

In recent months, my heart has been deeply grieved by the depravity, unrighteousness, institutional corruption in nearly every department of government. The rampant dishonesty in the major news media, the censorship by social media against anything that deviates from the approved message... All of this is coupled with the rampant attack on the Christian worldview in every main dimension of culture: media, entertainment, educational institutions, religious organizations, scientific and medical research organizations, banking and investment houses, and even in the military. The Biblical worldview, which has formed the basis of American society and culture from its very foundation, is inculcated into America's birthday document, (known as the Declaration of Independence) with the phrases *endowed by our creator* and *according to the laws of nature and nature's God*. This Biblical worldview is under relentless assault. And those who want to return our country to its Biblical roots are vilified as bigots, racist, and ignoramuses by leftist ideologues and the leftist controlled popular media. As I was praying and reflecting on God's Word, this passage from Psalm 11 jumped off the page to me. It described perfectly how I was feeling about the times in which we live.

PSALM 11:2-3 *For, behold, the wicked bend the bow, They have set their arrow on the string to shoot in darkness at the upright in heart. 3 **If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?***

We live in a time of great national turmoil, and those among us whose hearts are sensitive and tender towards God are concerned about the extraordinary levels of evil and unrighteousness that we see all around us. And so we ask, as does the psalmist in **Psalm 11:3** - *If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?*

The obvious answer is that we can turn to our all-knowing God in prayer. The psalmist continues...

*PSALM 11:4-7 The LORD is in His holy temple; the LORD'S throne is in heaven; His eyes see, His eyelids test the sons of mankind. 5 The LORD tests the righteous and the wicked, And His soul hates the one who loves violence. 6 He will rain coals of fire upon the wicked, and brimstone and burning wind will be the portion of their cup. 7 **For the LORD is righteous, He loves righteousness; The upright will see His face.***

So, because we know that God sees all things and **He is testing the sons of mankind**, we can appeal to God with confidence. He understands what we are going through, and He is aware of mankind's assault on God's Law, righteousness, and those who seek to live God-honoring lives. It's clear from this Psalm that God wants to defend and protect those who are trying to live righteously. But the most striking feature of this Psalm is the fact that it clearly teaches us that God hates the one who loves violence, and God will *rain coals of fire upon the wicked* - but *the LORD loves righteousness*. Clearly, we are in a spiritual struggle with the kingdom of darkness. We must pray to our all-powerful, all seeing, faithful, loving God like we've never prayed before.

We do this because we know that we are in a spiritual battle of supernatural proportions. Yet, we have no interest in physical violence or coercion generated by the power of the flesh. Our battle is not against flesh and blood, but against supernatural powers of wickedness who are using flesh and blood operatives to insinuate their evil and soul-poisoning ideologies into our society and culture in a way that will turn people's hearts away from God and plunge them into deeper and deeper darkness, with the end result that they drive our society into deadly levels of depravity. We are seeing the results of this poisonous fruit in every aspect of culture, but in few places is it more clearly seen than in the large cities where we have rampant murder, smash and grab robberies, and gang violence taking place on a daily basis. We also have the destruction of human lives in the mother's womb by the hundreds of thousands - or according to some estimates even in the millions - within our national borders! In the name of abortion, we legalize the medical murder of children up to, and in some cases post, delivery. On our southern border, we have human trafficking, drug trafficking, sex trafficking, and criminal violence all caused by illegal immigration being disguised as compassionate "refugee resettlement." We have sexual perversion of every kind: fornication, adultery, homosexuality, pedophilia, transgenderism, and worse. Addiction and homelessness are making our city streets dangerous at night; the mentally ill and the morally corrupt are prowling neighborhoods looking for victims. Our judicial system is corrupted from the very highest levels in DC, from the DOJ to the FBI...

...The general public and American citizenry no longer trust or put confidence in those agencies to do what is right. In fact, we are living in the times lamented by Isaiah the prophet of God:

ISAIAH 5:20-21 *Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; Who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter! 21 Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and clever in their own sight!*

This Word from God pronounces judgment on those who call evil good and good evil, and yet many of our state and national policies reflect this unholy, upside-down view of honor and morality. The demonic effects of this depraved ideology are evident in our crime statistics, epidemics, and dystopian malignant expressions of human misery that stem directly from this corrupt public policy.

The only answer to this problem is God. And God will help us if we call upon Him.

PSALM 55:22 *Throw your burden upon the LORD, and He will sustain you. He will never allow the godly to be shaken.*

So, as we approach the end of this election cycle, we will be praying prayers taken directly from God's Word that will express both our heart and the will of God since we will be praying scripture.

Specifically, we will be praying imprecatory psalms - meaning that the selected psalms are psalms which call forth God's judgment on evil doers, so that they will repent, receive Christ for salvation, and reverse course or be removed **by God**, either miraculously or by the election process. I want to emphasize again and make it perfectly clear: **We specifically denounce any and all forms of political or physical violence. God is our answer, not the strong arm of the flesh.**

Since this is Day One, our prayer focus will be on getting our heart right before God through confession and repentance. We cannot expect God to act favorably in response to our prayers if our hearts are not right before Him.

Our scripture reading is:

2 CHRONICLES 16:9 *For the eyes of the LORD move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His.*

PSALM 66:18 *If I had not confessed the sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.*

ISAIAH 55:6-7 *Seek the LORD while He may be found; Call upon Him while He is near. 7 Let the wicked forsake his way And the unrighteous man his thoughts; And let him return to the LORD, And He will have compassion on him, And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon.*

1 JOHN 1:8-9 *If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

The scripture we will be praying today is:

PSALM 51:1-13

*Read through this passage reflectively and then pray it, putting your name in the place of David's.

PSALM 51:1-13 *Be gracious to me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; According to the greatness of Your compassion blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity And cleanse me from my sin. 3 For I know my transgressions, And my sin is ever before me. 4 Against You, You only, I have sinned And done what is evil in Your sight, So that You are justified when You speak And blameless when You judge. 5 *Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me. 6 Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being, And in the hidden part You will make me know wisdom. 7 Purify me with hyssop**, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. 8 Make me to hear joy and gladness, Let the bones which You have broken rejoice. 9 Hide Your face from my sins And blot out all my iniquities. 10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. 11 Do not cast me away from Your presence And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. 12 Restore to me the joy of Your salvation And sustain me with a willing spirit. 13 Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, And sinners will be converted to You.*

— In the blessed name of Your Son, my Savior, Jesus Christ, Amen

* It's generally agreed by Bible scholars that this is a reference to human depravity; that is, we are all born with a sin nature.

** Hyssop was a plant that was used by the priests in the temple to dip into blood and sprinkle it on something in order to cleanse it. In light of the New Testament testimony, it is the blood of Jesus Christ that cleanses us from all sin (**1 John 1:7** *...the blood of Jesus, His Son, cleanses us from all sin*). So, this is an Old Testament prefiguring of the work of Christ and the sufficiency of His blood to cleanse all believers from their sin. In the context of this prayer for use today, we are appealing to God on the basis of the sacrificial blood of Christ as the source and foundation of our forgiveness. His blood cleanses from the guilt and consequences of our sin. Nothing else can. We are praying that God would purify us by applying the merits blood of Christ to us.

This concludes today's prayer. If you have prayed this prayer sincerely, then you should be ready for the spiritual warfare we're about to engage in tomorrow.