

Prayer Petition #3: A Prayer of Forgiveness for the Sins of Our Nation

Scripture Reading:

Psalms 103; Psalms 51; Proverbs 14:34; Romans 5:12-21

Reflections of the Heart:

There is a proverb which declares, "Righteousness exalts a nation. But sin is a reproach to any people." Sin is disobedience of God's law. To pray effectively that the Word of God, manifested in the flesh, might destroy the works of the devil, specificity of sin must be exposed. Without the Word of God as the Standard for human behavior, there is no transgression or national sin. Christians living in our country are not of Satan's system of government which rules in America. The USA is a democracy, not a theocracy. The sin of our nation is unrighteousness. Again, all unrighteousness is sin and sin is a reproach to any people. The Christian Commission is to go into all the populations of our country and tell people the Good News. Jesus Christ was manifested to destroy the works of sin orchestrated by the devil.

Scriptural Prayer:

Heavenly Father, we come before You with praise and thanksgiving! O Lord, we praise You among the nations; we sing praises to Your name. (Psalms 18:49) May all in our nation praise You, O God. May all the nations praise You! (Psalms 67:3) We thank You, Abba Father, for You have given us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ. (I Corinthians 15:57) We thank You for making us Your captives and continuing to lead us along in Christ's triumphal procession. Now You are using us to spread the knowledge of Christ everywhere, like a sweet perfume, in the United States of America. (II Corinthians 2:14)

Father God, You loved the world so much that You gave Your one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16) We proclaim that anyone who trusts in Jesus Christ will never be disgraced. We who trust Him recognize the honor You have given Him. But for those who reject Him, "The stone that the builders rejected has now become the cornerstone." And, "He is the stone that makes people stumble, the rock that makes them fall." Many in our nation stumble because they do not obey Your Word, and so they meet the fate that was planned for them. But, Father, we are not like that, for we are a chosen people. We are royal priests, a holy nation, Your very own possession. As a result, we can show others Your goodness, for You called us out of darkness into Your wonderful light. (I Peter 2:6b-9) We boldly declare that we are filled with power—with the Spirit of the Lord. We are filled with justice and strength to boldly declare America's sin and rebellion. (Micah 3:8) We confess it isn't our responsibility to judge outsiders, but it certainly is our responsibility to judge those inside the church who are sinning. (I Corinthians 5:12) Godliness makes a nation great, but sin is a disgrace to any people. (Proverbs 14:34) Oh, what a sinful nation we are—loaded down with a burden of guilt. There are evil people, corrupt children who have rejected Jesus Christ. They have despised You, O Holy One of Israel, and turned their backs on You. (Isaiah 1:4) The earth suffers for the sins of its people, for they have twisted Your instructions, violated Your laws, and broken Your everlasting covenant. (Isaiah 24:5) Lord, You know the vast number of the sins of our nation's people and the depth of their rebellions. Some oppress good people by taking bribes and deprive the poor of justice in the courts. (Amos 5:12) Many do not care about being fair and honest. People's lawsuits are based on lies. They conceive evil deeds and then give birth to sin. (Isaiah 59:4) Some in power have cultivated wickedness and harvested a thriving crop of sins. They have eaten the fruit of lies—trusting in military might, believing that great armies could make our nation safe. (Hosea 10:13) When the wicked are in authority, sin flourishes, but the godly will live to see their downfall. (Proverbs 29:16) We confess that those in our nation will be accepted if they do what is right. But if they refuse to do what is right, then watch out! Sin is crouching at the door, eager to control our nation. We must subdue it and be its master. (Genesis 4:7) Father, we will go on praying and confessing our sin and the sin of our nation, pleading with You, our God, for the United States of America. (Daniel 9:20) We proclaim that we will pass on to people the truth of the instructions we receive from Your Word. We expect that they will not lie or cheat; they will walk with You, living good and righteous lives, and many will turn from lives of sin. (Malachi 2:6) We decree that at last all Americans will confess their sins and the sins of their ancestors for betraying You and being hostile toward You. (Leviticus 26:40) The Scriptures declare that we are all prisoners of sin, so we receive Your promise of freedom only by believing in Jesus Christ. (Galatians 3:22) Jesus Christ is the sacrifice that atones for our sins—and not only our sins but the sins of our nation and all the world. (1 John 2:2)

Father, You lavish unfailing love to a thousand generations. You forgive iniquity, rebellion, and sin. But You do not excuse the guilty. You lay the sins of the parents upon their children and grandchildren; the entire family is affected—even children in the third and fourth generations. (Exodus 34:7) O God, do not hold us guilty for the sins of our ancestors! Let Your compassion quickly meet our needs, for we are on the brink of despair. (Psalm 79:8) Punish the world for its evil and the wicked for their sin. Crush the arrogance of the proud and humble the pride of the mighty. (Isaiah 13:11) Rescue others by

snatching them from the flames of judgment. Show mercy to still others, but we know You will do so with great caution, hating the sins that contaminate their lives. (Jude 1:23) Sweep away the sins of our nation like a cloud. Scatter our offenses like the morning mist. Holy Spirit, inspire everyone to return to God, for He has paid the price to set everyone free. (Isaiah 44:22)

Holy Spirit, bring to my remembrance God's Word hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against Him. (Psalms 119:11)

Merciful Father, listen to our prayer! Look down and see us praying night and day for our nation. We confess that we have sinned against You. Yes, even we and our own families have sinned! We have sinned terribly by not obeying the commands, decrees, and regulations that You gave us through Your Word. (Nehemiah 1:6-7) Lord, it is written that this message would be proclaimed in the authority of Jesus' name to all the nations: "There is forgiveness of sins for all who repent." (Luke 24:47) In keeping with Your magnificent, unfailing love, please pardon the sins of Your people in our nation. (Numbers 14:19) Forgive us for not being more diligent in spreading Your Word to everyone in our sphere of influence, because we come to You with the kind of sorrow You want us to experience, which leads us away from sin and results in salvation. There's no regret for that kind of sorrow. But worldly sorrow, which lacks repentance, results in spiritual death. (2 Corinthians 7:10) Though we are overwhelmed by our sins, forgive them all. (Psalm 65:3) Holy Spirit, inspire all believers in our nation to become aware of their guilt in any way, confess their sin (Leviticus 5:5) and seek God's forgiveness. Father, forgive me for *(list the sins, say them out loud to the Lord)*. 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 out loud, "I forgive name of person(s).")*

Holy Spirit, remind the people of our nation not to yield to temptation, and that Jesus Christ has delivered us from the evil one.

O God, You are so wise and so mighty. Who has ever challenged You successfully? (Job 9:4) True wisdom and power are found in You; counsel and understanding are Yours. (Job 12:13) You are mighty, but You do not despise anyone! You are mighty in both power and understanding. (Job 36:5) This is why we come before You with both boldness and humility, in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen

Scripture References for the Written Text:

Today I will trust God to:
