

**JOSHUA 7:10-15**  
**“DO SOMETHING!”**

Please turn in your Bibles this morning to Joshua chapter 7 as we continue our study through the book of Joshua, and we continue looking at victorious Christian living.

In saying that, this morning we are going to continue to look at the failure of Israel in their battle against Ai.

Now, you may be thinking, “Hey, I thought this was about victorious Christian living, not losing?”

It is, and as you will see, we have to learn from our success and our failures. As we do, we will grow. We will learn what we should do and what we should not do. And in reality, we will learn that we can trust what the Lord tells us instead of what we think is right!

Remember what has taken place for the children of Israel.

They have crossed over into the Promise Land or the land of Canaan.

They have just defeated their first enemy, the people of Jericho. Destroying the city and the people.

And make no mistake about it, Jericho was not an easy city to defeat. They had walls around the city. They had an army. And yet, God gave them this victory and it should have encouraged the children of Israel for future battles.

And remember the *ESSENTIALS FOR VICTORY* that we looked at in Joshua chapter 6.

We saw that one of the essentials for victory was their *OBEDIENCE TO GOD’S INSTRUCTION!*

That should just make sense. God has told us in His Word what He desires of us and we need to be obedient, we need to obey what He has told us.

And the second point in regard to the *ESSENTIALS FOR VICTORY* is that we are to ***KEEP OURSELVES FROM ACCURSED THINGS!***

And that should just make sense. Sin will be a hinderance, not only in our walk, but in our victory.

For those who doubt that, all you have to do is read on into Joshua chapter 7, as we did last week, and we saw how our *DISOBEDIENCE* to God and His Word will bring about defeat in our lives.

And I will tell you this. We can have some victory's in our lives and in that we can become *SELF-CONFIDENT* and in that, we don't seek God's direction, we follow our own. And the combination of *SELF-CONFIDENCE* which leads to *DISOBEDIENCE* to God and His Word, will bring defeat and discouragement!

And it is interesting, because we see that with Joshua and the leaders in Israel when they were defeated by this little city called Ai!

Remember, this city of Ai they sent spies into and the spies came back and said, “... ‘Do not let all the people go up, but let about two or three thousand men go up and attack Ai. Do not weary all the people there, for the people of Ai are few.’” Joshua 7:3.

And that is exactly what they did, and things did not work out as *THEY HAD PLANNED!* This was not of God as you will see.

We are told in Joshua 7:4-5, **“So about three thousand men went up there from the people, but they fled before the men of Ai. And the men of Ai struck down about thirty-six men, for they chased them from before the gate as far as Shebarim, and struck them down on the descent; therefore the hearts of the people melted and became like water.”**

Not only did they lose this battle against this small city, but about thirty-six men lost their lives in this battle.

Now you might not think that is a lot of casualties, but keep in mind that against this stronger city, Jericho, they lost not one man!

And out of all that we see the *BLAME GAME* begin!

We are told in Joshua 7:6-9, **“Then Joshua tore his clothes, and fell to the earth on his face before the ark of the Lord until evening, he and the elders of Israel; and they put dust on their heads. And Joshua said, ‘Alas, Lord God, why have You brought this people over the Jordan at all - to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us? Oh, that we had been content, and dwelt on the other side of the Jordan! O Lord, what shall I say when Israel turns its back before its enemies? For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land will hear it, and surround us, and cut off our name from the earth. Then what will You do for Your great name?’”**

Joshua is blaming God for this tragic loss. I find that very interesting because God is going to respond to what Joshua was saying.

And, as we will see, there are some valuable lessons for us to learn in the days we are living. Because we too do the blame game. And we talked a little last time about blaming God, but we also blame the Democrats, the homosexual agenda, the abortionists, the left, the socialist, this group and that group. And we may even cry out for God to do something against these horrible groups and people!

