

Petition #17:

A Prayer for the Conflicts in Iraq, Pakistan, Afghanistan and North Korea

Scripture Reading:

Psalm 148, Micah 4:1-6

Reflections of the Heart:

Where do wars and fights originate? Do they not come from worldly desires for pleasure to satisfy the lust of the eyes and flesh and the pride in what nations have and do? God hates the look of pride. He hates the shedding of innocent blood in the name of pride's schemes of lies to kill, steal and destroy in the false light of desiring to be as God. The heart of humankind has proven to be full of evil. Pray for the transformation of humanity's heart by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Scriptural Prayer:

Triumphant Father, we come before You in the Name of Jesus Christ and sing Your praises. May the nations praise You, O God. Yes, may all the nations praise You. Your Word is right and all of Your work is done in truth. You love righteousness and justice. The earth is full of Your goodness. By Your Word the heavens were made and You breathed into all of the host that dwell in the heavens. You gathered the waters of the sea together like a heap and laid up the deep in the storehouses. Let all of the earth fear You and all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of You. Holy Father, thank You for providing salvation to every nation. Thank You Jesus, for sacrificing Your life on the cross so that all people may be set free from the bondage of sin and death. Thank You for sending disciples of every nationality to preach the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Heavenly Father, we speak to the conflicts in Iraq, Pakistan, Afghanistan and North Korea which also affect our country and we command "peace, be still!" We confess that our nation will not go to war without wise guidance for victory depends on having many advisers. We proclaim that leaders of people around the world will work toward governmental solutions that will promote human rights and benefit the welfare of its citizens. We declare that we will not be afraid of those nations that rise up against the United States, for You, Lord God, are among us, and You are our great and awesome God. We confess that unjust leaders (nationally and internationally), cannot claim that You are on their side – leaders whose decrees permit injustice? They may gang up against the righteous and condemn the innocent to death, but You, Lord, are our fortress; You are the mighty rock where we hide and we trust You to protect Your children. We confess that the sins of evil people will turn back on them. You will destroy them for their sins. You, Lord, our God, will destroy them. Lord, Godliness makes a nation great, but sin is a disgrace to any people. We proclaim that all nations of the world will recognize You, Lord, and recognize that You are glorious and strong. The whole earth will acknowledge You and return to You. We command all families of the nations to bow down before You. May they cover their mouths in silent awe, deaf to everything around them. Until that great day, we pray that all nations will be secure under governments that are just and fair, so that enemies are far away.

Holy Spirit, touch the hearts of the leaders around the world to follow President Barack Obama's lead and join him at the negotiating table with an extended open hand, rather than a clenched fist of combat. Father, we specifically lift up to You the leaders of The Republic of Iraq (President Jalal Talabani and Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki); The Islamic Republic of Pakistan (President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gillani); The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (President Hamid Karzai); and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, DPRK, or North Korea ("Chairman of the National Defence Commission of North Korea" Kim Jong-il and "Head of State for Foreign Affairs" Kim Yong-nam). As President Obama focuses on reenergizing America's alliances while maintaining core American values, bless his efforts to end the combat mission in Iraq; to train, equip and advise the Iraqi Security Forces; and to remove troops by the end of 2011. Empower his new strategy to disrupt, dismantle and defeat Al Qaeda in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Holy Father, we pray that the nations of Iraq, Pakistan, Afghanistan and North Korea will come to Your Light, that these leaders will come to see Your radiance. We ask You to mediate between peoples and settle disputes between strong nations far away. May all the nations of the world stand amazed at what You will do and be embarrassed at their feeble power. Merciful Father, have mercy on the American citizens who are being held against their will around the world. Send Your angels to put a shield around them so that no harm will come to them.

Holy Spirit, guide my thoughts so I am aware of what I personally can do to work toward world peace.

Merciful Father, forgive each nation for its sins, including hypocrisy, injustice, oppression, greed, racism, sexism, ageism, elitism, deceit, lying, lewdness, pornography, selfish ambitions, lawlessness, rebellion, violence, hatred, partiality, sexual promiscuity, homosexuality, adultery, fornication, and slander. Forgive the nations for domestically ignoring the health, safety, and welfare of its people whom You love. Forgive those who disrespect the efforts of our military personnel who are working so hard to keep our nation safe. Lord, forgive me for ***(list any sins that you have committed.)*** Holy Spirit, remind every nation of they need to forgive and help them to be quick to forgive. As for me, Holy Spirit, bring to my remembrance those I need to forgive. ***(Take a moment and ask the Holy Spirit to show you names or faces of people that you may need to forgive. As He shows you, say aloud, "I forgive name of person(s)." Now, trust the Lord to heal any wounds in your soul caused by unforgiveness.)***

Loving Father, help us all to not yield to temptation; but deliver us from the evil one.

In eastern lands, they give glory to You, Lord. In the lands beyond the sea, they praise Your Name, O God of Israel. We see You, God, moving across the deserts from Edom, O Holy One, coming from Mount Paran. Your brilliant splendor fills the heavens, and the earth is filled with Your praise. All honor and glory belong to You, God, forever and ever! You are the eternal King, the unseen one who will never die. You alone are God. In Jesus' Name, Amen

Scripture References for the Written Text: Psalm 33:4-7, Psalm 33:12, Psalm 67:3, I Chronicles 16:8, Psalm 108:3, Psalm 118:21, Proverb 24:6, Isaiah 12:4, Deuteronomy 7:21, Psalm 94:20-23, Proverb 14:34, I Chronicles 16:28, Psalm 22:27, Isaiah 60:3, Micah 4:3, Micah 7:16, Isaiah 54:14, Acts 8:22, Isaiah 24:15, Habakkuk 3:3,

Today I will trust God to:
