



## TIME TO WAKE UP AND PRAY

In recent weeks, we have been contacted by several people of the URGENT NEED in these serious days for GOD's people to be in much prayer for our country and the world. Our world is in turmoil! We are experiencing a worldwide pandemic. People are afraid. There is no "normal" anymore. Additionally, Truth has fallen in the streets! We hear constant lies and rhetoric. What voices can we believe? People are untrustworthy. Covenant agreements mean nothing. Our nation is divided 50/50 right down the middle. And, of course, we know that **"every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand"** (Matthew 12:25). America is in great peril.

Our land is filled with sexual immorality of every kind. Pornography is a \$13 Billion industry in the United States with American children beginning to consume hardcore pornography at an average age of 11. Four out of five 16-year-olds regularly access online pornography. And all of this is done on the basis of "free speech"; but it is killing the purity and innocence of our young people. In addition, innocent blood is being shed every day in abortion clinics as well as innocent children losing their lives in senseless drive-by shootings. We see acts of violence in our headlines every day. We are living in **Romans 1:21-32**.

From a spiritual standpoint, it seems that most Americans have lost the sense of GOD and are living in this spiritually dark world in a desperate search for meaning, direction and purpose for their lives. However, their blind eyes, deaf ears and hard hearts are oblivious to GOD and HIS life-giving Gospel message of Faith and Hope in Christ. Last week we saw "protesters" burning Bibles in Portland, OR. It seems that there may be an agenda in the "protests" that goes far deeper than that of injustice -- because GOD is a GOD of perfect justice! And that is another reason that we live in serious days. The return of the Lord Jesus Christ is closer than it has ever been!!! This time He's not coming as a tiny baby to give His life as a ransom for man's freedom from sin's penalty and power. This time He's coming as King of all kings and Lord of all lords AND AS THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGE! When HE returns, there will be no more time to get ready for HIS coming. Lost souls will remain lost forever.

We live in very serious days. We need to understand how urgent the hour is for our nation and the world! People are not right with GOD! They have not been reconciled to their Maker and GOD's wrath is against them and HIS judgment is forthcoming!

**So I ask: Where is the Church? What is she consumed with in these serious days in which we live?**

(When I say "the Church", I mean true born-from-above Christians *both* individually *and* corporately. I am not referring to church organizations in buildings.)

It seems that the Bride of Christ has been very distracted lately! She has become distracted with the prevalent issues of our day such as social justice, race relations, politics, and believe it or not debating things like: "Would Jesus have worn a mask?" Not only is she distracted, but many of Christ's eternally-loved, blood-bought Believers are full of crippling anxiety and fear in these days of COVID-19. Many are afraid of death. But, Christians should be those who do not fear death! (**Hebrews 2:14-15**)

Many believers are also not experiencing the fellowship of the saints as countless churches across our land have closed their doors due to COVID-19. To their credit, many are offering Livestream services and online Bible studies, but if we are all honest, it's not the same as live fellowship! We are distanced from our eternal family! What a difference it makes to gather together corporately and sing to GOD; pray to GOD; and sit together under the preaching of HIS Word. What is worse, many Believers are being lulled into a spiritual slumber...

**IT IS TIME FOR GOD'S PEOPLE TO WAKE UP!!!** It's time to be Salt and Light in a world in desperate need of GOD's Gospel! Salt is a preservative that prevents corruption and decay. Light openly and visibly shatters darkness! As Salt, we need to live and give Christ to a decaying world! As Light, we need to proclaim the Truth of Christ that exposes the deceiving, corrupt lies enslaving darkened hearts.

YES! It's time for GOD's people to Wake Up -- **BUT IT IS ALSO TIME FOR GOD'S PEOPLE TO PRAY!** ALL the PROBLEMS in America and the world are SPIRITUAL because the essence of life is spiritual. WHAT PEOPLE NEED IS A HEART CHANGE! We so often try to change people's hearts with worldly methods. BUT, **ONLY GOD CAN CHANGE A HEART!** Only GOD can open blind eyes and deaf ears. Only GOD can crush hard, rebellious hearts that reject and refuse HIM continuously. Only GOD can bring a person from darkness to Light. Only GOD can bring a person from hopelessness to Hope. Only GOD can bring a person from death to Life.

SO, IF ONLY GOD CAN DO THESE THINGS, we as HIS faithful children and laborers need to be vigilant and ready to do the work of the LORD -- and that begins with GOD-centered, fervent prayer. Our struggle is not against people, but our struggle is against the world forces of darkness and the spiritual forces of wickedness... (**Ephesians 6:12**) The problem is spiritual and the solution is spiritual. So, GOD's people need to pray fervently at all times in the Spirit (**Ephesians 6:18**).

**THIS BLOG IS AN URGENT CALL TO GOD'S PEOPLE TO WAKE UP AND TO PRAY.** We also ask you to seek HIS face if HE would have you fast in any way. Ask GOD if HE is calling you to fast. Do not fast as a legalistic work. Seek the LORD. Fasting can come in various ways such as abstaining from food, certain meals, special foods/beverages, or to fast from things like television or social media sites. Also, in the days to come, by GOD's grace, we will be sending out (daily?) prayer helps through this blog to help us ALL to seek GOD in HIS Word and to pray GOD-centered prayers in submission to HIS Will and Way in these urgent and serious days.

**"...know the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now our salvation is nearer to us than when we believed. The night is almost gone, and the day is near. Therefore let us lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light."** (ROM 13:11-12)



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