In fact, I have called this study, ***“Do Something!”*** and the idea is, we want God to do something. But, as we will see, that is not the answer. I am not saying that God can’t do anything, He can. But what are we to do?

It is like the family who was raising their son in a godly home. Their desire, like any Christian parent, was that he would grow up loving and serving the Lord.

To help him to see how wonderful God is, they talked about the wonderful things that God had made. They would ask him questions like, “Who made the Sun?” “Who made the dinosaurs?” “Who made the rain?” And they would spend a little time each day talking about all the wonderful things that God had made!

One evening, as the mom walked into the room, she saw all the boy’s toys scattered all over the floor. And she asked her son, “Who made this mess?”

Without missing a beat, the young boy said back to his mom, “God did!”

I like that!

With that as our background, let’s begin reading in Joshua chapter 7, beginning in verse 10 and let’s see what the Lord has for us as we look at the topic, **“Do Something!”**

**JOSHUA 7****VERSES 10-15**

I want to take a few minutes and go over what was happening here with Joshua and then we will apply it to our own lives.

As you read this are you thinking, “What an interesting response by God”? We see Joshua on his knees before God and what is he doing? He is not asking the Lord if there is some sin that has brought this upon the nation. What he is doing is he is complaining about the situation he and the children of Israel were in, and he is blaming God for this mess!

And what does the Lord tell Joshua to do?

The Lord tells Joshua, “**Get up!**”

Why does the Lord say that?

Because instead of laying with his face down begging God to change His heart, he is complaining about the mess they were in. Joshua needed to face up to the issues before him.

What issues?

We don’t have to guess because the Lord tells Joshua, “**Israel has sinned.**”

In other words, there was sin in the camp and it was Israel that needed to change their heart before God!

God did not need to change. God did nothing wrong.

Think of the Lord saying this to Joshua, “***What is the meaning of this kind of behavior Joshua? You ought to know better than to question my character and faithfulness. I haven’t failed My people, My people have failed Me through disobedience!***”

Yes, make no mistake about it, God did not fail, but the children of Israel did and the defeat of the children of Israel was not God's fault, but their own fault and God was not going to fight for them *UNTIL* they removed the accursed thing from among them!

We see a similar thing taking place in Paul's day. Paul, in I Corinthians 5:1-6 speaks of how sin does affect those around the sinner, and here it affects the church.

He wrote, **"It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles - that a man has his father's wife! And you are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he who has done this deed might be taken away from among you. For I indeed, as absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged (as though I were present) him who has so done this deed. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, along with my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?"**

You see, pride had now allowed them to welcome sin into the church, a man who was having sexual relations with his father's wife, his stepmother!

The Greek word that is used for "**sexual immorality**" is PORNEIA, (por-ni'-ah) and it speaks of any kind of extra-marital sex.

Folks, this was not a one-night-stand, as wrong as that was, but this was an affair that continued on and he continued going to church.

First of all, the Old Testament says this is wrong, (Leviticus 18:7-8, 29; Deuteronomy 22:30).

Also, even the unsaved saw this kind of behavior, this kind of relationship as being wrong, Roman law forbid it! But for the Corinthians, they were proud of their tolerance, their liberty they had in Christ! I guess you can say that they were proud in the fact that they had allowed accursed things into the church, they accepted sin in the church!

And Paul is telling them that this letter represents him in regard to this issue. That he need not be there in person to deal with this issue.

Now the solution to this problem, Paul tells them, is to excommunicate this man, remove him from their fellowship, and hand him over to Satan for the destruction of his flesh!

Folks, there is a protection within the body of believers and when someone is excommunicated, they are out there on their own in Satan's dominion. The destruction of the flesh can mean the attacks of the enemy against their lives and as he gets beat up, you might say, that he would then come to his senses and repent and get right with God, stop the sin he was in.

You see, the idea is not damnation but restoration for God is interested in a person's spirit for all flesh will eventually go back to the dust of the earth.

