



Pray for the Nation ~ INOI MO TE MOTU

Intercessors for New Zealand

105 Woodman Drive, Tawa, Wellington 5028, New Zealand
ifnz@xtra.co.nz <https://www.pray-for-the-nation.org/>

The LORD said, "If My people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from Heaven, and I will forgive their sin, and heal their land." (2 Chronicles 7:14)

AUGUST 2020

Righteousness exalts (lifts up) a nation, but sin is a reproach (shameful) to any people.
Proverbs 14:34

GOOD GOVERNMENT

Good government is based on the following attributes:

1. **Righteousness** – what God says is right / righteous. And righteous leaders.
2. **Justice** – fairness to everyone.
3. **Honesty** – not deceit or lies.
4. **Openness** – not hiding things the public should know about.
5. **Unity** – working together for the best possible outcome.
6. **Benefit** – the well-being of all people.
7. **Service** – serving the people they lead, not just themselves.

Romans 13:1-5 Let every person be subject to the governing authorities; for there is no authority except from God, and those authorities that exist have been instituted by God.

Therefore whoever resists authority resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment.

For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Do you wish to have no fear of the authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive its approval; for it is God's *servant* for your good.

But if you do what is wrong, you should be afraid, for the authority does not bear the sword [exercise punishment] in vain! It is the *servant* of God to execute wrath [punishment] on those who do wrong.

Therefore one must be subject, not only because of wrath [punishment] but also because of conscience.

1 Timothy 2:1-4 First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone – for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity.

This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

1 Peter 2:13-17 For the Lord's sake accept the authority of every human institution, whether of the emperor as supreme, or of governors, as sent by him

to punish those who do wrong and to praise those who do right.

For it is God's will that by doing right you should silence the ignorance of the foolish.

As servants of God, live as free people, yet do not use your freedom as a pretext for evil.

Honour everyone. Love the family of believers. Fear God. Honour the emperor.

GOOD LEADERSHIP

Good leadership (and in our everyday lives) is based on the following attributes:

1. **Knowledge.**
2. **Understanding** or insight into that knowledge.
3. **Discernment** between what is right and wrong; what is good, better or best (including good advice from reliable people)
4. **Wisdom** – what is the wisest way to act.
5. **Ability** – "power" to achieve this.
6. **Action** – actually *doing it!*

There is a progression from ignorance to knowledge; from knowledge (knowing the facts) to understanding them; from understanding to discerning; from discernment to the wisdom to know how to act; from wisdom to having the ability to achieve the task; and finally **action** – *do it!*

"If you accept my words and treasure my commandments within you, making your ear attentive to *wisdom* and inclining your heart to *understanding*; if you indeed cry out for *insight*, and raise your voice for *understanding*; if you seek it like silver, and search for it as for hidden treasures – then you will *understand* the fear of the LORD and find the *knowledge* of God. For the LORD gives *wisdom*; from His mouth come *knowledge* and *understanding*; He stores up sound *wisdom* for the **upright**; He is a shield to those who walk **blamelessly**, guarding the paths of **justice** and preserving the way of His

faithful ones. Then you will *understand* **righteousness** and **justice** and **equity**, every good path; for *wisdom* will come into your heart, and *knowledge* will be pleasant to your soul; *prudence* will watch over you; and *understanding* will guard you. **It will save you from:** the way of evil, from those who speak perversely, who forsake the paths of **uprightness** to walk in the ways of darkness, who rejoice in doing evil and delight in the perverseness of evil; those whose paths are crooked, and who are devious in their ways.”

Proverbs 2:1-15 NRSV

Please pray for MPs and a government which demonstrate the above attributes

In the run-up to the elections this needs us to:

- **Pray** for the right candidates to be chosen as MPs, the right coalition of Parties, and wise, righteous leaders at all levels and at all times.
- **Pray** for MPs and the ultimate leaders in our country, that they will know, understand, discern, have wisdom, have the ability, and **do** what is **best** for all our people.

Ultimately, this needs to be inspired by the Lord, directed by Him, and empowered by Him.

In an extremely secular society:

- **Christians need to pray** for all incoming MPs, Cabinet Ministers, Parties and their leaders, that God will grant them all they need to lead well, and to be united in discernment and action. **May God grant us** a good government which is pleasing to Him and a blessing to our whole nation.

