

**UNITEDCRY**

**40 DAYS** *of*

PRAYER AND FASTING

**FOR A GREAT AWAKENING IN AMERICA**

**PRAYER GUIDE**

# INTRODUCTION

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In April of 1789 the war for America's independence had been fought and won. A new nation had formed around a radical constitution whose very ideas were born out of thirty-five years of revival preaching and the Great Awakening. On that spring day in April, two things happened. President George Washington was sworn in at Federal Hall in New York City, becoming the first president of America. Secondly, he led the inaugural delegation to St Paul's Chapel which we know today as "Ground Zero." There the Founding Fathers, Representatives, Senators, and Justices knelt for two hours and dedicated America to God. Simultaneously, throughout the nation, church bells rang out calling the people of America to pray and to commit the new government to the Most High God.

In the formation period of our nation, it was the church and the American pastors that had led a grass-roots fight for freedom. They inspired a generation to stand for religious liberties and justice for all.

## AMERICA IS IN A SPIRITUAL CRISIS

America has changed. America is in crisis. From all sides, biblical values that formed the foundation of our nation are under attack. The problems that face America are not political but spiritual. Once again the fate of America's future lies in the hands of pastors and Christian leaders. There is a critical need for the church to take responsibility for the spiritual condition of America.

We are in a Joel 2 moment in our nation's history. God's solution to a nation in crisis is to gather the leaders and the people together to pray and fast, to seek His face, to repent of our sins and to turn to Him with all of our heart. Joel 2:16-17

*"America is in a Psalms 2 crisis that demands a Joel 2 response for an Acts 2 outpouring" - Mike Bickle*

April 9, 2016 we are gathering at the Lincoln Memorial in a solemn assembly of prayer and fasting, not to protest the government, but to pray that God would spare our nation. We want to stand in unity, not to rail against the leadership of America or its policies, but to repent for our national sins and ask for God's mercy. Before that historic day we are committing these 40 days of prayer and fasting beginning March 1st through April 9th to cry out for a moral, cultural and spiritual awakening in America.

It is significant that the United Cry DC16 gathering takes place on April 9, which are the anniversary dates of historic and cultural shifts in our nation and the world.

April 9, 1865 - The ending of the Civil War

April 9, 1906 - The outpouring at Azusa Street

April 9, 1945 - Dietrich Bonhoeffer martyred in Nazi Germany

It is from the story lines of these historic anniversary dates that outline our three areas of focused prayer:

- Repentance of our personal and national sins,
- Prayer for a great awakening in America
- Prayer for Pastors and Christian leaders to take responsibility for the spiritual condition of America and engaging the culture in truth and love.

## HOW TO USE THIS PRAYER GUIDE

We are delighted that you are joining us in praying for revival and national renewal. Jesus declared that His fully-devoted followers are the salt of the earth and the light of the world (Matthew 5:13-16). We must become engaged in this battle for our nation's soul. However, until as Christians we experience revival in our own lives, it will be extremely difficult to restore our nation's moral foundations. Throughout these 40 days of prayer and fasting it is not just our nation that needs God. The church needs to awaken in a fresh spirit of revival.

So this Prayer Guide not only focuses on praying for our nation but also on personal renewal and revival in the church.

## A STARTING PLACE

The Guide provides a page for each day as a common ground of agreement in prayer. Please keep in mind though, that the Guide is just that — a guide. It is designed to give you a starting place for your time of prayer.

## FORMAT

Each of the 40 days begins with a brief introduction and focus for prayer. Each day also includes pronouncements, proclamations and prayers from Scripture to be declared over your life and our nation. There is tremendous power released through praying and proclaiming the Word of God.

## ALLOW THE HOLY SPIRIT TO GUIDE YOU

Set aside time each day to reflect and meditate on the scriptures given in the guide. Allow the Holy Spirit to speak to your heart and guide you as you pray.

## FASTING AND PRAYER

You can fast in many different ways. Pray and ask God what he will give you faith to do for the 40 days.

- A Daniel fast, with vegetables and water, is good for those carrying a heavy workload.
- A fruit or vegetable juice fast allows you to enter into fasting but still gives enough energy to function. Many people have done a 40-day juice fast. **It is important that in fasting you set aside time for personal and private prayer.**

**“Fast and pray in order to  
humble yourself and purify  
your worship. In fasting we  
are not trying to get  
something from God, but  
rather seeking to realign our  
hearts’ affections with His.”**

**- Lou Engle**