Of this Warren Wiersbe said, "Church discipline is not a group of 'pious policemen' out to catch a criminal. Rather, it is a group of broken-hearted brothers and sisters seeking to restore an erring member of the family."

These Corinthian believers were proud of their tolerance, but Paul shows them the foolishness of such behavior.

It would be like ignoring a tumor in your body, not getting it treated and boasting about your tolerance towards that cancer. By doing that it will eventually grow and consume your body, destroying it!

That is what was happening in the Corinthian church and why it needed to be dealt with now! And that is what was happening in the camp of Israel and it needed to be dealt with now!

And make no mistake about it. We see the same thing happening today. We can justify the accursed things in our lives, but God does not accept it. Sin is sin before God! And that sin needs to be dealt with!

And the Lord tells Joshua what the solution to their problem is.

First, they were to consecrate themselves before the Lord or set themselves apart unto the Lord.

Secondly, Joshua may not know the offender, but God does, and He will expose the sinner.

Paul makes that point in Hebrews 4:13, “**And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.**”

And thirdly, all involved are to be burned with fire. You see, until the sin was dealt with, the nation would not be blessed!

Now we did talk about the accursed things back in Joshua chapter 6, and what I want to do with the remainder of our time this morning is look at what we are to do.

You see, when you look at our nation, things are not going too well. I am not speaking of monetarily, but spiritually speaking and that has resulted in a marked change in how people are living. It has changed our morality from following God’s instructions. In fact, now we see that many are doing what is right in their own heart because the King of Kings was no longer on the throne of their hearts or in the heart of this nation.



Look at the things that we are losing in this country. We are losing our freedom, reason, the family, economic well-being, goodness and more! All these things are in jeopardy and you may be wondering why, and the answer is really very simple. It is the ***IDEOLOGIES OF THE LEFT OR PROGRESSIVISM!***

In other words, the beliefs, the philosophies, the ideas of people that are so far removed from God are leading the nation and not in a good way.

Make no mistake about it, as you move to socialism, which we are doing in this country, you will see that everything will be destroyed. And you can check this out for yourself. Everything that socialism touches, it destroys! It may happen very quickly or over time, but it will happen.

It is like sin, it can affect us instantly or over time, but it will eventually destroy us if we don't remove it from our lives!

Let me show you what I mean about what happens when socialism is brought into a nation. And this article is from September 7, 2018, not that long ago. And we are told,

Consider the devastation that system has left on the following nations:

**Venezuela:** Hugo Chavez, friend and imitator of Fidel Castro, was praised by U.S. elitists for seizing the nation's oil to eliminate poverty and provide free health care and education for the people. What he did was murder a nation.

Chavez died in 2013, leaving the country in the hand of Nicolas Maduro, who made things worse. There have been food and drug shortages. And staples of the modern world, such as toilet paper and toothpaste, have become as scarce as precious jewels. The economy is a shambles, store shelves are empty, and “its citizens impoverished, malnourished, sick and desperate,” says economist Mark Perry. This disaster occurred in a country with the most proved oil reserves on this petroleum-thirsty planet.

Conditions have become so rotten that the U.N. estimates that since 2014, 2.3 million Venezuelans - roughly 7% of the population - have fled the workers’ paradise. Another 800,000 to 1 million might leave by the end of the year. It’s not that they don’t want to live under socialism. It’s that they can’t. Only those in control of the government live well in socialist regimes.

**Greece:** This country remains in the midst of a true, not theatrical, Greek tragedy. The people have made bank runs, and hoarded food, money and medicine. Overwhelming debt nearly swallowed a government that needed three international bailouts to avoid default. Investment, innovation and entrepreneurship have been stymied by policies enacted by the Panhellenic Socialist Movement (Pasok), which was “founded in 1974 as a radical Marxist-inspired party” and played a large role in the crisis.

“Greece is socialism on steroids,” economist and IBD contributor Stephen Moore wrote in the Washington Times. It’s “a place where the government gives a lot of things away for free, few people work, and millions receive government pensions, paychecks or welfare benefits.”

