



2011 National Day of Prayer Thursday, May 5, 2011 7x7 Program Detail

About 7x7:

Are you willing to commit to pray for our country seven days a week? Are you able to set aside time in your car, during your coffee break, or before bedtime? We want to challenge you to make this prayer commitment.

7x7 involves praying for seven centers of power seven days a week: Government, Military, Media, Business, Education, Church and Family. By remembering these specific prayer points, we can cover all Americans with God's power.



Together, we will see positive change!

Government

Following are some passages that embody the innovation, courage and virtue of our nation's birth and early years:

We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America. (United States Constitution)

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. (Declaration of Independence)

...that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain -- that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom -- and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth. (Gettysburg Address)

These concepts are foundational to our country, and they have had a profound impact on the United States and the culture at large. Our Founding Fathers established a nearly foolproof system of government; its checks and balances are among the most noteworthy aspects of our republic. Our executive, legislative and judicial branches - when functioning as they were designed - champion our liberties and prevent our government from becoming tyrannical and oppressive. By and large, however, the American people

are sadly uninformed about democratic principles and their role in safeguarding our freedoms. What's more, the clearly defined lines between the three branches of government are becoming blurred, and United States citizens are paying the price.

We must continue to pray that God protects our way of life, asking that He would install in office men and women who are committed to serving their constituents with integrity. And we must remain in prayer for our elections, beseeching God to prompt our fellow citizens to become involved in this process. Voting is both a duty and a privilege, and the outcomes of our political races are critical in determining the future course of our nation.

May God's hand of wisdom and guidance remain upon each segment of our society, and through His Spirit, may believers be inspired to "pray continually" (I Thessalonians 5:17). We are assured that the Almighty hears our petitions. As people from coast to coast lift their voices in prayer, repentance and humility, we simply cannot underestimate how the Lord will respond. Let us together come before His throne with these words on our lips and in our hearts, "God bless America!"

Prayer Guide

Through this prayer guide, you will have an opportunity to petition God on behalf of our leaders and those who are in authority over us, as we are instructed to do in 1 Timothy 2:1-2. As you humbly come before the Lord and seek His face, please pray that these men and women will be granted divine wisdom, guidance and strength to fulfill their important roles.

-Prayer for Government...

Pray for our leaders, as well as the judges in our courts. Ask God to grant them wisdom to act with integrity.

- **I Kings 3:28**
“When all Israel heard the verdict the king had given, they held the king in awe, because they saw that he had wisdom from God to administer justice.” (NIV)
- **I Timothy 2:1-2**
“I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone –for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.” (NIV)
- **Exodus 18:21**
“But select capable men from all the people –men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain –and appoint them as officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens.” (NIV)
- **Proverbs 11:3**
“The integrity of the upright guides them, but the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity.” (NIV)

- **Romans 13:1-2**

“Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.” (NIV)

Military

In the wake of the September 11 attacks on our own soil, the American people have realized that the face of war is forever changed. No longer can we think of combat being fought solely on faraway shores. We must acknowledge that many of the United States' enemies are among us, even as others plot against us from afar.

With this sobering reality in mind, pray for the courageous troops who are actively serving our country each day, not only at bases around the world, but also here within our borders. Our soldiers daily place themselves in harm's way in order to defend the way of life we hold dear, and they desperately need our prayer support. Their families should be remembered as well. These individuals often make significant sacrifices as they endure long separations, frequent moves and other challenges inherent to military service.

As the heroic men and women in our armed services secure our liberty both at home and abroad, pray the Lord's protection will go before them. In addition, lift up the chaplains stationed around the world, along with the Christian servicemen who unofficially fulfill a role of spiritual leadership. Ask that these believers would faithfully represent Christ among their comrades-in-arms.

Please don't forget to pray also for those who have lost a loved one in battle. These grieving families have paid the ultimate price, and we must ask that God's comfort would be upon them in a special way.

Finally, pray that our media's accounts of U.S. military actions are relayed fairly and impartially. Our troops are deserving of their fellow Americans' gratitude and respect, and accurate reporting can play an important role in rallying the American people around our brave servicemen.

-Prayer for Military...

Pray for divine protection and guidance for our armed forces. Intercede for military chaplains and loved ones at home.

- **II Chronicles 32:6-8**

“He appointed military officers over the people and assembled them before him in the square at the city gate and encouraged them with these words: ‘Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged because of the king of Assyria and the vast army with him, for there is a

greater power with us than with him. With him is only the arm of flesh, but with us is the LORD our God to help us and to fight our battles.’ And the people gained confidence from what Hezekiah the king of Judah said.”

