



# THE POSTURE OF OUR POLITICS

## PRAYER GUIDE

Short Prayers Written  
By Local Leaders For  
Navigating Political Moments

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# To Thank God For the Privilege of Voting

Lord, Grant me a trembling and holy fear at the awesome privilege and responsibility you have placed in my hands, as an American, to vote for our representative leadership. Help me to remember that I am one of “the People” that contributes to the governance of the United States through my vote! Thank you that I now hold this right that did not come easily to the majority of the people in this country for most of our history!

Therefore Lord, I pray that I and others with me may joyfully do our part by voting as “We the People.” And let us do this with great resolve “in order to form a more perfect union” over time, to continue to “establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity” so that its “government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth.”

Thank you Lord, for the grace, mercy, and privilege to vote, and let me cast my ballot as unto you, in service to you, and in the hope that through it I will ultimately be working to bring about your Kingdom on earth as it is in Heaven.

Amen.

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**ADAM WHITESCARVER**

Executive Director,  
Chattanooga House of Prayer

# For Entering the Voting Booth

Gracious Father,

Thank you for the freedoms I enjoy as an American citizen.

Help me not to take for granted the great privilege of participating in the election of our government officials. As you are the sovereign One who rules and reigns over all nations and kingdoms, I trust your Spirit to grant me humility and wisdom as I enter the voting booth.

I ask that you would give me godly conviction and discernment as I vote on leaders and important issues. Even as I cast my vote, remind me afresh that my ultimate allegiance and identity do not lie with any political candidate or party, but with you alone Lord Jesus.

And as I leave the voting booth allow me to rest in your good purposes and perfect plans for our country, our leaders, our communities, and our families, whatever the election outcomes.

I pray these things boldly in the powerful name of the one who crushed the serpent's head, our risen and reigning King Jesus Christ,

Amen.



**CHAD MIDDLEBROOKS**

Assistant Pastor,  
LMPC

# When I Do Not Know Who to Vote For

Lord God,

It is a confusing time. Many opinions, statistics, and voices clamor for our attention during this election year, making it difficult to discern what is true and who to vote for. We do our best to learn, read, and research, but often we still land in a cloudy place of indecision. Lord, this can lead us to a sense of desperation, disappointment, apathy, and fear.

And so, like Jehosophat we cry, "We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you."

Would you, Lord God, shepherd us in the process of decision-making, give us wisdom, calm our anxious hearts, and remind the deepest part of our hearts that you are both powerful and good? Set us free to cast our ballot with a conscience empowered by the Holy Spirit, trained by the Word of God, and confident in the preeminence of Jesus Christ over every single aspect of life.

And may your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. We long for your return and wait with expectation. Come Lord Jesus!

Amen.



**STEPHANIE FORMENTI**

VP of Student Development,  
Covenant College

# When There Doesn't Seem to be a Right Choice

Father, I stand in the midst of uncertainty and confusion, humbly seeking your guidance and wisdom. At the crossroads of democracy, grant me clarity and discernment.

I'm wading through a sea of promises and policies and the truth seems elusive and opaque. Illuminate my heart with your truth so that I may see beyond the veil of rhetoric.

Help me to see the humanity in each candidate, and the potential for good in every choice. My desire is not to vote out of fear or self-interest, but with a spirit of justice, empathy, and hope, knowing that you already hold the answer, just as you hold all of creation in your hands.

Guide me, Lord, in the path of righteousness and righteousness alone, so that my voice in this election may be an instrument of Your peace, and my actions a reflection of Your love.

Amen.



**LAUREN HALL**

President and CEO,  
First Things First

# When My Candidate Wins

Jesus said, "*Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.*"  
(Matthew 5:5)

The meek are those who humble themselves before you, Lord, and trust You to win in the end. Those who convinced Roman authorities to crucify Jesus "won," but not with a humble spirit... and You won in the end.

While on this earth, help us remember we can only serve one King who deserves our worship. Help us to trust in that King with all our heart and not rely on our own understanding, so that He will make our path straight.  
(Proverbs 3:5)

Amen.



**RYAN EWALT**

Chief Strategy & Innovation Officer,  
City of Chattanooga

# When My Candidate Doesn't Win

God, I believe You are in control. I know You as the Lord  
over everything.

You bring people into leadership/service.  
You take people out of leadership/service.

I trust You.

As you make changes, I will learn more about myself, who  
You are, and what you are doing.  
In this season, help me not become complacent, thinking  
that You are not interested in what I see.  
You hold both in beautiful tension.

