

Psalm 33: 1-6

¹ Sing joyfully to the Lord, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise him. ² Praise the Lord with the harp; make music to him on the ten-stringed lyre. ³ Sing to him a new song; play skillfully, and shout for joy. ⁴ For the word of the Lord is right and true; he is faithful in all he does. ⁵ The Lord loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of his unfailing love. ⁶ By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth.

Psalm 33: 7-12

⁷ He gathers the waters of the sea into jars, he puts the deep into storehouses. ⁸ Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the people of the world revere him. ⁹ For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm. ¹⁰ The Lord foils the plans of the nations; he thwarts the purposes of the peoples. ¹¹ But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations. ¹² Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people he chose for his inheritance.

Psalm 33: 13-19

¹³ From heaven the Lord looks down and sees all mankind;

¹⁴ from his dwelling place he watches all who live on earth—

¹⁵ he who forms the hearts of all, who considers everything they

do. ¹⁶ No king is saved by the size of his army; no warrior

escapes by his great strength. ¹⁷ A horse is a vain hope for

deliverance despite all its great strength it cannot save. ¹⁸ But

the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, on those whose

hope is in his unfailing love, ¹⁹ to deliver them from death and

keep them alive in famine.

Psalm 33: 20-22

20 We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield.

21 In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name.

22 May your unfailing love be with us, Lord, even as we put our hope in you.

- 1-5** Implore us to praise the Lord for all His acts of redemption and love toward us
- 6-9** Are about God and creation of the whole world
- 10-11** The nations are under His control, and His plans will be carried out
- 12-17** God has already chosen and acted but watches to see how we will use our free will
- 18-19** God's favor rests on those who "fear" and hope in His unfailing love
- 20-22** Our hope is in God and because of that we can boldly say, IN GOD WE TRUST

On May 17, 1776, Congress actually appointed a day of fasting and prayer for the colonies, so that they might by sincere repentance “appease God’s righteous displeasure, and through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ, obtain his pardon and his forgiveness.”

George Washington added four words to his inauguration ceremony: “So help me, God.” The very first thing that Washington did after being inaugurated was to stoop down and kiss his Bible, as an affirmation of the submissive spirit that he had to have toward the rule and authority of the Almighty God.

It was John Adams, the second President of the United States, who said, “Our Constitution was made for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other. For democracy to work, the majority of the people have to be religious and moral at their core, or it falls apart.”

On February 11, 1861, Abraham Lincoln spoke in Springfield, Illinois, and said, “In regard to this great book,”—and he held up his Bible— “I have but to say it is the best gift God has given to man. All the good the Savior gave to the world was communicated to us through this book. But for it, we would not know right from wrong.”

In 1909, President Theodore Roosevelt said: “After a week of perplexing problems, it does so rest my soul to come into the house of the Lord and to sing and to mean it, ‘Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God Almighty.’ My great joy and great glory in occupying this exalted position as president of the nation is that I am enabled to preach the practical moralities of the Bible to my fellow countrymen and to hold up Christ as the hope and Savior of the world.”

Some people would point to a moment in 1962 as the tipping point, when the Supreme Court ruled that voluntary prayer at the start of each school day was unconstitutional because it amounted to state sponsorship of prayer.

What was so offensive?

Prayer that was recited in 1961 in New York to start the day:

“Almighty God, we acknowledge our dependence on Thee and we beg Thy blessing over us, our parents, our teachers, and our nation.”

2 Chronicles 7:13-14

¹³ When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people, ¹⁴ 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 will heal their land.

Humble themselves – How do we do this?

A modest or low view of one's own importance.

Psalm 33:8 – Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the people of the world revere him.

Humility means understanding our right position in relation to God. Being content in the giftings and grace He has rightly given each one of us. Working properly in our original design—not moaning for more but serving correctly. You are a “10” at something.

Pray – Not talk about praying or read a book about prayer— but praying. Asking God to be in alignment with His ways and working to fulfill His purposes. Taking the authority He has given us to cast down strongholds and overcome evil. Joining with our spouse or friends to be aware of and actually pray.

Seek My Face – It does not say seek My hand (provision)
It says to seek His face—to desire to be in relationship with Him
and dwell with Him.

Seeking the face of God refers to pursuing an intimate
relationship with Him. The desire to connect deeply with God
through prayer, worship, and obedience.

It signifies a longing for His presence and guidance in my life.
Seeking God's face involves recognizing one's dependence on
Him and striving to understand His will and character. This
pursuit is not just about asking for help but also about cultivating
a relationship that fosters trust and obedience.

Turn From Wicked Ways (Repent) – To turn from wicked ways involves recognizing sinful behaviors, making a conscious decision to abandon them, and choosing to follow a path aligned with God's righteousness.

Repentance: The act of turning away from sin and towards God. It signifies a transformation of heart and mind.

This turning is not merely a passive acknowledgement of wrongdoing; it requires active steps to change one's life and behavior. Embracing this change can lead to spiritual growth and a deeper relationship with God.

Abraham Lincoln's prayer in 1863:

We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of Heaven. We have been preserved, these many years, in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth, and power as no other nation has ever grown; but we have forgotten about you, O God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own.

Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God who made us.

It behooves us then, to humble ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness.