

WHEN PRAYER HITS A NATION

God will not fix the economy of your circumstances until effective prayer breaks the empire of your pride.

KEY POINTS

- ❖ The reading from 2 Chronicles 7:11-16 offers the insight that national pride isn't an input to the country's identity but is rather an output of who the nation's people are individually. Such output is determined by what drives the people's hearts.
- ❖ As we build our lives in the context of whatever society we're living in, the following insight is meaningful: **God will not fix the economy of your circumstances until effective prayer breaks the empire of your pride.**

EFFECTIVE prayer looks to God—not self—even in success.

- ❖ When building the temple of the Lord and the royal palace, Solomon followed a blueprint that was a good definition of success. The looming question: Would that success lead to God's praise or Solomon's pride?
- ❖ After the temple had been constructed, the Lord appeared to Solomon (v. 12). God showed up because Solomon's temple was made for Him. Yet a closer reading reveals more about the "why".
- ❖ "I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for myself as a temple for sacrifices" (v. 12). When delving further into 2 Chronicles 7, we see that Solomon's dedication of the temple to God culminated in a prayer. The effectiveness of the prayer lay in whom he looked to as the source of his success, which also pointed to the object of that success.
- ❖ As a result, God immortalized what was otherwise only mortal and temporal by placing His eternal presence there for communion with His people. This would last far beyond Solomon's lifespan.

EMPIRES of pride are broken through prayer.

- ❖ In His covenant dealings with humanity, God has repeatedly shown us that to obey Him brings blessings while disobedience results in curses (see Deuteronomy 28). Solomon knew this, and God, in turn, responded to what Solomon said in his prayer of dedication.
- ❖ "When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people..." (v. 13). The use of the definitive "when" rather than the conditional "if" suggested to Solomon that times of disobedience would come. But—
- ❖ "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways..." (v. 14). "If" is conditional. Humility is the prerequisite.
- ❖ In speaking God's language—prayer—the very act begins to break our pride. Success no longer points to us; rather, we join with success and point to Jesus. This is what gets us into the "God arena", an area where we can explore Him, ask questions, and seek His will and motivations.
- ❖ Concurrently, this breaking of our pride by turning to Him simultaneously turns us away from our wicked ways of disobedience that caused the curses in the first place.
- ❖ If we are self-reliant, this will break our empire of pride but in a destructive way to our detriment. But if we're reliant upon God through prayer, He will do it in a constructive way to our benefit.

KEY SCRIPTURE: 2 Chronicles 7:11-16

(all scriptures are NIV unless otherwise noted)

- ❖ That is why when we rely on God for success, we become net positive contributors to our environments.

ECONOMIES of circumstance are healed when God hears.

- ❖ "...Then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land" (v. 14). The striking realization here is that God will hear us in our sin. Our separation from God is more in our attitudes than in our actions.
- ❖ When individuals pray and invite God into their situations, He oversees their circumstances. The avenue God uses is the prayers of His people, which impacts the place they're in.
- ❖ Solomon dedicated the temple, but God consecrated it. Because the people called by His Name prayed, God's Name came to rest on the place they built. This was a destiny call—something that lasted forever and not just for that moment.
- ❖ 2 Chronicles 7:15 talks about God's eyes being open and His ears being attentive, which sounds contractual, reflecting the conditional nature of the covenant, while the next verse shifts to the presence of God's eyes and heart, reflecting the love nature of His covenant.
- ❖ Prayer shifts the onus for our communal success from us to God. Thus, our prayer heals all people—the nation.
- ❖ This is why we are working to reach the world through prayer. When peoples' hearts change, kingdoms change.
- ❖ God's Word to Solomon reminds us that the external economy of our circumstances is intimately tied to the internal state of our souls. You cannot manage a recession on the outside if you are harboring an empire of pride on the inside.
- ❖ Prayer is the place where pride goes to die so that your destiny can live. When effective prayer breaks the empire of your pride, God will not only heal your personal circumstances, He will also use you to bring healing to the land.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. What does the Bible tell us about pride? About humility? How do you react when people exhibit one or the other?
2. "To obey God brings blessings while disobedience results in curses." Provide at least two examples from the Bible of those who had obeyed God and those who didn't, and discuss their situations. What was the result of that person's obedience/disobedience? For those who had disobeyed, was pride a factor? Were they able to reverse course and, if so, what changed (internally or externally) when they did so?
3. Take time to pray according to Psalm 139:23-24.

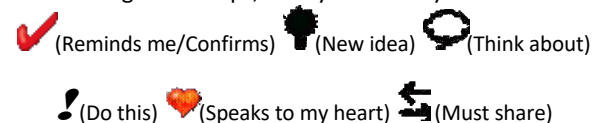
PRAYER TIME

"Just as I am, without one plea....
O Lamb of God, I come, I come." Amen.