I will continue to prepare for the next candidate with my  
values in mind AND I pray for the candidate that You have  
placed in public service at this time.

I love You.



**KRUE BROCK**  
Director,  
CFC Foundation

# For an Elected Official I Did Support

PRAYER OF ST. CLEMENT  
(from his Letter to the Corinthians)

To our rulers and governors on the earth — to them You, Lord, gave the power of the kingdom by Your glorious and ineffable might, to the end that we may know the glory and honor given to them by You and be subject to them, in nought resisting Your will; to them, Lord, give health, peace, concord, stability, that they may exercise the authority given to them without offense. For You, O heavenly Lord and King eternal, givest to the sons of men glory and honor and power over the things that are on the earth; do Thou, Lord, direct their counsel according to that which is good and well-pleasing in Your sight, that, devoutly in peace and meekness exercising the power given them by You, they may find You propitious. O Thou, who only has power to do these things and more abundant good with us, we praise You through the High Priest and Guardian of our souls Jesus Christ, through whom be glory and majesty to You both now and from generation to generation and for evermore.

Amen.



**TOM POPE**

Professor of Political Science,  
Lee University

## For an Elected Official I Did Not Support

O loving God, Who governs all things, help me to believe now that you still govern me, my community, this nation, and this world. It is hard to believe that when I see leaders serving whom I did not - and still do not - support. Have mercy on me, O God.

These leaders, especially \_\_\_\_\_  
(insert official's name), bear your image, share my need for your loving embrace, and reveal Your good intent for diverse human vocations.

Although I did not vote for them, and I may have concerns about their policies, rhetoric, or postures toward You or my neighbors, bless them and keep them in your love, protect them from unjust harm, and lead them to know and follow your ways, which are Perfect Peace, True Righteousness, and Kindness toward all that You have made.

I pray this for the glory of your Name and the good of all people.

Amen.

—

**RALSTON HARTNESS**

Director,  
Chattanooga Fellows Program

## For Re-Elected Officials

King Eternal, we praise you that you came not to be served but to serve and to give your life as a ransom for many. May all those reelected to serve in highest positions of political leadership imitate you and selflessly serve and sacrifice for the good of others.

Guard these entrusted with power and position from abuse or misuse of such a privilege and trust. When they are tempted towards a presumptuous view of their elected position, remind them of your sovereign appointment that they might be humbled and tremble before you to whom they are accountable.

Give them grace to view all of those that they steward as image-bearers of God. Keep them from using people as mere vehicles for their personal agenda, or from eliminating people as mere obstacles to selfish ends.

Grant wisdom to them as they govern so that they are able to discern your ways from their preferences, your vision from their ambitions, and your next steps from their rash impulses. Empower them to lead in such a way that they bring life to institutions, flourishing to citizens, and blessing to their community.

In the name of our great King, Jesus, we pray,

Amen.



**BRIAN SALTER**

Lead Pastor,  
LMPC

## For Transitions in Political Leadership

Lord, we thank you for all you have done and we thank you for our political leaders. We are in a time in our community where there will be transitions in political leadership and we pray that you would touch all who are running for public or government office.

We ask that their hearts are in your hands and that you, Lord, would lead them. God, we thank you for compassion and empathy being characteristic of those who win office and lead their areas of service.

Proverbs 16:9 states that God establishes our steps, even though we may plan our own paths. God, order each political party's life so that they lean on you daily for decisions. Lord, we come against double-mindedness and confusion. We thank you for well-thought-out decisions for the people they serve.

Isaiah 43:19 states to not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord will personally go ahead of you. He will be with you; he will neither fail you nor abandon you.

We know Leaders have to make tough decisions but the Lord has already dealt with everything they will have to face. Lord, as our leaders transition we ask that they have an open line of communication with you.

Amen.



**TROY ROGERS**  
Public Safety,  
City of Chattanooga

# When a Political Candidate Lets Me Down

God, Here I am again, disappointed.  
Another politician has let me down. This seems to happen  
often. What to do? What to think?

It's hard to feel hopeful in these disappointments.  
I want to engage politically and bring more of Your  
Kingdom to earth but sometimes I don't see the path  
forward.

Guide me, oh God. Grow my patience. Grow my hope.  
Grow my trust. Keep me humble and faithful in prayer for  
my politicians. Bring renewal to this world and use your  
broken people to do it.

May Your will be done, not mine.