As of three years ago, half of the young were unemployed. Meanwhile, more than half of the country seemed to have no choice but to retire before 60. After all, where were the retirees going to work?

“The classic weaknesses of socialism are playing out in as clear a way as you can possibly see them in Greece right now,” Jake Novak wrote in a 2015 CNBC commentary.

And it’s still playing out today. A member of Parliament told *The Guardian* in July that “economically speaking we are still sputtering and there is still a lot to be done. Our creditors are not going away.” A few months earlier, Marxist economist Costas Lapavistas said that “there is no evidence at all that the country has ‘turned the corner.’ Practically all the macroeconomic data show an economy lodged in stagnation.”

**Spain:** *The Atlantic* reported in 2013 that in just “a few years, Spain had gone from budget surpluses, a growing middle class, and generous social supports to wrenching austerity policies and collapsing wages, triggered by the massive failure of Spanish banks.” At that time, “Spain’s decades-long economic model was coming undone.”

Spain had been a “modern, wealthy, technologically advanced European social democracy.”

But then, wrote Steven Hill in *The Atlantic*, “the Socialists launched the largest stimulus package in the European Union, as a share of the economy. But despite this intervention, the Spanish economy was still stagnant by 2010 and the deficits were staggering.”

The national debt doubled “practically overnight.”

Banks and governments failed, taxes were raised, unemployment reached Depression-era levels, and the economy became a wreck.

Spain, says Moore, is just another one of those countries that “experimented with quasi-socialist governments” and has had to pay “the bitter price” for indulging in the exercise.

Don't think that the American Democratic Party's attachment to socialism is only at the extreme fringe. A recent Gallup Poll found that 57% of Democrats and Democrat-leaning independents hold a positive view of socialism, while just 47% favorably view capitalism. It seems impossible that America could ever become one of the countries that has been ruined by socialism. But these numbers don't inspire confidence.

- <http://bit.ly/2FDehin>

And, for a one-world government to come together, America will have to be brought down! And I think that is exactly what we see happening and many in America, more than half, see no problem with what is taking place!

And if America remains silent to what is going on, we are going to be brought down!

But there is more than just that. Look at our universities. Now I am not going to say that everyone of them is like this, but, as you will see, this is the norm in our universities today!

Universities were places of learning, but we are moving far away from that today. What we see today is that they have become institutions of intolerance and hate. They have become places where socialism and immorality are being taught. Imagine taking a class on pornography? How sad that truly is!

I know what you are thinking. "Sure, a conservative Christian would feel this way, but that is not what it is really like, right?" Wrong!

Harvard professor Steven Pinker, who is a liberal atheist, not a Christian, said that because of the left the "Universities are becoming laughing-stocks of intolerance."

Again, this is not every university, but again, as these schools become infected, this infection of intolerance seems to spread and spread very quickly.

And this is not only seen in the universities, but look at the social media. No longer do we engage in conversation or debate those who have different ideas or opinions than us, but we shut them down, we put them down. That is not what should be happening. Let's face it, we are not going to agree on everything and that is not wrong, that is not bad.

But, as the one-world government is coming together, they are conforming us to the image that they want and that means we think and act the way that they want!

And if America remains silent to what is going on, we are going to be brought down!

Not only that, but look at religion today and see what is happening in churches across America. The compromise of what they once believed to adopt a political/social gospel. It is no longer what the Bible has to say, but what this group has to say, what this book is teaching!

Listen to what Albert Mohler wrote regarding what is happening in the church today. He wrote,

The church today finds itself assaulted without - and even within - by a culture and worldview of untruth, anti-truth, and postmodern irrationality. In fact, researchers increasingly report that a majority of evangelicals themselves reject the notion of absolute or objective truth. The seductive lure of postmodern relativism has pervaded many evangelical pulpits and countless evangelical pews, often couched as humility, sensitivity, or sophistication. The culture has us in its grip, and many feel no discomfort.