A VISION FOR PRAYING

In conjunction with Prayer @ Parliament, we would like you to consider the following:

The vision is to saturate the coming elections in much fervent, faith-filled, frequent, specific and persevering prayer. This initiative will commence on **Monday 10 August** and conclude on Election Day, **Saturday 19 September**. These 40 Days have a biblical precedent in the life of our Lord Jesus Christ (Matthew 4:1-3). After Jesus was water baptized He was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. Jesus fasted for 40 days. It is reasonable to deduce He would have also prayed much during this time. Fasting is voluntary; you may choose to fast occasionally. *Please inform your church and friends about this initiative.*

SUGGESTED PRAYER POINTS

Select some prayer points for each session of prayer

Christians especially, will recognise their civic responsibility to vote and not be apathetic or cynical.

Christian leaders will teach their congregations about Christian's civic duties; motivate them to vote; and direct them to resources available.

Christians will vote, intelligently, discerningly and prayerfully.

At the last elections about 30% of all 18-30 year olds did **not** vote. Pray that Christians, especially, will vote!

Election campaigns will consist of ideas and policies, addressing issues, but not attacking opponents.

For all the political parties and their candidates.

For Christian MPs (irrespective of their Party), that they will be returned to Parliament, together with **new** Christian MPs to enter Parliament.

Pray for your preferred Party, and preferred Electorate MP – and vote accordingly!

The Election outcome will allow a stable coalition government to be formed, and by which Parties.

The Two Referendums: Cannabis and Euthanasia.

Pray that people will vote intelligently, discerningly and prayerfully. See the two leaflets in your letter re the elections, concerning what is involved in the referendums; also see Family First's website about these referendums:

www.familyfirst.org.nz/2020/07/value-your-vote-2020-out-now/

Continued from page 4

QUESTIONS

1. Most moves of God are not just opposed by those outside the Church, but also by many within it. Why?
2. Does moral and/or spiritual decline necessarily precede revival? Does persecution necessarily follow revival?
3. The thought of tribulation, persecution or even strong opposition can cause us to fear, or try to hide from it, or ignore it by burying our heads in the sand and pretending it is not really true. How can we overcome these undesirable alternatives? How should we face opposition or persecution?
4. How can we “rejoice” in the face of persecution?
5. How can we discern counterfeit manifestations and demonic deception within the Church?
6. Why is unity so important in these last days?



REVIVE US AGAIN!

7

Opposition to Revival

Whenever there are times of revival, there is always a counterattack from the enemy of men's souls. Obviously Satan is not at all pleased when people repent, confess their sin and are born again; when they renounce the devil and all his works of unrighteousness; when they acknowledge the Lordship of Jesus Christ in their lives, and when they become engaged in spiritual warfare against evil principalities and powers.

However, although the enemy will counter-attack, *we must not fear him*, for "greater is He (the Spirit of Christ) Who is within you, than he (the devil) who is in the world" (1 John 4:4).

This opposition from the enemy may come in a variety of ways, and it may be either personal or corporate – against an individual Christian who is really determined to go on with God, or it may be against a group (e.g., a local church) in which God is moving and which is experiencing a revival touch from God. It may even be more widespread and affect a city or a nation.

Today, around the world, God is pouring out His Spirit upon believers in a wonderful way – upon "all flesh", old and young, mature and new Christians, leaders and people alike (Joel 2:28-29; Acts 2:17-18) but there are also strong Satanic attacks and deception.

These attacks involve widespread sexual immorality and perversion, rebellion (violence, terrorism, persecution), and idolatry (occult, worship of false gods, cults, humanism and atheism), all of which have many associated evils.

Tragically these have also affected the church: even some people within the churches have been affected by immorality, drugs, rebellion and idolatry (especially materialism and self-centredness).

Attacks against believers

The spiritual attacks against Christians are many and varied. Some of them include:

1. Counterfeit manifestations

While God has been imparting spiritual gifts to His people, and these have been a great blessing, the enemy always sows weeds amongst the wheat – evil, counterfeit manifestations – and often great discernment is needed to distinguish the true from the false, and to know how to deal with the false.

The early Church faced the same sorts of deception, Satan mingling the false with the genuine move of God (e.g., Acts 4:32 – 5:11; 8:4-24; 13:4-12; 16:16-18). Note, however, God's ultimate victory in every case.

2. Division

One of the surest ways of rendering anything ineffective is to cause division within it. Again, even the early Church in its time of revival faced situations which caused division, although, praise God, the situations were handled in the right way so that once again the enemy's tactics were frustrated (see Acts 6:1-6; 9:22-31; 11:1-18; 15:1-33, 36-41; 21:20-26; Gal. 2:11-14).