—

**ASHLEY BALDWIN**

Area Director,  
Mission Increase

# When You Find Out That Someone Didn't Vote

Heavenly Father,

As I lift my voice to You, I am humbled by the privilege and right to choose, yet I find myself saddened by the apathy that I see in the world when some people neglect their responsibilities and rights.

Lord, help us understand the weight of our voice, and the impact of our choices, in every area of this land and beyond.

May we honor the sacrifices of those who came before us, by exercising our rights, forever.

Guide us to be vigilant and wise, to recognize the power within our eyes and hands. For in the silence of our ballots, we forfeit our strength and ability to shape the future of humankind.

In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.



**LAKWESHIA EWING**

Evangelist

# When a Family Member Reveals a Surprising or Disagreeable Viewpoint

King Jesus, You are the One who is reigning - over my family, my city, this country, and the world. I confess my desire to make myself king all too often. I want to be right, and I want to avoid the work of loving those you've put in front of me who disagree with me. Please forgive me, Lord. And please keep my heart soft as I engage in discussions with those who ruffle my feathers and raise my hackles. It is no mystery to you (and no mistake) that family tends to get under my skin like few other things. What a glorious crucible you've formed - one that invites me to my knees with hands open, needing an extra measure of your grace and mercy.

Would you help me to see the *Imago Dei* in my \_\_\_\_\_ (brother, sister, mother, father, etc.) as we engage in political discussion. Would you keep our relationship central, rather than peripheral to an argument. And would you use our disagreement to draw us closer to you, Holy God. Please help us to hear, see, and love the heart beneath the tension in the room,

I pray in Jesus' name.

Amen.

—

**LIZ EDRINGTON**

Young Adults Director,  
North Shore Fellowship

# Of Confession and Repentance When I Realize My Own Misdirected Worship of Politicians or Ideologies

God of Power, sometimes it is hard for me to find the evidence of Your righteous reign in the world. I see suffering and wars, violence and hatred, lies and corruption, and abuse of power over those most vulnerable — oh Father, I am often overwhelmed, angry, and scared.

Out of my deep fear and blindness to Your great might, I have gathered up instruments of self-protection, including my allegiance to political parties, candidates, and ideologies. I fall prey to their promises of easy solutions to vastly complicated problems and experience the poisonous relief in blaming “those people” for the blood and dirt on my own hands.

I am far too easily satisfied with a false “shalom.” Forgive me, Father. Have mercy on me.

Free me from these harsh political taskmasters. Purify my longings for peace, restoration, well-being, and justice for all.

Help me discern when these good longings are being hijacked by evil.

Give me eyes to see Your kingdom coming on earth as it is in heaven. Give me a heart that rests in my unshakable, unthreatened, good King. Give me courage to join You in the local, loving ways You are indeed at work.

Amen.



**KAYSIE STRICKLAND**

Owner, Listening House Creative

# For Wisdom in Discerning What Faithful Political Engagement Looks Like

Lord, in this political season, information is all around me: billboards on the side of the road, campaign radio ads blaring from my car speakers, pundits on the local news, candidates in their stump speeches, friends in their casual (and sometimes not so casual) conversations. There are no shortage of facts and counterfacts to navigate through when I think about my political engagement.

Lord, I do not ask you for more information to fill my mind. Instead, I ask you for your wisdom to fill my heart and life.

May I see the world, my country, my city, and my neighborhood with your eyes. May my hands and feet be used in ways that promote your truth. God, may my actions and decisions, as they relate to my engagement with the political process, be guided by your Spirit working through my life. May my life exude your truth that is revealed through your scripture.

Lord, I confess that even with an overload of information available to me, I do not always know the right way to engage. As I seek your wisdom, I pray that you will help me boldly move towards the right opportunities that allow me to seek the good of the places you have called me to be. Help me remember that even when I mess up, you have already gone before me and are making all things new.

My life is yours. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

—

**JONATHAN INGRAHAM**

Executive Director, Faith Co-Op

## For Wisdom When Engaging a Person With Differing Political Views

God, thank you for the privilege we have of engaging in our political system. Thank you that the government is a gift from you, designed for our benefit (Romans 13:4).

I understand that there will be times when people who also love our country, and may even share my love for Jesus, have different political views than I do. Help me remember that they are not my enemy, as our enemy is not flesh and blood (Ephesians 6:12).

Help me to remember that every person is created in your image (Genesis 1:27), and every person has dignity, worth, and value.

Teach me to love and pray for those I disagree with (Matthew 5:43-48).