The absence of doctrinal precision and biblical preaching marks the current evangelical age. Doctrine is considered outdated by some and divisive by others. The confessional heritage of the church is neglected and, in some cases, seems even to be an embarrassment to updated evangelicals. Expository preaching - once the hallmark and distinction of the evangelical pulpit - has been replaced in many churches by motivational messages, therapeutic massaging of the self, and formulas for health, prosperity, personal integration, and celestial harmony.

Almost a century ago, J. C. Ryle, the great evangelical bishop, warned of such diversions from truth: "I am afraid of an inward disease which appears to be growing and spreading in all the Churches of Christ throughout the world. That disease is a disposition on the part of ministers to abstain from all sharply-cut doctrine, and a distaste on the part of professing Christians for all distinct statements of dogmatic truth."

A century later, Ryle's diagnosis is seen as prophetic, and the disease is assuredly terminal. The various strains of the truth-relativizing virus are indicated by different symptoms and diverse signs, but the end is the same. Among the strains now threatening the evangelical churches is the temptation to find a halfway house between modernity and biblical truth. Another is the call for an "evangelical mega-shift," which would transform orthodox evangelical conviction into the categories of modern process thought. This is a road that leads to disaster and away from the faith once for all delivered to the saints.

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Again, for a one-world government to come together, the government must be in control of churches. It must dictate what they believe and what they do. And it is being done as we are moving away from the truths of God found in the Word of God and have adopted a political/social gospel.

And if America remains silent to what is going on, we are going to be brought down!

And we can go on and look at how the family is being destroyed, how institutions, like the Boy Scouts are being destroyed, how free speech is being taken away, but I think you get the idea.

And I think many times we behave like Joshua, we cry out, ***“God, what are you doing? Look at what is happening in America! Look at what is happening with our families! Look at what is happening with our children! Can’t you see?”***

And I believe that the Lord is saying to us, ***“Get up! Why do you lie thus on your face? America has sinned!”***

For the most part, I think most if not all of us would agree with that statement, ***“America has sinned!”***

And maybe what is coming to your mind are those liberals in Washington that are destroying our nation!

Or, maybe it is the homosexual agenda that they are forcing us to accept!

What about the dumbing down of America as we have many liberal teachers in the universities that are teaching our children to move towards socialism, move away from God!

What about the media, they are so liberal that all you hear is positive liberal things and negative conservative things!

And look at the legalization of drugs in our country, and maybe this goes with the dumbing down of our nation!

Wow, there are so many people to blame, right!

But again, did God blame Ai for the defeat of the children of Israel? Not at all!

Then who did God blame?

The children of Israel themselves! There was sin in the camp and that sin brought them down.

Yes, these ideologies are among us, and we are to fight against them, to bring down their philosophies, their teachings, it is a spiritual battle.

But God is telling us, ***“Stand up son and look in the mirror! You want to blame everyone else, but is there sin in the camp or sin in your life or sin in the life of the church?”***

Look at some of the great prayers in the Scriptures and as you do, you will find something very interesting.

For instance. Daniel and the children of Israel are in captivity in Babylon and Daniel, from reading the prophet Jeremiah, he knew their time in captivity was getting short. So Daniel is seeking the Lord, he is praying! And Daniel was a good man, a godly man who loved the Lord and obeyed the Lord.

