

I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone – for kings and those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, Who wants all men to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth. (1 Timothy 2: 1-3)

Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the King. (1 Peter 2:17)

But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in Heaven. (Matthew 5: 44, 45)

A Little Election Day Perspective

Recently, an article on one of the 24-hour news channel web sites (I forget the author's name) posed the interesting question: What if "your guy" loses this presidential election?

I presume that the article was meant as an introduction to some basic psychological principles meant to calm folks in the post-election period. This, unfortunately, is necessary as we the electorate are so frequently whipped up by both parties and the national media to the point where even the race for dog catcher is blown up to look like a preview for the Battle of Armageddon. Which is fine if "your guy" wins the race, but of course it can be a huge belly-drop if your candidate loses.

Perhaps the best way to prepare for the "post-election blues," should it come to that – and as I write this, less than two weeks before the election, the outcome is by *no* means certain – is to prepare yourself *before* you go into the voting booth. And that means remembering a few key points:

1. **Know your limits – and Who has none.** Political power, being a mere human creation, is limited in its ability to do anything on its own. It is, in fact, a poor substitute for the Almighty, omnipotent, eternal God, Creator and King of the Universe, who sustains His people in all circumstances. "I am the vine, you are the branches," Jesus told His Disciples at the Last Supper (John 15:5), "...without Me you can do nothing." That means that we are to be constantly "in Him," whatever your job is – but *especially* if you're in a leadership position.
2. **"Your Guy" may not be "all that."** The spiritual gift of Word of Knowledge comes in remarkably handy in a political campaign, because we do not know what's in a man's heart. In 1972, Richard Nixon was re-elected by a huge landslide... and look what happened. (If you weren't around then, it turned out that Nixon – an otherwise brilliant man but who listened to his personal demons – and his staffers engaged in political dirty tricks and breaking a law or two in order to win the re-election. The Watergate scandal led to an even larger national upheaval, ended only by Nixon resigning rather than face almost certain impeachment and removal from office.)

3. **God sometimes says “no.”** Nothing comes to us that does not pass through His permissive Will. In the Old Testament, sometimes He permitted evil kings to rule in an effort to get the people’s focus back on Himself. This is not meant as, nor should be taken for, a commentary on any of the candidates for the Presidency. It simply means that God may have permitted the “other guy” in office – not as punishment for something you did, but for His own purposes. We must be believers enough to *submit* (Ah, there’s *that word* again!) to the will of the sovereign Lord and say, “Your Will be done.” His purposes are always greater than ours or the nation’s, and it is we who must line up with Him, not the other way around.
4. **Why not ask Him *first*?** Are you aware that ours is one of the few governmental systems left on this planet where the people actually have a say in the choice of their leaders? And yet, we often view that rare privilege the same way we do having to clean the cat’s litter box. When was the last time you actually prayed over your choices in an election? Not went by what a preacher or ministry insists is God’s Will, but checked with Him in *your* prayer closet? Ever offer a quick, silent prayer *inside* the voting booth? (As far as I know, the ACLU hasn’t figured out a way to make that illegal... yet.) Ever pray that the candidates the *Lord* wants in office would be elected? If you view our system as a blessing from God, why would you do anything less than honor Him by submitting (yes, *again*) to His Will and voting accordingly.
5. **Pray for him, anyway (and this country).** Whether “your guy” wins or not, the Apostle Paul tells us in the above Scripture passage that we are to pray for those in positions of authority. Pray that God would give them wisdom and courage to govern in ways that would honor and glorify Him. If they are not saved, then we pray that the Holy Spirit would turn their hearts toward the Lord and accept Jesus as Savior. If, by some chance, you get a revelation that the office holder-elect may be oppressed (or even possessed) by demonic forces, then we must pray that they be bound in the Name of Jesus and the person be set free. And, as Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount, we are to *keep* praying for that person, even in the face of legislation passed that – almost literally – gives God “the finger,” that is a slap in the face to believers and everything we stand for. Furthermore, that means not in a grumbling manner, like *Lord, bless that lousy so-and-so who doesn’t deserve anything good from You because he’s a [expletive deleted] CREEP!* “Not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver,” (2 Cor. 9:7) we are told every time the collection plate is passed around, but that doesn’t stop at just money, you know. It also includes offering prayers to God on behalf of those He permitted in office (see No. 3) for His own purposes. We are commanded by God to pray for our leaders and be earnest about it. Remember, God looks on the heart (1 Samuel 16:7) and our motives and if they are not right, we’re wasting our time. Which brings us to, perhaps, the most important point of all:
6. **God is *still* in control.** God cannot be impeached. He cannot be removed from office by a vote from people caught up in the moment of whatever. He will not walk away – we’re the ones who do that. He merely waits for His people, who are called by His name, to humble themselves and pray and seek His face and turn from their wicked ways so that He can hear from Heaven and heal the land.

America is not mentioned in Biblical prophecy, but there are lessons to be learned for a nation that had “No King but Jesus” as one of its slogans upon its foundation. God dispenses His blessings and curses as He sees fit, and disciplines both His children and the nations they live in when they walk away from His purposes.

Let me be frank with you; this nation has been in the process of walking away from God for at least a generation. Now, we who once were the “shining city on a hill” find ourselves with new enemies and increasingly disrespected by those who once looked upon us with wonder. It saddens me to think that we as Americans can throw away our position of leadership in the world in as little as one generation, but such is often the fate of the nation whose God is no longer the Lord. I believe we have not suffered the curses of God for the sake of His people in America who still believe and who earnestly pray for Revival – and Revival is already kindled, both here and in many parts of the world. But I do believe that God has permitted new enemies to emerge and other nations to be raised up into leadership positions as a way of “clearing His throat,” as it were, as warnings that we are about to do ourselves great harm.

And *that*, gentle reader, is of greater importance than the current troubles that often influence who we elect the next President of the United States. The economy, the culture and our security all have their source in this nation’s relationship to Almighty God. In Proverbs 16:7, we read, *When a man’s ways are pleasing to the Lord, He makes even his enemies to live at peace with him.* I don’t mean to say the race for the Presidency isn’t important – it certainly is. But Jesus also said, *Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.* (Matthew 6:33). First things first.

As I write this, early voting has already begun in Texas, and Election Day is about two weeks away. As I’ve previously stated, this ministry will not endorse a candidate, even if IRS regulations permitted it, because God must come first. Our focus needs to come back to the Will of God and how He would have us spend our energies. What I will urge believers to do (preferably *before* they get into the voting booth) is to spend time in prayer for this election and this nation. Pray that the Revival which has already begun would spread like wildfire throughout America and the world. Pray that the people who *God* wants in elected office (and not just in the Presidency) would be raised to those positions, polls and talking heads notwithstanding. And pray for whoever wins, that God would grant them wisdom to recognize that political doctrines must bow to the Will of Almighty God, and turn them away from policies and ideas that do not honor Him. Pray that our leaders would be given righteous, Godly counsel that they may govern well.

Far too often, even believers look on prayer as a “last resort”-type of activity, when in reality prayer is one of our greatest resources. It should be the first thing we do before we make any decision or take any action. George Washington warned us against the effects of political parties when America won its independence, and yes, I know that politics often is a nasty, brutish business. It could really use a pinch of the salt and light of the Kingdom of God – now, perhaps, more than ever.