Help my love and respect to not just be empty words, but help me to demonstrate that love and respect in tangible ways (James 2:17).

God, help me to not be the cause of division, but rather to be active at living in peace with everyone (Romans 12:17-18).



**MICAH FRIES**

Director of Programs,  
Multi-Faith Neighbors Network

# For a Discerning Heart When Watching or Reading the News

Holy, hospitable, and generous Father, Who governs all things by the living and active Word of your power and the life-giving breath of your Holy Spirit, I thank you that all peoples in this world are fearfully and wonderfully made and that you send the rain of your mercy upon the just and wicked alike.

Though you are high and exalted, and all authority is given to you, yet you remain near to the lowly in heart and those who draw near to you will find you already near to them.

As I walk through this vast political world of instant communication and social media with almost no control of what happens and even less how I come to hear about it,  
Give me a heart of wisdom and charity.

Help me to love both the lovely and the loveless.  
Teach me to number my days, both when I confront news that delights me and news that disturbs me.

Help me to walk in this way of your Son, Jesus, who commended me to be as shrewd as a serpent and innocent as a dove.

Make me like you, the God who is love, that I may believe all things, bear all things, hope all things, and endure all things.

For the sake of your Son who discerns the hearts of all,  
Amen.



**PRESTON HILL**

Assistant Professor of Integrative Theology,  
Richmont Graduate University

# For Love and Community Among Christians Even When There is Disagreement

Lord, with a holy fear, we ask you to deepen the love of the Christian community in Chattanooga, even when we don't like each other.

When we disagree, graciously damper our demonstrations. There is one Body and one Spirit from which we drink, you are our one Lord, and this is our one faith.

You are over all and through all and in all. Help us prize each member and give us equal concern for one another.

Lord, where you give special honor, we tend toward scornful hate. Where you deem value, it is there that we often vilify.

Chief among the offenders, forgive me, and together forgive us through Christ our Lord.

By your grace, make us repairers of the breach and restorers of the streets we dwell in.



**JOSH SUDDATH**

Director of Donor Engagement,  
The Generosity Trust

# For the Flourishing and Protection of Those Who Don't Have the Right to Vote

Sovereign God, we thank you for the privilege of using our voice to shape the leadership and direction of our country. We lift up in prayer those who do not have this right—the marginalized and most vulnerable among us.

Compassionate Advocate, draw near to those who cannot advocate for themselves, filling them with encouragement and peace. Empower us with compassion and wisdom to stand in the gap for them, merging their voices with our own. Grant us the courage to seek the flourishing of all people in our communities, embracing our shared responsibility to uplift every voice.



**KATRINA PAYNE**

Pastor of Mercy Ministries,  
The Mission Chattanooga

## For Those Who are Not Able to Vote but are Affected by the Outcome

Most merciful and righteous God, I ask for eyes to see, ears to hear, and a heart to love my neighbors as myself—to see, hear, and love them as you do. Lead me by your Holy Spirit to follow the example of Jesus, honoring the dignity of all people, especially those without the status to voice their own needs. We are all affected by the laws, policies, power structures, and infrastructure of our community.

May I represent your kingdom with compassion, heavenly Father, seeking the welfare of our city and the flourishing of all people in all places created in your image. Burden my heart with the crushing weight of injustice, hopeless circumstances, broken systems, and the inability to participate in the democratic process due to the loss of rights as a legal consequence, the lack of rights as a non-citizen, or the dependance on a parent or guardian's rights as a child or person with abilities requiring ongoing care and advocacy. May I rejoice in the freedom I've been granted culturally and in Christ to serve others in ways I'd desire to be represented if our circumstances were reversed. Grant me holy wisdom and selflessness—the attitude of Christ—considering others needs before my own. Grant me grace and humility to interact with others who may vote differently while holding a sincere desire for the wellbeing of others through different methodology. Above all, conform my heart and mind to the likeness of your Son. Amen.



**JEREMY MAXFIELD**

Director of Content, Rooted Network

# To Thank God For a Politician Who Represents Your Community's Needs Honestly and Serves the Common Good

Gracious and loving God,

We come before You with a heart full of gratitude, For the blessing of having leaders who stand for unwavering truth and fortitude.

Thank You for the political leaders who hear all the voices in the community loud and clear, and work tirelessly to alleviate or diminish fear and worry. In their actions, we see Your love shining bright, Lord, as they champion justice and equity with all their might.

Guide them, O Lord, with Your wisdom and grace, as they continue to serve our community.

