I prayed to the LORD my God and confessed and said, "Alas, O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and lovingkindness for those who love Him and keep His commandments, we have sinned, committed iniquity, acted wickedly and rebelled, even turning aside from Your commandments and ordinances" (Daniel 9:3-5 NASB).

- 1 All throughout the Bible we find clear examples of individuals who were committed to intercede on behalf of nations and large groups of people. Moses, Daniel, Jesus, and Paul were just a few (Exodus 32; Daniel 9; Luke 19; Ephesians 1). Ask God to raise up intercessors in America today who will pray for our nation with faith, humility, love for people, and passion for the lost.
- 2 Pray that our nation's intercessors will be greatly used by God as they purpose to abide in Christ, have His words abide in them, and pray according to God's will (John 15:7).

### PRAYING WITH THE FAITH OF MOSES . . .

- 3 Moses centered a number of His appeals to God on his concern that God's reputation be honored (Exodus 32:11-12). As we remember God's history with our nation, pray that His name will be honored as people see the church repenting and becoming more like Jesus.
- 4 Moses often based his prayers on the covenantal promises of God (Exodus 32:13). Ask God to raise up intercessors for our nation who will be faithfully committed to Christ and will base their praying on the promises of God.
- 5 Moses was blatantly honest in confessing to God the sinfulness of the Hebrew people (Exodus 32:31). Pray that we will be honest before God, acknowledging plainly how we as a nation have turned away from Him.
- 6 Moses appealed to God to change His mind and forgive the Hebrew nation, but he was willing to be judged with them should God continue His plan of final judgment (Exodus 32:32). Pray that God will raise up intercessors who so trust Him to do what is right that they will literally place their lives on the line with those they are praying for.

- 7 Moses often acted as God's mouthpiece by receiving specific directions from Him and then faithfully communicating those plans to the Hebrew nation (Exodus 33:1-5, 11). Pray that God will raise up many sons and daughters in this generation who will seek daily direction from Him and then faithfully obey.
- 8 In order to know God better, Moses asked God to reveal to him His ways (Exodus 33:13). Pray that intercessors all over America will have that same kind of heart, wanting as a first priority to have an intimate relationship with God.
- 9 God's anointed presence with the Hebrews was a major concern of Moses (Exodus 33:15-16). Pray that those who pray for revival in America will have that same longing for God's manifest, anointed presence.

### PRAYING WITH THE HUMILITY OF DANIEL . . .

- 10 Understanding God's activity with His people through the writings of Jeremiah, Daniel was moved to seek God "by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth and ashes" (Daniel 9:2-3). Pray that God will raise up intercessors today who will be relevant in their praying because they have sought God through His Word.
- 11 Daniel often began his intercession by focusing on God's awesomeness and lovingkindness (Daniel 9:4). Pray that intercessors today will pray with a clear view in mind of the greatness of God.
- 12 Even though Daniel had not sinned as his fellow countrymen had, he identified with them and confessed their sins as if they were his own (Daniel 9:5). Pray that God will raise up intercessors across America who will humbly cry out to Him from the perspective of God holding us corporately accountable for the sins of our nation.

- 13** Daniel was also quick to recognize that as a people, they had not paid attention to those who were responsible for declaring God's Word (Daniel 9:6). Pray that America's intercessors and congregations will humble themselves by honoring God's Word and prayerfully receiving those assigned by God to proclaim it.
- 14** Daniel humbly acknowledged that "open shame" belonged to him and his people because of their sins against God (Daniel 9:8). Pray that believers in America will once again confess and repent of their personal and corporate sins, feeling a genuine sense of shame for having disobeyed God.
- 15** Daniel humbly acknowledged that God's voice was heard in the teachings of the prophets (Daniel 9:10-11). Pray that we will once again become a people who recognize God's voice and are sensitive to obey Him as His Word is declared.
- 16** Daniel humbly understood the connection between the nation's sins and the remedial judgments God had brought on them (Daniel 9:12-14). Pray that God will again raise up intercessors, church leaders, and entire congregations who understand when and why God is bringing remedial discipline on His people.

#### **PRAYING WITH THE LOVE OF JESUS . . .**

- 17** Jesus' love for God moved Him to meet with His Father early in the morning (Mark 1:35). Pray that believers across the nation will so love God that consistently meeting with Him daily becomes the pattern of their lives.
- 18** Jesus taught His disciples to demonstrate their love for God by hallowing God's name when they prayed (Matthew 6:9). Pray that believers across America will keep praise for God at the forefront of their praying and intercession, always exalting God when speaking His holy name.
- 19** Jesus ministered with a tremendous love for people—the kind that moved Him at times to weep over their lost condition (Luke 19:41). Pray that we will see our cities like Jesus saw Jerusalem and weep over the souls of the lost.
- 20** Jesus taught that forgiving those who sin against us is an important step in being forgiven by God (Matthew 6:14-15). Since being in right relationship with God is critical to fruitful intercession, ask God to help today's church love and forgive those who have sinned against us.
- 21** Through His life and prayer, one main goal for Jesus was to glorify the Father (John 17:1, 4-5). Ask God to help those praying for revival to always keep God's glory at the forefront of their lives and intercession

- 22** Jesus prayed for the church to walk in unity so the world would know that He had been sent by God and that He had loved them (John 17:23). Pray today that the church in America will be united around its love for Jesus.
- 23** Jesus prayed that the love relationship He had with His Father would be experienced by those who followed Him (John 17:26). Pray that today's church will excel in loving God by demonstrating godly love for one another.

#### **PRAYING WITH THE PASSION OF PAUL . . .**

- 24** Paul wrote to the Ephesian believers saying that he constantly gave thanks for them (Ephesians 1:15-16). Pray that continual thanksgiving will fill the hearts of God's children, especially as they lift up their own churches in prayer.
- 25** Even as Paul asked God to give to the Ephesian believers "a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him" (Ephesians 1:17), pray that today's believers will excel still more in seeing life from God's perspective and understanding His heart and will.
- 26** Paul prayed that the believers in Ephesus would have their spiritual eyes enlightened in order to better understand what could be experienced in a relationship with God. Pray for the church in America to understand "the hope of His calling" and "the riches of the glory of His inheritance" (Ephesians 1:18-19).
- 27** Paul longed for his fellow believers to experience the power of God in their lives. Pray for Christians in this nation to walk under the "surpassing greatness of His power" and the "working of the strength of His might" (Ephesians 1:19).
- 28** Paul prayed that the believers living in Philippi would abound in real knowledge of God and would have discernment in knowing what was truly of His kingdom. Pray that American believers will do the same, approving "the things that are excellent" (Philippians 1:9-10).
- 29** Just as Paul exhorted believers to pray in the Spirit for "all the saints," pray that today's churches will see the importance of continually praying for all the believers in their communities (Ephesians 6:18).
- 30** Having God's passion in desiring to see the lost saved, Paul exhorted Timothy and the church he pastored to pray for "all men" (1 Timothy 2:1-4). Pray that the churches of America will become burdened for the lost and begin to pray for the salvation of everyone in their communities.