And listen to his prayer in Daniel 9:3-19 where we are told, **“Then I set my face toward the Lord God to make request by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes. And I prayed to the Lord my God, and made confession, and said, ‘O Lord, great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and mercy with those who love Him, and with those who keep His commandments, we have sinned and committed iniquity, we have done wickedly and rebelled, even by departing from Your precepts and Your judgments. Neither**



have we heeded Your servants the prophets, who spoke in Your name to our kings and our princes, to our fathers and all the people of the land. O Lord, righteousness belongs to You, but to us shame of face, as it is this day - to the men of Judah, to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and all Israel, those near and those far off in all the countries to which You have driven them, because of the unfaithfulness which they have committed against You. O Lord, to us belongs shame of face, to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, because we have sinned against You. To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, though we have rebelled against Him. We have not obeyed the voice of the Lord our God, to walk in His laws, which He set before us by His servants the prophets. Yes, all Israel has transgressed Your law, and has departed so as not to obey Your voice; therefore the curse and the oath written in the Law of Moses the servant of God have been poured out on us, because we have sinned against Him. And He has confirmed His words, which He spoke against us and against our judges who judged us, by bringing upon us a great disaster; for under the whole heaven such has never been done as what has been done to Jerusalem. As it is written in the Law of Moses, all this disaster has come upon us; yet we have not made our prayer before the Lord our God, that we might turn from our iniquities and understand Your truth. Therefore the Lord has kept the disaster in mind, and brought it upon us; for the Lord our God is righteous in all the works which He does, though we have not obeyed His voice. And now, O Lord our God, who brought Your people out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand, and made Yourself a name, as it is this day - we have sinned, we have done wickedly! O Lord, according to all Your righteousness, I pray, let Your anger and Your fury be turned away from Your city Jerusalem, Your holy mountain; because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and Your people are a reproach to all

**those around us. Now therefore, our God, hear the prayer of Your servant, and his supplications, and for the Lord's sake cause Your face to shine on Your sanctuary, which is desolate. O my God, incline Your ear and hear; open Your eyes and see our desolations, and the city which is called by Your name; for we do not present our supplications before You because of our righteous deeds, but because of Your great mercies. O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and act! Do not delay for Your own sake, my God, for Your city and Your people are called by Your name.**”

What I find interesting in this prayer is that Daniel was a good man and yet, when he prayed, he understood that he too was a sinner before a holy and righteous God!

Now we love to blame others for our actions, it was their fault, the reason I responded like that is because what they said or did and the list goes on. And thus, we pray for God to change them when in reality, we are really no better, and we need to change!

Daniel recognized that it was not only the sins of the nation but his own sin that caused these things to come upon the nation. The interesting thing is that there is no sin mentioned regarding Daniel, so why was he confessing his sin?

Because, like I have said, all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God!

So Daniel makes his position and the position of the nation known and then he intercedes for the nation before God. He asks for God's mercy and grace upon the people!

When we look at our nation, when we look at our leaders in our country, when we look at our children, our families, our churches, our morals, are we grieved by what we see or are we arrogant and feel, ***“They will get what they deserve?”***

I hope we are grieved by what we see and not looking down upon them but realizing that by God's grace alone we stand!

Is there hope for our nation?

Some would make a good argument that there really is no hope. We are on a downward spiral and there is no getting out of that. We are in the last days and it is what it is!

Others would say that there is always hope with God. Yes, with man it would seem impossible, but with God all things are possible. So can God change a nation? I think He can!

Will our nation or can our nation be changed?

I guess I am more of an optimist than a pessimist on this one. I would love to see God intervene and pour out His Spirit upon this nation, a great revival before He comes for His bride, the Church, in the Rapture!

Now some may argue, "We don't see that in the Scriptures!"

That is very true, but let me also say this. We also don't see it not happening!

And think about this, the last day's church, we tend to think of Laodicea, the Luke Warm Church, where Jesus is not even allowed in the church anymore. He is outside knocking to get in! They are big, they had many people in their church, they were rich, they clothed themselves with fancy clothes, they had everything, except Jesus!

And that is true, that is a last day's church!

But there is another last day's church and that is the church of Philadelphia or the faithful church. These two churches are around in the last day's and thus, I think there can be a revival, I pray that many would come to know the Lord!

Let me show you what I mean about revival happening in our day, and maybe not here in America, not yet anyway, but it is happening.

