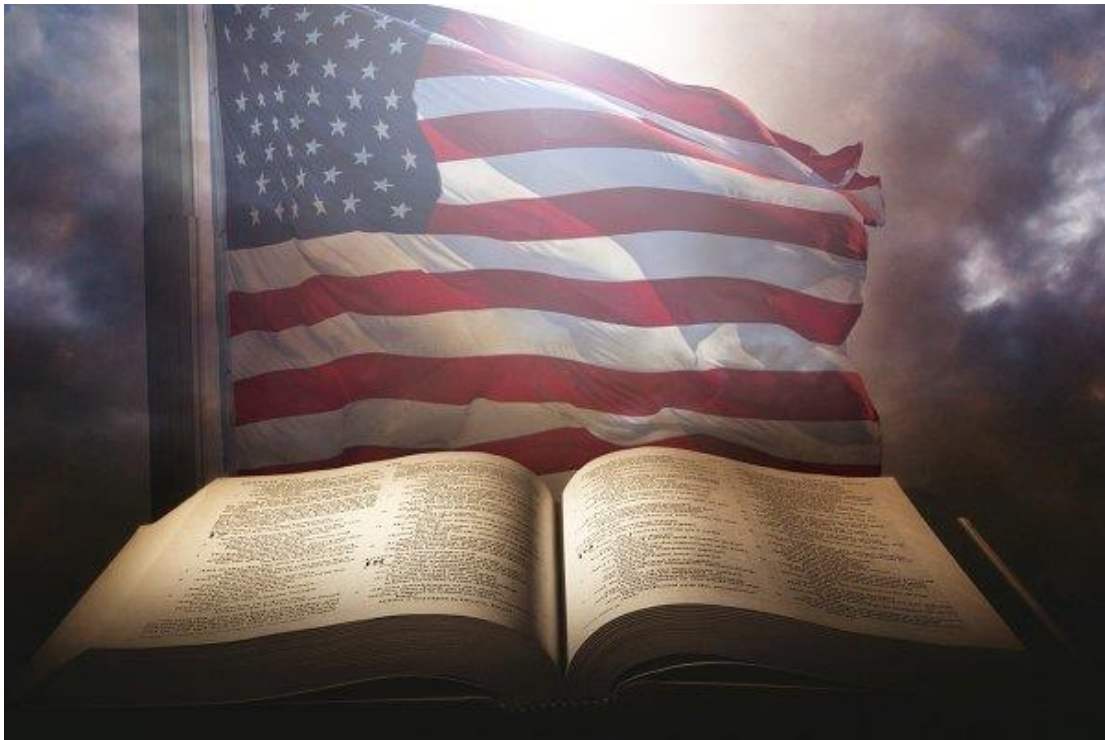


# **AMERICA'S GREATEST NEED**



**By: Pastor Gary G. Dull**

## AMERICA'S GREATEST NEED

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I love America. As far back as I can remember my love for America was deeply rooted in my heart and soul. I can recall a time when as a young child I was playing in my grandparents' backyard and was struck with how blessed I was to be an American. Right then and there, I sat down beside a large sandbox to thank God for allowing me to be born in America. I have no idea what brought that on, but I can remember it very clearly. And now, nearly sixty years later, and after traveling to over thirty other nations of the world, I am still glad to be an American and regularly thank God for putting me here.

Having said that, I recognize America has a lot of issues at hand which potentially threaten her very existence. At the present time, America is faced with division, hatred toward others, racism, economic concerns, rejection of absolute biblical truth, reduction in church attendance and a general lack of respect for God Himself. There are myriads of people who do not see God as being a significant factor in any part of their lives. Recently, the Pew Research Center reported that "a majority of Americans do not believe they need God to be moral or to have good values." I consider that to be very sad, but if it is true, it may reveal why America is facing so many serious issues in our time.

Both the Word of God and American history reveals that when God is respected and trusted, a civilization will prosper, but when God is forgotten, civilizations suffer and fall and very rapidly go into moral and spiritual demise. Scripture reveals in the Old Testament that when Israel obeyed the Lord, He blessed the nation abundantly, but when the nation disobeyed the Lord judgment and dispersion into foreign lands occurred.

America was founded by people who had a great respect for God. This is clearly seen in our early documents like the Mayflower Compact, the Declaration of Independence and even the United States Constitution which remains the longest continual lasting national constitution in history. If one would take the time to analyze those documents, he would see the biblical principles woven through their pages.