- **Psalm 57:1**
“Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me, for in You my soul takes refuge. I will take refuge in the shadow of Your wings until the disaster has passed.”
- **Psalm 59:1**
“Deliver me from my enemies, O God; protect me from those who rise up against me.”
- **Proverbs 2:8**
“...for He guards the course of the just and protects the way of His faithful ones.”
- **Psalm 5:11**
“But let all who take refuge in You be glad; let them ever sing for joy. Spread Your protection over them, that those who love Your name may rejoice in You.”

Media

The media is unquestionably one of the most powerful and influential voices in our culture. Journalism used to be a simple matter of reporting the facts and, where there was controversy, presenting both sides of the story. Unfortunately, that is no longer the case. From the top national networks to local newspapers, we are faced with the challenge of sorting through commentary and conjecture in order to get to the truth.

Meanwhile, throughout the entertainment industry, the heroes of pop culture model vices such as materialism, promiscuity, substance abuse, and violence. Professional athletes, once some of our nation's most revered and reliable role models, now watch many of their fellow players regularly fall into public disgrace.

Those of us determined to be discerning are constantly faced with the task of wading through the media's often biased and immoral offerings to find wholesome and acceptable alternatives for ourselves and our families. Specifically, we need to recognize and reject the errant messages of popular culture that run counter to the Judeo-Christian system of values.

We encourage you to make our nation's journalists a subject of prayer. Ask the Lord to provide the television, radio and print mediums with staff members and executives who are committed to accuracy and integrity.

We must also remember to intercede on behalf of the actors, musicians and athletes our young people seek to emulate. Pray that more of Hollywood's celebrities will be worthy of our respect and admiration. And as you watch your favorite sport, ask the Lord to strengthen and embolden any Christians on the team or coaching staff. Nothing is too

difficult for God and though the industry often seems unprincipled, we know the Lord is able to use the media to accomplish His purposes.

-Prayer for Media...

Pray for truth and morality to be presented.

- **Proverbs 12:9-22**

“⁹ Better to be a nobody and yet have a servant than pretend to be somebody and have no food. ¹⁰ A righteous man cares for the needs of his animal, but the kindest acts of the wicked are cruel. ¹¹ He who works his land will have abundant food, but he who chases fantasies lacks judgment. ¹² The wicked desire the plunder of evil men, but the root of the righteous flourishes. ¹³ An evil man is trapped by his sinful talk, but a righteous man escapes trouble. ¹⁴ From the fruit of his lips a man is filled with good things as surely as the work of his hands rewards him. ¹⁵ The way of a fool seems right to him, but a wise man listens to advice. ¹⁶ A fool shows his annoyance at once, but a prudent man overlooks an insult. ¹⁷ A truthful witness gives honest testimony, but a false witness tells lies. ¹⁸ Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing. ¹⁹ Truthful lips endure forever, but a lying tongue lasts only a moment. ²⁰ There is deceit in the hearts of those who plot evil, but joy for those who promote peace. ²¹ No harm befalls the righteous, but the wicked have their fill of trouble. ²² The LORD detests lying lips, but He delights in men who are truthful.”

- **Ephesians 4:29**

“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.”

- **Philippians 4:8**

“Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable –if anything is excellent or praiseworthy –think about such things.”

- **Matthew 12:36-37**

“But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.”

Business

Today's business leaders hold a great deal of sway in our society. America has long celebrated the entrepreneurial spirit of men and women who have launched innovative and successful companies. In generations past, honest and generous CEOs were rewarded with loyal employees, customers and clients. In recent years, however, greater numbers of large corporations are becoming characterized by deception, greed, and even fraudulent activity.

In this climate, executives with strong ethics are especially deserving of our recognition and patronage. A great way to encourage such business leaders is to support Marketplace Chaplains USA, a group that positions chaplains in companies across the country. Also, continue praying that God will provide corporate America with business leaders who are committed to conducting themselves honorably.

Prayer for Business...

Pray that God will raise up His ambassadors in the workplace.

- **Matthew 5:14-16**
“You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”
- **Galatians 6:9**
“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”
- **Proverbs 29:2**
“When the righteous thrive, the people rejoice; when the wicked rule, the people groan.”
- **Exodus 31:3-5**
“...and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts –to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, to cut and set stones, to work in wood, and to engage in all kinds of craftsmanship.”

Education

The goals, content and approach of modern-day education have changed dramatically from the schooling children received when our nation was first conceived. Formal, public education was just taking shape at that time as the newly formed government took responsibility for helping parents with this aspect of their children's upbringing. With the 1635 founding of America's first public school, the Boston Latin School, biblical faith was unapologetically woven into classroom teaching. Many teachers were local pastors, and a reverence for the Almighty and His precepts was viewed as an integral part of true knowledge.

