

A Prayer for the Church.

"The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective," James 5:16b.



Lord, You promised enemies surround close at hand, if **are called by** **h u m b l e** **pray and seek** **turn from their**

then" You **"will hear from Heaven and forgive their sin and will heal their land,"** {2 Chron. 7:14}. If ever a land needed healing, God, if ever a People had wandered from Your ways, it is us {right here, right now}... the Church in the Western world of the 21st century. Our governments are **paralyzed** by their thirst for power, our corporations are corrupt, our economies are in shambles, our churches are **mausoleums** with not a House of Prayer in sight, the Body of Christ is broken and bleeding from a **thousand** sectarian wounds, **fractured** by our infighting and **impotent** against the enemy!

that when our us and disaster is Your People **"who** Your **"Name, will themselves and** Your **"face, and wicked ways,**

So, we are a People called by Your Name, Lord Jesus, and **this** is that Time. We are **"a People"** {1 Pet. 2:9} bought and bound by the blood of the Cross ...and we humble ourselves before Your Throne as **One**: to plead for Your mercy, to seek Your face, to hear from Your heart and find Your forgiveness.

Father, forgive us for **eagerly embracing** the mindset and value system of Wall St. and Washington, for our idolatry of the dollar and our addiction to consumerism. **Break our hearts** by the brokenness of our world... and make us a compassionate People, as **lavish** with our generosity as You are with Your love.

Forgive us, Father, for seeking to make **converts** to our doctrinal biases and denominational persuasions, rather than **"disciples"** of the Master, Followers of Jesus. Radically reshape our hearts toward the lost, the lonely, the wounded and the weary, Lord. Birth within us by Your Holy Spirit a divine passion to take the Message of Healing and Hope, the Gospel of Your Grace, to a world bound in darkness and death! And burn away every false priority which hinders and hampers our **unceasing obedience** to the Commission of our King! Make us a People of **passion** and action, of **mercy** and might, of **restoration** and redemption ...**bold** in our witness and faithful unto death— so that the world may see Your infinite love in our lives and not just hear it from our lips.

It's not secular humanism or a sinful society we lay the blame on this day; it is us, O God. Your **Church**, Your **Body**, Your **Bride**, we are the problem, we are the Light which should be shining like a city on a hill... and we have failed, Lord, because our faith in You, our trust in the goodness and glory of Your fathering heart for us hasn't overcome our love of the world and all the details, deceptions and distractions it offers us. And so we **repent** this day, we turn our hearts in attitude and action from our foolish and wicked ways, and we ask You to send Your Spirit in response. To pour out Your **Spirit** upon **we** Your **People** and burn up from within our **sin** and our selfishness, our **pride** and our prejudice, our **arrogance** and our apathy toward Your holy Word and Your perfect will! Purify Your Bride by the fire of Your Holy Spirit! Let us **see** Your face, O God, let us **know** Your power and **experience** Your presence!

You spoke through the prophet Isaiah saying, "**I will pour out My Spirit on your offspring, and My blessing on your descendants,**" 44:3. So come, Lord, come **near** to us... and pour out Your Spirit, bring revival to Your Body in this State and across this nation, bring **restoration** to the broken, bring **healing** and wholeness to the wounded and weary, bring Your redeeming **love** to the lost and alone. Show Your mighty hand and outstretched arm, O God, that we may praise You to the highest Heaven ...and all the world may see and know that **Jesus Christ is Lord**, the **Son** of the Living God and **Savior** of all mankind!

Lord, we confess openly and honestly, before a **watching** world, that our sin-hardened hearts and refusal to obey Your Spirit have held back the winds of awakening for far too long. But we ask boldly, faithfully, **confidently** this day that You would send the fire of Your Spirit among us, Lord... and You would bring the kind of revival we've heard about, read about, know for a fact is possible, but have yet to see with our own eyes. We long to see the dead-men walking in the streets of our cities come **roaring** to Life ...to see the Gospel go forth with great power and love, compassion and conviction ...to see our **culture** and our **country** transformed by the healing power of the Lord Jesus Christ. Use us without excuse, each and every one, to "**bring many Sons to glory.**" Cleanse and purify us by the blood of the Lamb.

You asked through the prophet Jeremiah, "**Is not My Word like fire, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?**" {23:29}. We have wielded the **hammer** of Your Word, without the **fire** of Your Love, for far too long. And we have crushed the lives of many. Forgive us, Father, for the false images of You we have so often given, the **mis**-representations of Your will, the **mis**-characterizations of Your heart. Forgive us, Father-God, and show us as Your Sons and Daughters the pure **undiluted** image of You which comes shining through Your only Son. And we will bless You, Lord, we will praise You, Lord, we will magnify Your Name and exalt Your honor for the Freedom and Life which flow from the image of the One True God. **May our hearts come near in worship.** In the **precious** and **powerful** Name of Jesus Christ the King ...Amen and amen!

— Ric Webb
National Day of Prayer, May 5th, 2011
AR State Capitol