We are told,

Thousands of Muslims are turning to Jesus Christ and what they view as the “religion of freedom” amid ongoing bloodshed in the Middle East, reports indicate. Some churches hope that millions of people will accept Christ amid a “spiritual hunger” that is forming in the wake of persecution.

Voice Of the Martyrs Canada, which supports Christian radio broadcasts in the region, told BosNewsLife that despite the mass exodus of Christians from Iraq and Syria due to terrorism, persecution, and war, scores of Muslims are making the decision to embrace Christianity.

“There are thousands upon thousands coming to Christ,” VOMC revealed. “We are in regular contact with our FM stations in Iraq and have talked with many people who have family in the Middle East.”

“Some of our Middle Eastern broadcasters have shared testimonies [about many turning to Christ] with us, which they hear directly from listeners when visiting there . . .”

In Iran, Christian house churches are regularly targeted and shut down by the nation’s Islamic government. Despite this persecution, mission group Elam Ministries revealed that Christians have been growing in terms of numbers, and today estimates suggest there are 360,000 believers in Iran – up from only 500 in 1979.

“Church leaders believe that millions can be added to the church in the next few years - such is the spiritual hunger that exists and the disillusionment with the Islamic regime,” Elam Ministries stated.

“If we remain faithful to our calling, our conviction is that it is possible to see the nation transformed within our lifetime. Because Iran is a strategic gateway nation, the growing church in Iran will impact Muslim nations across the Islamic world.”

Muslim refugees in Europe have also reportedly been undergoing mass conversions of faith. A June 2016 article from The Guardian noted anecdotal data of rising Christian church attendance in Europe by Muslims.

Trinity church in the Berlin suburb of Steglitz, for instance, saw its congregation rise from 150 to 700 due to new Muslim converts . . .

More churches in Germany reported this growing phenomena in December 2016, with The Independent noting that Muslims, especially Iranians, are seeing Christianity as a new chance at freedom.

“For many Iranians that I’ve baptized, Christianity is the religion of freedom.”

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But even if there is no great revival here in America, people are still going to get saved in the day’s we are living in, even in America! So why shouldn’t we pray? There is no reason and it truly is a sin not to pray!

Remember what Samuel said in I Samuel 12:23, **“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you; but I will teach you the good and the right way.”**

Honestly, God did not send His Son to die for a nation, but for people. And, as people get saved, their lives are changed! And in that change, we see nations restored!

So what should we do?

I think what we are told in II Chronicles 7:14 applies to us today as much as it did to the children of Israel back then.

We are told, **“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 will forgive their sin and heal their land.”**

Notice what the Lord is telling us here.

First, humble yourselves before God. If you truly think you will accomplish this on your own, you are sadly mistaken. And you will end up discouraged and just drop out!

We must place our lives into the hands of God and allow Him to guide us and direct us!

Secondly, we are to pray! And there is so much to pray for regarding our nation, but don't become overwhelmed but just pray. Ask God to intercede and pour out His Spirit upon our leaders, our families, our teaching institutions, our lives!

The third thing is we are to seek His face. In other words, keep our eyes upon the Lord so that He can direct us. That is so important. It is not my understanding of a situation, of what needs to be done, it is the Lord's! Spend time with Him in the Word and in prayer!

And the fourth thing is we are to turn from our wicked ways! Sin is a hinderance to what God wants to do in our lives and in this nation. Thus, like Daniel, understand that there is sin in your life, give it to God and follow Him all the days of your life!

Get rid of those accursed things, those things that are hindering your relationship with God and walk with Him, walk in obedience to His Word!

And notice what the Lord will do, **“... then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”**

I find it interesting how easy it is to complain, complain and complain some more about all that is going on in our country!

I do believe it is very easy to complain because you don't have to do anything about it. You just have to put people down, institutions down! And believe me, that is very easy to do!

But it is a lot harder to do something about it. Why is that? Because we have to do something about it!