Today's schools are a far cry from those early classrooms. The influence of postmodern thought has left its mark on twenty-first-century education, introducing concepts such as pluralism, "tolerance," and the rejection of absolute truth. While the textbooks used in colonial days promoted a faith-based worldview, today's curricula are replete with materials that accept and, in some cases, even condone immoral activities and lifestyles. Meanwhile, revisionist teachings about our country's founding remove any reference to

the Christian underpinnings that have long set our nation apart and helped it thrive.

With this type of atmosphere pervading our classrooms, it's especially critical that we pray for our nation's public school teachers, administrators and students. Ask the Lord to raise up a new generation of dedicated educators who will commit themselves not only to an honest, accurate presentation of all subject matter, but who will also serve as positive role models for their students. In addition, let's not forget to uphold our local school boards in prayer as they make decisions about the various curricula that are used across the country.

"Our entire student body and faculty joined together in prayer over the 7x7. This entire event was pivotal because it was used as a teaching tool to stress the importance of intercession for not only our friends and school, but for the state, nation and government. Students were truly blessed by the structured time of prayer and look forward to it next year." - Sally

Prayer for Education...

Pray for safety, morally sound instruction and wholesome environments.

- **Deuteronomy 11:18-19**
"Fix these words of Mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."
- **Psalms 34:7**
"The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear Him, and He delivers them."
- **Matthew 19:14**
"Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.'"
- **Psalms 90:16-17**
"May Your deeds be shown to Your servants, Your splendor to their children. May the favor of the Lord our God rest upon us; establish the work of our hands for us –yes, establish the work of our hands."

Church

While we often associate the word "church" with our locale of worship, Scripture takes a much broader view. The Church, ultimately, refers to the body of Christian believers around the world. The Lord is passionate for His Church, His bride. From the dawn of time, God's purposes have centered around revealing His glory through His people and securing our eternity with Him.

As those who guide and disciple the Church, today's pastors and other Christian leaders face a vast and unprecedented array of pressures. While God has blessed His people with

many godly ministers, these shepherds need our prayer support. As they strive to remain obedient to Christ, ask the Lord to provide them with strength and avenues of accountability so that they may maintain steadfastness in their vital callings. Down through the ages Christians have grieved over the tragedy of pastors who have succumbed to moral failure. Such circumstances seem all too frequent in our day and age. Pastoral families experience many unique stresses, too, and they can be overlooked even though their support role is crucial. Intercede for them, also, as they seek to faithfully come alongside their loved ones.

Meanwhile, the Christian community as a whole must struggle to be faithful amidst an "unbelieving and perverse generation" (Matthew 17:17). Our culture is rife with ideologies and activities that run contrary to biblical precepts, and believers must be increasingly "counter-cultural" in order to stay faithful to their convictions. Clearly, the Body of Christ needs intercession as never before.

Pray for the Lord to spark a revival throughout our nation, protect the witness of our pastors, and continue to sanctify and purify Christians around the world. We know that the spiritual condition of homes, communities and countries often points back to the believers within those regions. That being the case, it's all the more important that we strive after righteousness, corporately as well as individually.

Prayer for Church...

Pray for unity and boldness in proclaiming God's Word.

- **Matthew 16:18-19**
"And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."
- **Ephesians 4:3-6**
"Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit –just as you were called to one hope when you were called –one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all."
- **II Thessalonians 1:4**
"Therefore, among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring."
- **Acts 16:15**
"When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. 'If you consider me a believer in the Lord,' she said, 'come and stay at my house.' And she persuaded us."

Family

No institution in society is facing more intense persecution than the family. Not only are the incidences of divorce, infidelity and abuse on the rise, but social engineers are relentless in their efforts to dismantle the traditional family.

It's crucial that we pray for this vital and foundational unit of society. God's Word makes it clear that families play a central role in disseminating the tenets of our faith to the next generation. Loving homes model virtues such as sacrifice, patience and unconditional love to a watching world, and committed marriages exemplify Christ's devotion to His Church. Indeed, the family holds a special place in God's heart.

Please pray for the family to be preserved as the Lord intended. Pray that the marital union of one man and one woman be preserved and that both be devoted to each other and that the raising of their children in the home to be caring and responsible. Also keep in mind our elected leaders and the members of our judicial system as they consider proposed legislation and various court cases related to marriage and the family. This is one of the most crucial matters facing our nation, and it's imperative that God's people remain diligent in intercession for these concerns.

Prayer for Family...

Pray that families will follow godly principles.

- **Joshua 24:15**
“But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”
- **Psalms 127:3-5**
“Sons are a heritage from the LORD, children a reward from Him. Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are sons born in one’s youth. Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them. They will not be put to shame when they contend with their enemies in the gate.”
- **Ephesians 5:21**
“Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.”
- **Mark 3:25**
“If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand.”
- **Proverbs 22:6**
“Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.”