WEEK OF SUNDAY, JULY 5, 2026

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.



Start-up: If you were constructing a 'blueprint' for success, what type of items or attributes should it contain?

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD
Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline

PRAYER FOCUS: U.P.C.I. Ontario District departments, leaders, participants

24-hour Prayer: Daily;

Daily Devotions: Monday - Friday @ 6:30 a.m. & 9:00 p.m.;

Departmental Prayer: Every Thursday (please check schedule)

Corporate Prayer: Every Friday @ 7:00 p.m. (and in person every second Friday @ 9:00 p.m. - 3:00 a.m.).

Zoom ID: 898 3191 5909 **Phone Access:** 647-374-4685

FAITH SANCTUARY DONATIONS

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For email transfers, please use donate@faithsanctuary.com



ANNOUNCEMENTS

WEDNESDAY CORPORATE BIBLE STUDY

Our next Bible Study session will take place on Wednesday, July 8th.

Contact: Pastor Chris Simpson

BEREAN BIBLE STUDY

We look forward to growing in God's Word with you!

Date: Every Monday @ 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

on Zoom (please access through

www.faithsanctuary.com)

Contact: Pastor Chris Simpson



FAITH SANCTUARY WEEKLY SERVICES

Sunday Bible Study @ 10:00 a.m.

Sunday Worship Service @ 11:00 a.m.

(Listen via phone: 1-844-268-4848)

Monday Berean Bible Study @ 6:30 p.m.

(Zoom, Facebook, YouTube)

Wednesday Bible Study @ 7:30 p.m.

(In person and via Zoom)

Friday Evening Service @ 8:00 p.m.

(In person and via Zoom)

Life Group Meetings – individually scheduled
(see ushers for information)

FAITH FOUNDATIONS

GOD

We believe there is only one God: the eternal, holy, loving, all-knowing, all-powerful, omnipresent Spirit, creator of all (Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Timothy 1:17; Leviticus 19:2; 1 John 4:8; Hebrews 4:13; Revelation 19:6; Jeremiah 23:24; John 4:24; Isaiah 44:24; Colossians 1:16).

GOD'S WORD

We believe the Holy Scriptures—The Bible—is God's true and complete Word to humanity, verified most notably through fulfilled prophecies concerning Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Isaiah 41:21-23, 42:8-9, 46:9-10; Luke 24:25-27; John 17:17).

GOD'S CREATION

We believe all people were created in the image of God for His pleasure, to be His children, His church and His bride, living in eternal love and fellowship with Him (Revelation 4:1; Genesis 1:27; John 1:12-13; Romans 8:16; Ephesians 5:25-32; Revelation 19:7).

HUMANITY'S FALL

We acknowledge that we have all sinned and failed to fulfill God's plan and purpose for our lives, through willful disobedience to the word of God and our own conscience. All sinful acts lead to separation and alienation from God's pure, holy presence, eventually resulting in both physical and spiritual death (Romans 3:23, 6:23a).

THE GOSPEL

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Almighty God, fully divine and fully human (1 Timothy 3:16). He came to Earth and suffered death by crucifixion, willingly substituting Himself for us in receiving God's judgment against sin (Isaiah 53:5). But God raised Him from death (Acts 5:30), and He now offers eternal life to all who will believe in Him (John 3:14-17, 6:29; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; Romans 6:23b; Ephesians 2:4-9). Faith is sparked within us when we hear the gospel, the "good news" that Jesus died, was buried and rose from the dead for our benefit (Romans 10:14-17; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

OUR FAITH RESPONSE

Hearing the gospel is intended to lead us to repentance, a divinely inspired change of heart that causes us to turn away from our sins and turn to God (2 Corinthians 7:9-10; 2 Timothy 2:24-26). Faith and repentance lead us to obey the scriptural command to be baptized in Jesus' name for the forgiveness of our sins and to receive His gift of the Holy Spirit. His Spirit gives us the power to live a righteous, godly life, joyfully sharing the good news of our new life in Christ with others (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38, 4:12; 1 Peter 1:22-23).

CHRIST'S RETURN

We believe our Lord Jesus Christ will soon return to Earth to receive His people to Himself and establish His righteous, eternal kingdom (John 14:3; Matthew 25:34).

JULY 5, 2026



Feed Canada to Feed the World

Reaching the World Through Prayer

~ 2026 ~

Pastor:
Rev. Adrian W. Peel

"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 I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

2 Chronicles 7:14 (NIV)

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