Think about demolition. You can knock walls down, tear things apart, and you don't really have to think a lot about it.

I have done that before. I helped tear down the upper part of a house and that was fun.

But then, as I looked at what was next, it was building the walls back up, putting a roof on and that is a lot harder to do! It does take work!

And I understand that you may feel, "Hey, I am just one person!"

That is true, but how many people does God need to have Him heal a nation? How many people does God need for Him to win this battle of immorality, of lawlessness, of people doing what is right in their own eyes? The answer is simple, God needs no one but He desires to use us and when victory comes, He gets the glory!

Remember what Paul said in II Corinthians 10:3-6, "**For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.**"

Yes, we live this life in the flesh, in this world but our battle is not against people. It is a spiritual battle and it is against the ideologies of the people of this world and we must tear them down, destroy them before they destroy more lives!

And the key, humble yourselves, pray, seek God's face and repent of your sin and pray for our leaders, pray for our nation, pray for our state, pray for our communities, pray for our families, pray for our children and grandchildren.

Remember when the children returned home from their captivity in Babylon. The enemy was trying to discourage them in the work that was before them. The enemy was trying to destroy them.

And as they were building that wall of protection around the city of Jerusalem, Nehemiah told the people, "... 'Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, great and awesome, and fight for your brethren, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your houses.'"

Nehemiah 4:14.

How important this is to remember, "Remember the Lord."

You see, we need to pray, and ask God to intervene for our nation, for our leaders, because the battle is not going to be won in our strength, but in the power and strength of God who is going to fight for us, who will see us through. Don't be afraid – **REMEMBER THE LORD!**

J. Vernon McGee wrote this in regard to this rallying cry and he concludes with some thoughts of how we can apply this to our lives, what our rallying cry should be!



He wrote,

“Remember the Lord” was to be their motto, their rallying cry. As you may remember in the Spanish - American War, our nation’s battle cry was “Remember the Maine.” In World War I it was “Remember the Lusitania.” In World War II it was “Remember Pearl Harbor.” Napoleon always reminded his soldiers of some past history to stir them up to fight. When Paul the apostle wrote his swan song to a young preacher named Timothy, he gave him a rallying cry. The correct translation of 2 Timothy 2:8 is, “Remember Jesus Christ!” That is the rallying cry of believers today. “Remember the Lord” was the rallying cry for the Jews in Nehemiah’s day.

- J. Vernon McGee, Thru The Bible Vol. II, p. 520

It is easy to lose sight of that when things are a mess, as we see in our nation today. May we not forget that!

What we see Nehemiah do is he is telling them to get the right perspective and then fight for your families, don’t give up. In I Peter 3:12 we read, “**For the eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their prayers; But the face of the LORD is against those who do evil.**”

And again, this is so powerful to me and I do need to be reminded of this. Not only to remember the Lord but to fight for my family, fight for my city, fight for my state, fight for my nation! Not with physical weapons, but with prayer, with the truth of God’s Word, with love towards people and-so-on.

It truly is as Nehemiah said, “**. . . ‘Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, great and awesome, and fight for your brethren, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your houses.’**” Nehemiah 4:14.

And, as we will continue to see next time, sin needed to be removed from the camp of Israel before they would see victory.

And I think that is so true in our own lives and in the life of this nation.

I am going to challenge you, and I don't really do this, but I am going to challenge you to pray for the following, and I will put this in our prayer requests each week and let's see what the Lord will do for our:

***OUR FAMILIES***

***OUR CITY***

***OUR STATE***

***OUR LEADERS***

***OUR SCHOOLS***

I truly believe God wants to bring healing but are we willing to do something about it?

Or, are we comfortable complaining about what this group is doing or what that group is doing?

I pray that God would give us hearts of intercession for our families, our city, our state, our leaders and our schools!

Maybe we won't see a revival break out in our nation before the Lord returns for His bride, but don't let that stop you because there are lives at stake! Let's ***DO SOMETHING!***