One of the most devilish things that the communists did in the churches in China, in Watchman Nee's time (1960s and 1970s), was to hold "accusation meetings" in the churches, at which Christians were encouraged to criticise their pastors and elders, point out their faults, enumerate their sins, etc. Tragically, the Christians did just this, and it caused so much mistrust, division and demoralisation that the communists could then remove the leadership without the Christians objecting! United we stand; divided we fall! No wonder God gives us strict instructions concerning being "eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Eph. 4:3), about how to deal with differences (Matt. 18:15-17), and how to deal with accusations against elders (1 Tim. 5:19).

3. Sin

If the enemy cannot succeed in bringing down Christians in other ways, he will always use temptation. Often Christians are perplexed at the strong temptations they face, especially when they have been Christians for many years and yet still face strong temptations in certain areas. Temptation, sin and consequent condemnation are almost certain to discourage the Christian more than anything else.

The tragedy is that the spirit of this world – “the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life” (1 John 2:16) – still take their toll on Christians, and even Christian leadership, seeking to bring the whole Gospel into disrepute.

As never before, the Church must rise up, individually and corporately, and come against the spirit of worldliness and against these works of the flesh. Only a clean Church can ever hope to stand in the face of strong opposition from the enemy. We must put off the old nature, and put on the new nature, created after the likeness of God, in true righteousness and holiness (Eph. 4:22-24).

4. Persecution

Whenever Christians take a stand for the Lord and are determined to follow His ways of righteousness, rather than the ways of the world, there may be opposition, scorn and ridicule. While this at times can be very hard to face, nevertheless we can be victorious through the strength that God gives us. Moreover, God has given some wonderful promises to those who overcome such opposition and persecution (Rev. 2:7, 10-11, 17, 26-28; 3:5, 12, 21).

“All who desire to live a Godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted” (2 Tim. 3:12). We need to realistically face this fact, and, indeed, face it joyfully, not with fear (Matt. 5:10-12). In this area, perhaps more than any other, Christians need to stand together in unity, to strengthen and support one another, remembering that Jesus has promised never to fail us, nor forsake us (Heb. 13:5). Never fear, God is near, and victory is ours! (Rev. 7:14; 12:11).

In times of revival ...

In the Old Testament we see that when genuine revival came, the people repented of their sins and forsook them, put away their idols, broke down the house of Baal and its altars, removed the heathen priests, cleansed and restored the Temple and its worship of God, and restored the Sabbath day. These same areas need to be dealt with in our day and generation, in our nation. When revival comes, they will be!

A sad indictment on the spiritual state of the Church today is that often when Christians stand for righteousness and the ways of God, they face not only demonic opposition from the

world but even from some within the Church itself (cf. Ezra 10:10-15).

Opposition, persecution and bloodshed frequently follow revival (see Acts 7:51-60; 12:1-4). When God moves, the devil always opposes. Demons are stirred up, and with them come hatred, opposition and persecution. This happened in the early Church, and this has also happened in countries in more recent times. But we should never fear persecution; in fact Peter says “Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you ... but rejoice, inasmuch as you are partakers of Christ’s sufferings, so that when His glory is revealed, you will be glad with exceeding joy” (1 Pet. 4:12-13).

What should be of greater concern to us is that if we do not pray for, and work towards, revival, God may allow judgement and persecution to come in order to revive us. May this not be so, but so great is God’s concern for a revived Church and nation that He will, if necessary, use even persecution to bring about revival.

What must we do?

If we are to really see God move in revival power and in personal revival, we need to:

1. **Put away all idols.** Everything in our lives which takes the place that the Lord should have, must be put away. As Christians we must renounce all such idols and idolatry: the occult, and all idolatrous things such as immorality, materialism, worldliness, etc. (Deut. 6:10-15; 8:11-20).
2. **Be clean before God.** Ask the Holy Spirit to search your heart and life, revealing all sin, and for the cleansing Blood of Jesus to cleanse and deliver you from all the works of the flesh or the enemy. Specific deliverance from Satanic bondages may also be required.
3. **Renounce the enemy.** Renounce the enemy and all his works, being careful however not to ridicule or revile him (Jude 9-10). See Acts 19:11-20.
4. **Become engaged in spiritual warfare,** especially intercession, and persevere until you come through to a place of victory! Jesus said, “He who conquers, I will grant him to sit with Me on My throne, as I Myself conquered and sat down with My Father on His throne” (Rev. 3:21).

Continued on page 2