

“Even now,” declares the LORD, “return to Me with all your heart, and with fasting, weeping and mourning; and rend your heart and not your garments.”

Now return to the LORD your God,

for He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, abounding in lovingkindness and relenting of evil. Who knows whether He will not turn and relent [concede or yield] and leave a blessing behind Him. (Joel 2:12-14 NASB)

Sensing that our nation is under the judgment of God, please pray that the church in America will return to God with her whole heart, with fasting, weeping and mourning, and genuine repentance.

Please pray that we will become heart-broken over our personal and corporate sins—those acts of rebellion and self-centeredness that are offensive to God. Pray that our external acts of repentance will be sincere and not for the purpose of making us look good in the eyes of men.

Please pray that your pastor, along with other pastors in your city, will make the connection between God’s judgments and our sins. Pray that they will be broken to the point of weeping together over their personal sins and the sins of their people (Joel 2:17).

Pray that during these days of judgment, God will take pity on His repentant children and be zealous in restoring His manifest presence throughout the various cities and towns of this land (Joel 2:18).

When Christians continuously fail to repent and return to God, it is not unusual for their land to become “a reproach among the nations” (Joel 2:19). As reports of other nations looking down on America’s ways seem to be escalating, pray that we will be moved by this international reproach and will begin to take repentance seriously.

When Nehemiah heard of God’s judgment against Jerusalem, he “sat down and wept and mourned for days” (Nehemiah 1:4). Please pray that Christians in America will have Nehemiah’s passionate kind of heart and will not rush through these days simply looking for some new church programs to fix our problems.

Nehemiah did not blame others for God’s judgment, but saw himself as a part of a nation that had sinned against God (Nehemiah 1:6). Please pray that we too will see ourselves responsible before God for the sins of our churches and nation.

God was so gracious in that when Israel sinned, He promised to have compassion on them and bless them as a nation if they would return to Him and obey His commands (Deuteronomy 30:2-3). Please pray that the church in America will repent and that God will be just as gracious to us.

In order to avoid God’s remedial judgments, please pray that your Christian friends will turn away from loving the world. James tells us that this type of hostile, sinful behavior makes those who are disloyal to Christ enemies of God (James 4:4).

Jeremiah declared that God’s judgments would fall on those who did not listen to His words (Jeremiah 29:17-19). Pray that your church family will be committed to seeking God, listening to His words, and obeying His commands.

Please pray that God will revive us again, show us His lovingkindness, and grant us the blessing of seeing another great spiritual awakening take place in our land (Psalm 85:6-7).

After Nathan the prophet approached David regarding his sin with Bathsheba, David wrote, “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise” (Psalm 51:17). Please pray that the members of your church family will always come before God with this type of humility and brokenness regarding sin.

Knowing that Christians have been called to walk in the righteousness of Christ, please pray that believers in your city will draw near to God, cleanse their hands, and purify their hearts (James 4:8).

Jesus denounced “the cities in which most of His miracles were done, because they did not repent” (Matthew 11:20). Please pray that your congregation will experience the manifest presence of Christ in miraculous, tangible ways. Also pray that the lost of your city will see and hear of Christ working powerfully at your church and will want to repent and be saved.

According to Romans, it would appear that being given over to impurity, degrading passions, and depraved thinking are severe judgments of God. Please pray that as these attitudes are becoming more rampant in our country, we will turn back to acknowledging that there is only one God, and sinful man is not His equal.

When Jeremiah pronounced judgment against the inhabitants of Jerusalem, he mentioned that the people were not ashamed of their sins and did not even know how to blush (Jeremiah 6:15). Please pray that the people of America will not lose the moral compass found in knowing Christ and the Word of God.

Knowing that final judgment is a reality for all, please pray for the salvation of those who have not received God’s gift of eternal life (Romans 6:23). Pray that during these challenging days, more and more people will be open to respond to the truths of the gospel.

Pray for Christians living in your community to cease doing evil and learn to do good. Pray that they will “seek justice, reprove the ruthless, defend the orphan, [and] plead for the widow” (Isaiah 1:16-17).

In Isaiah 5:3-5, God spoke through Isaiah telling the people that judgment was coming because there had been no response to all that God had done for His “vineyard.” Please pray that God will continue to be patient toward us as we seek His heart and His will for our lives. Pray that we will acknowledge His goodness and repent of all our evil ways.

Please pray that God will protect us today from false prophets, pastors, and church leaders who fail to turn us back from our evil and disobedient ways (Jeremiah 23:21-22).

Knowing that “it is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God,” pray that Christians across the country will be sensitive to not trample underfoot the Son of God by continuing to sin when God disciplines us (Hebrews 10:29-31).

Many believers are facing trials today. Please pray that those around you who are having their faith tested will endure and will in the end become “perfect and complete, lacking in nothing” (James 1:2-4).

Please pray that those in your church family who are facing hardships will remember today that “God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose” (Romans 8:28).

Many Christians today seem to be downcast, struggling under the pressures of life. Please pray that those in your friendship network or work environment who meet this description will submit their lives anew to Christ, trusting Him to use life’s pressures to conform them even more to the image of Christ (Romans 8:29).

Please pray that those in your church family who currently are being pruned by God will be able to bear up spiritually and physically under the weight of God’s activity in their lives. Pray that they will be comforted by the thought of God using the pruning to produce more fruit in their lives (John 15:2).

As we watch others fall under God’s loving judgment, pray that we will not judge our brothers and sisters, but will learn ourselves how to walk humbly and obediently before God in all of our ways (Romans 2:1-3).

When the righteous judgments of God fall on our lives, pray that we will not be stubborn and unrepentant, but will turn away from evil to seek God’s glory, honor, and peace (Romans 2:8-10).

Knowing that “mercy triumphs over judgment,” pray that your church family will excel in showing mercy to others. Pray that your Christian friends will understand that “judgment will be merciless to one who has shown no mercy” (James 2:13).

As we conclude this month of seeking God in the midst of judgment, let’s take a few moments to thank God for being loving and just. Let’s praise Him as the only One who truly “knows how to rescue the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment” (2 Peter 2:9).

With each passing second, pray that we will “fear God, and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come; worship Him who made the heaven and the earth and sea and springs of waters” (Revelation 14:7).

© 2015 Strategic Prayer Initiative, Inc. All Rights Reserved

(Permission is granted to copy this guide as long as it is copied in its entirety.) SGD ToJ-Page #2

[Consider visiting the collegeofrevival.org]