A study of older governmental buildings of The United States reveals that our founders had a respect for God as many Bible verses and biblical concepts were engraved in the stone structure of the facilities. For instance, inscribed on the top of the Washington Monument in Washington, DC are the words "PRAISE BE TO GOD" indicating the respect the builders had for the Lord when it was completed 1884. Would those words be placed there today? Highly doubtful.

From the time of our founders until the last few generations, America as a whole had a great respect for God. As a result, God blessed America above all other nations of the world and through America He blessed the entire world in science, technology and development. Since prayer and Bible reading were taken out of the public schools in 1963 and 1964 the moral and spiritual nature of America has been going downhill on a rapid descent.

Contrary to what many people believe as found at the Pew Research Center, God is certainly needed for moral and spiritual values to prevail. Thus, I submit that America's greatest need is God.

By God's grace, He has birthed and blessed America, but by God's justice, He will judge and curse America due to her allowed sin. In fact, I believe God's judgment upon America has already begun. The sooner we come to the realization of these facts and then act accordingly, the sooner we may see America blessed and strengthened by God again.

So, what can we do to lead America back to God?

The road back to God begins with a plurality of concerned citizens in America, mainly the remnant of born-again believers in Jesus Christ, who will be willing to recognize personal and national sins and be repentant of those sins, then God may bring revival.

Recognizing our sins involves the admission that all sin is against God. King David illustrated that as he spoke in Psalm 51:4a when he said, "*AGAINST THEE, THEE ONLY, HAVE I SINNED.*" The sins of removing prayer and Bible reading from the public schools have led to the myriad of sins we see in the nation today that reject God and His principles.

Repentance involves making "an about face" and going another direction from the sins which have been committed. In the past six or seven decades, America has been aggressively going the direction of godless, secular thought which attempts to explain away God. Consequently, we have a new generation of young people who know very little, if anything, about God and His absolutes. That is what has led to the division, the hatred, the racism and a myriad of other godless attitudes and actions we see in our culture today.

Revival falls on the heels of repentance. When the people of God, born again believers in Jesus Christ, recognize their personal sins that have led to national sins and repent of those sins, God may then bring the spiritual revival that is needed to bless the nation once again. In fact, the revival will be His blessing on the nation.

Revival is when God's people get right with God. Unfortunately, in the past several decades, God's people have become lax in their commitment to biblical principles and practices resulting in leading the home, the church and the nation down a road of secular humanism, which is at its very root "anti-God." This results in placing America in the same condition Israel of old experienced when God said through the prophet Hosea in Hosea 4:1, "*HEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD, YE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL: FOR THE LORD HATH A CONTROVERSY WITH THE INHABITANTS OF THE LAND, BECAUSE THERE IS NO TRUTH, NOR MERCY, NOR KNOWLEDGE OF GOD IN THE LAND.*" Had Israel recognized and repented of their sin of forgetting God, He would have revived them as stated in Hosea 14:1 which says, "*O ISRAEL, RETURN UNTO THE LORD THY GOD: FOR THOU HAST FALLEN BY THINE INIQUITY.*" Then God says in verse 4, "*I WILL HEAL THEIR BACKSLIDING, I WILL LOVE THEM FREELY: FOR MINE ANGER IS TURNED AWAY FROM HIM.*" Unfortunately, Israel did not repent, God did not revive them and the whole nation went into captivity.

Can we learn a lesson from Israel? We can and we must.

From the heart of the individual Christian to the center of each family and to the core of every local church, God must be invited to search our hearts and reveal our sins as Psalm 139:23,24 indicates by saying, "*SEARCH ME, O GOD, AND KNOW MY HEART: TRY ME, AND KNOW MY THOUGHTS: AND SEE IF THERE BE ANY WICKED WAY IN ME, AND LEAD ME IN THE WAY EVERLASTING.*" When God reveals "ANY WICKED WAY" then the act of genuine repentance of what has been revealed must be rendered which will lay the foundation for God to revive and restore the nation.

America's greatest need is for Christians to get right with God which will pave the way for God to bless America as Psalm 33:12a says, "*BLESSED IS THE NATION WHOSE GOD IS THE LORD.*"

We must not look at others and tell them to repent. We must start with ourselves, repent where it is needed and then watch God work in bringing the revival that He, and only He, can perform.

Bringing God back into the American culture begins with you and me. Shall we begin?



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