

# HOW SHOULD WE PRAY TODAY AS WE REMEMBER 9/11?

*On September the 11th, enemies of freedom committed an act of war against our country. Americans have known wars, but for the past 136 years they have been wars on foreign soil, except for one Sunday in 1941. Americans have known the casualties of war, but not at the center of a great city on a peaceful morning. Americans have known surprise attacks, but never before on thousands of civilians. All of this was brought upon us in a single day, and night fell on a different world, a world where freedom itself is under attack (Former President George Bush).*

On Tuesday morning, September 11, 2001, terrorists attacked America. They hijacked four passenger jets, crashed two of them into the World Trade Center's twin towers and a third into the Headquarters of the U.S. Department of Defense at the Pentagon, causing an enormous loss of life and tremendous damage. The fourth plane crashed in the Pennsylvania countryside, killing all on board but falling well short of its intended target because of the heroic efforts of passengers on board.

In the Bible there is was a man named Job who lived over three thousand years ago. He struggled with a timeless question. He asked "why?" He was a good man, and yet disaster suddenly struck him. He lost seven sons and three daughters. He lost all his possessions. He lost his health. Even his friends turned against him. His wife said to him, "Curse God and die." How painful that must have been. In the midst of his suffering he asked the question: "Why?" Job didn't know the answer instead he cried out, "Why did I not perish at birth?"

**God ALWAYS knows and understands what we are going through!** The Lord is always with us! Events like this tend to do one of two things: they make us hard, bitter and angry with God, at God or in the midst of the pain and struggle we become tender, open and humble. We run to the Lord for help. We reach out to the Lord in trust and faith. This is what I know and what I have learned: it is always better to face anything like this with God than without Him!

Our Lord is compassionate and faithful! *Lamentations 3:18-26 All hope is gone; my strength has turned to water, for the Lord has left me. Oh, remember the bitterness and suffering you have dealt to me! For I can never forget these awful years; always my soul will live in utter shame. Yet there is one ray of hope: his compassion never ends. It is only the Lord's mercies that have kept us from complete destruction. Great is his faithfulness; his loving-kindness begins afresh each day. My soul claims the Lord as my inheritance; therefore, I will hope in him. The Lord is wonderfully good to those who wait for him, to those who seek for him. It is good both to hope and wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.*

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**In HUMILITY and in EXALTATION of the Lord!**

*1 Peter 5:6-11 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you. To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.*

**God is NEVER indifferent!** When we who are believers in Jesus continue to carry our worries, anxieties, stresses, and daily struggles by ourselves, this shows that we have not fully trusted God. Trust requires humility as we to turn everything over to the Lord and cast all our cares upon Him. To cast literally means to "throw or fling your anxieties or the things that distract and take away our ability to focus on our Lord. We therefore fling or throw our anxieties and put them on God and trust in Him. Letting God have your anxieties calls for action, not passivity. We have a choice as to who or what is in control: The Lord our God or circumstances of life?

How should we live today as we remember?

**WATCHING and PRAYING!**

Mark 13:32-37 *But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is. It is like a man going to a far country, who left his house and gave authority to his servants, and to each his work, and commanded the doorkeeper to watch. Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming--in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning-- lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping. And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!*

In His Love With Prayer!  
Pastor Steve