May their integrity inspire others to follow in their path, and may Your blessings shower upon them, in the days to come. For in their service, we witness Your divine plan, to uplift and unite us, as one nation under Your divine Love, Mercy and Grace.

Amen.



**LAKWESHIA EWING**

Evangelist

# For Truth to be Preserved in Institutions and Systems of Voting and Governance

In Genesis 1, you are the God who looked at chaos that was hostile to human existence and brought an order that made holistic human flourishing possible.

As with every season, we come to you now to ask that the plumb line of your truth would shape and form all of your creation so that human flourishing may be a reality.

When the brokenness of the world looks to thwart the realities of truth, make the power of your truth prevail as we all bear your image.

Would you make institutions and systems promote and preserve peace rather than chaos so the *imago dei* in all would prosper.

Would you make institutions and systems promote and preserve justice rather than prejudice so the *imago dei* in all would be validated.

Would you make institutions and systems promote and preserve unity rather than division so the *imago dei* in all would be connected.

Would you make institutions and systems promote and preserve representation rather than silencing so the *imago dei* in all would be heard.

We long for your truth to pour through institutions and systems of voting and governance to bring about selfless sacrifice of the powerful, care of the vulnerable, and equity for all.

We ask this in the name of the one who is truth, Christ, Amen.



**BEN HOOPER**

Pastor,  
Restoration Southside

## For Justice and Mercy to be Seen in Our Country

Lord, Let me see others through the grace you have shown me. Show me the ways that through the justice and mercy I show them, that they will be introduced to You.

Throughout scripture you have mentioned goodness, righteousness, justice, and mercy together. I pray that You will allow me to see others as You see them. Then instill in me a deep desire to honor them and treat them with the respect and the love that You have for them.

I pray that when you call us to show Your mercy, that we will have the strength and fortitude to show the compassion and the grace that you have shown us.

I pray that when you call us exemplify Your justice, that we will have the wisdom and discernment to treat others fairly, showing them the kindness, compassion and love that You have shown us.

I pray that You will be revealed to them through our actions.

I pray that You would allow me to focus on You through whom, and for whom, all things were made perfect by your death and resurrection. Therefore, bringing salvation to each man woman and child.

May I not receive Your Name in vain.

May I not receive Your grace in vain.

Amen.



**DAVE WORLAND**

Executive Director,  
The Knoble

## For the Peace and Prosperity of Chattanooga

*"Build homes, and plan to stay. Plant gardens, and eat the food they produce.... Multiply! Do not dwindle away! And work for the peace and prosperity of the city where I sent you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, for its welfare will determine your welfare."*

(Jer. 29: 5-7 NLT)

Father,

of all places and times, you have set us right HERE - for such a time as this. Increase our desire and capacity to settle in deeply - building, planting, and multiplying life everywhere we set our feet. Together, we pray for every square mile of our region to experience the wholeness, security, peace, well-being, health, and flourishing that comes from you. May our city become all that was in your heart when you formed her land, rivers, and mountains and called her Chattanooga. And, may this blessing of peace and prosperity extend to many generations to come.

Amen.

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**MICKI ANN HARRIS**

Spiritual Formation Director,  
Chattanooga House of Prayer

# When I Feel Hopeful of How God is Working in the World

Father,

It's hard not to despair over the many ways our world malfunctions due to all that is but should not be. And yet in your wisdom you've gifted us image-bearers with an even stronger draw toward the many ways your goodness prevails over brokenness.

Kind words from the humble are clearly more powerful than the wrathful stirrings of the proud. The beauty of a disarming smile toward another far outweighs the ugliness that accompanies a bitterly-spoken opinion. You are kind to remind us that rain falls to the right and to the left and that the sun shines on both sides of every aisle.

I am hopeful, Lord Jesus, of how you are working in the world. Thank you that even though we would not have chosen you as our king, you have chosen us as your people. Thank you for ruling us wisely, kindly, and patiently. Please teach us to better reflect your character, starting with me, and starting today.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

—

**DAN WYKOFF**

Chief Financial & Operating Officer,  
Branch Technology

# For Those Who Have Lost Hope For Our Nation

God?

The earth quakes, the mountains fall. Righteousness hides and justice flees; I wail and I weep and hope feels like an aggressor- When I hear it, I fear; When I see it, I scream; When I touch it, I burn. I have set it down, set hope down. It is too heavy for me to carry.

You say, “death will be no more.” I say, “show me!” The last light on the horizon is too dim now; I curl and fall down.

