



Will God Bless America?

By Terry Francis

We are blessed to live in America. We have so much to be thankful for even during a time of war. The last few years have been difficult for the United States of America. We have seen terrorists attack us on our own soil. We have seen our sons and daughters fight the War on Terrorism and the War on Iraq. Some have paid the ultimate sacrifice by giving up their lives.

One of the great results from these events has been our patriotism. We are more united as a nation than we have been in quite some time. We see more flags being displayed all across our community. And we see the signs saying, "God bless America." Perhaps we should ask the question: Will God Bless America? After all, we know that God raises kings and kingdoms (Daniel 2:21). Is it possible that our kingdom one day could be in fact lowered by the Almighty God? Here are four things we will need for God to bless us:

WE NEED HUMILITY! We are a proud nation, probably too proud. We have convinced ourselves that we are indestructible. Yet over and over the Lord condemns pride (Proverbs 15:25; 16:18-19). We need to be reminded that Nebuchadnezzar, the greatest ruler of his time, was humbled by the Lord because of his pride (Daniel 4:30-37). Friends, no nation is self-sufficient. No matter how great our military might or how wonderful the workings of our governmental systems may be we will never find greatness in those things. Greatness is found in serving God and bringing glory and honor to His name.

WE MUST RETURN TO THE MORAL PRINCIPLES OF GOD! The Roman Empire serves as a great reminder of the destruction that awaits immoral people. Paul wrote of their sins in Romans 1. They were involved in every imaginable sin: serving themselves, murder, disobedience to parents, homosexuality, etc. Where is mighty Rome today?

I am afraid we are becoming the next Rome. There are over 1,000,000 abortions in our country each year. Today 30% of all families will be victims of serious crime. Prime-Time TV is full of promiscuous sex and homosexuality. Perhaps the most telling sign of our immorality is that we think these shameful sins are humorous.

Perhaps we have become like Israel during the time of Jeremiah, "*Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? No! They were not at all ashamed; Nor did they know how to blush. Therefore they shall fall among those who fall; At the time I punish them, They shall be cast down,*" says the LORD." (Jeremiah 6:15). Have we gone so far that we have forgotten how to blush?

Who is responsible? We are! We are the ones failing to stand for morality. We are the ones who fail to turn the TV off and stop supporting immorality. We are the ones who have allowed our country to turn to ways that are shameful to God. America needs a moral revival! Will you stand to lead our nation in the right direction?

WE ALSO NEED TO RESTORE THE HOME! The family is the backbone of any nation. God has had a specific design from the beginning (Genesis 2:24-25; Ephesians 6:1-4). God's pattern includes a home where the children are raised and taught good principles (Deuteronomy 6:1-7). Today, we rely more on our schools to teach our children the difference between right and wrong.

The family is under attack in America. Fewer and fewer children each year live in the "Cleaver" household. Our divorce rate is over 60% in our state. TV presents the image of the weak egotistical dad that doesn't care about his children. Sadly, in some homes that image is not far off. The American family is in trouble. We need to fix it!

WE MUST RETURN OUR NATION TO THE RELIGION OF JESUS CHRIST! We must return to God's way. Jesus Christ is the only source for authority today (Matthew 15:8-9; Colossians 2:20-23). We, as a country, need to start rejecting the traditions of men and start turning to the doctrine of Christ.

For so many, religion today is focused on what "we" as individuals can receive from the Lord. Friends, this is the religion of "me" and not the religion of Christ. True Christianity is serving God and doing whatever it takes to bring Him glory. Christianity requires making personal sacrifices. It means making tough choices. It means not doing the things we used to do. That is the religion of Jesus Christ. Are you walking in the footsteps of Jesus? Are you serving Him in your life? Are you INSTEAD seeking to be served?

Will God bless America? The answer depends on us. It depends on whether we are the kind of people that God will lift up. How about you? Are you depending on God and serving Him in your life?