*“Look on me and answer, O Lord, my God; Give light to my eyes or I will sleep in death.” (Psalm 13.3)*

My God, build me a bridge back to you, light it with truth. Pick me up and carry me across it and set me down in your arms. Speak to me and tell me that I am Your beloved. And make everything right once again.

Amen.



**ANDREW KEAN**  
Principal,  
Sovereign's Capital

## When I Feel Like it is Not Worth it to Engage

Father, I'm tired of this... division, bad choices, negativity. I'm angry and frustrated: make it stop! But then you remind me that I follow someone who created some of the greatest political upheaval the world has ever known. Not from a position of power, but first from a position of weakness - as a baby and then later as a man broken and beaten, bloodied on a cross. You were raised to life and then called the believers in the early Church to unify around the Gospel to change the world... impacting empires, countries, and economies. The battle belongs to you, and you go before us. But we are called to follow, because He lives. Give us strength to put one foot in front of the other to advance your Kingdom here on earth. (Phil 4:13)

Amen.



**RYAN EWALT**

Chief Strategy & Innovation Officer,  
City of Chattanooga

# When I Am Scared of the Outcome of a Vote

O Lord, great and awesome God, who keeps covenant and  
steadfast love.

God of Joseph the prisoner  
of David the persecuted  
of Daniel the accused  
of Jesus the suffering  
and of Paul in chains

I am afraid.

I am afraid because I feel powerless in the face of this  
election. My vote is so small, this decision looms so large, the  
implications are so significant. I am afraid for myself, and  
how I might be carried along in a moment in history that  
feels so big. I am afraid for my neighbors, who may bear the  
consequences of this new reality to a greater extent. I am  
afraid of my enemies, that they will gloat and wag their heads  
at me. I am afraid for this country, that the days ahead will  
not be days of peace.

Show me Jesus – on his throne, robed in power, speaking  
with authority, guiding all things for good, at work in the  
mysteries of providence, and interceding for me right now.  
Remind me that there is no present where he is not on his  
throne and no future where he will not care for me. And  
show me his wounds, which prove his love for me.

Amen.

—

**JOEY SHERRARD**

Associate Pastor of Discipleship,  
Signal Mountain Presbyterian Church

# For Supernatural Trust When Things Feel Uncertain or Chaotic

Almighty God,

I know that you are the infinite, eternal, and unchangeable one, but I live in a world that feels limited, temporary, and chaotic. I am prone to place hopes on movements that promise stability, people who promise certainty, and distractions that promise relief.

Forgive me, Lord!

Rescue me, Lord!

From fear grant me peace by your grace.  
From chaos give me clarity in your words. From distraction make me attentive to your presence. Make me to place my hope only on you, the almighty and all glorious King of kings.

Amen.



**BENJIE SLATON**

Lead Pastor,  
Grace and Peace

## When Lament is Needed

Our hearts are heavy, Lord, burdened by the history of sin and injustice that looms over our nation. We cry out against the divisive, binary nature of the power structures that rule us. We bring You the full laments of our heart, knowing You handle them all.

Dispel the easy answers and half-truths thrust upon us, O Lord, and give Your church the truth of the gospel of Your kingdom. Make us people who tell this truth in love, lamenting the dark past of this nation so often papered over with religious relief. Make us people who love You and neighbor so fully that our lament leads into a future of honest hope for what You will do, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.



**J. MARK BOWERS**

Senior Training Advisor,  
World Relief

## Prayer Concerning Anger

Compassionate and Gracious God, we worship you. We praise you that you are perfect and while slow to anger, are not without it. We are in awe that you stood at the grave of your dear friend, Lazarus, and bellowed with rage at death and the grave and fixed your eyes on the cross that you might triumph over death as the resurrection and the life.

With great hope of your mercy and kindness, we confess our sin of anger to you. We seethe over things that do not trouble you, and sleep over things that rouse you. Even when we are rightly angry, we are not angry like you. We fail to exhibit your slowness, incarnation, healing, grace, and compassion. We so often erupt far too quickly, failing to embody the greatest of all things: love. Forgive us through your Son and heal us by your Spirit. Guard us from fury that wounds when we explode like hot volcanic lava. Protect us from apathy in a world full of injustice, oppression, and ruin. Supply us with redemptive anger that seeks to renew and restore, by your power alone, what is broken. Calm our hearts with the knowledge that your wrath against us has been satisfied in and through the work of Christ.

In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we pray.

Amen.



**BRIAN SALTER**

Lead Pastor,  
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