

July 4th, 2026
GOD BLESS AMERICA

Yesterday was July 4th...we celebrated 250 years of our country's independence.

We have a day set aside each year to CELEBRATE OUR FREEDOMS...it is called...Independence Day!

- It's a day that we get together with friends and family.
- A day to eat BBQ, hamburgers, and hotdogs.
- A day to wave the American flag and to watch fireworks.

This year, more than ever, I have felt a sense of patriotism as America has celebrated 250 years of our country.

I think about the millions of people that have tried and succeeded to enter our country...some legally and many illegally.

I think about how many millions and millions of others would love to come and live here and enjoy our freedoms.

There are countless stories of people risking their lives and many even dying trying to reach our soil.

From families making rafts out of Styrofoam trying to paddle the 90 miles between Cuba and Florida or people hiding in the hulls of ships or the wheel wells of aircrafts just to have what we have.

We wake up every day with FREEDOM! [Do you know why there aren't any knock knock jokes about the United States? Because freedom rings!!](#)

For 250 our country has had the...

- Freedom of Religion
- Freedom of Speech
- Freedom of the Press
- Freedom of Assembly
- Freedom to Bear Arms

Many other freedoms:

- Freedom to live or travel anywhere in our nation
- Freedom to work at any job for which we can qualify
- Freedom to marry and raise a family
- Freedom to receive a free education in good public schools
- Freedom to join a political party and vote in our elected officials

On and on we could go about the FREEDOMS that we have in America...and that's why we celebrate the beginning of this country and the death of the men and women that have given us these freedoms.

There is a song that reminds us of where these freedoms and blessings come from called: **GOD BLESS AMERICA**

The song was written by Irving Berlin in 1918 while serving in the U.S. Army during World War I.

This is more than a song of patriotism...this is a prayer for our country.

We need to pray that God will continue to bless America!!

Today, I want us to consider several lines of this great song as we remember our country and how blessed we are!

I. AMERICA NEEDS GOD'S BLESSINGS

“God bless America”

What a beautiful prayer this is...one that we need to pray often!!

I wish our citizens could understand this fact...our nation rises and falls based on the will of God...and based our obedience to that will.

Ps. 22:28

For the kingdom *is* the Lord's,
And He rules over the nations.

Prov. 21:1

The king's heart *is* in the hand of the Lord,
Like the rivers of water;
He turns it wherever He wishes.

Paul speaking of the nations of the earth said...

Acts 17:26

and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings,

This means, nothing in the world or within the nations or the government is happening outside of God's knowledge and control.

Americans are sometimes known around the world as arrogant and prideful...we are proud of our accomplishments in technology, medicine, engineering and in military might.

And yes, we should be proud of the things that our country has accomplished...this is the greatest country in the world...but we need to remember that this greatness and strength and prosperity came from the hand of God!!

James 1:17

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights,

For 250 years we have been one nation...under God! God has truly blessed America...but for how long?

Our country is becoming more sinful every year...every decade...it keeps getting worse and worse.

That's why Christians need to continue to pray this prayer...to ask God to continue to bless America!

America needs God's blessings to be upon her...

We need to love our country and pray for our country and ask God to bless this land that we love...but not only do we need God's blessings...we also need God's direction.

II. AMERICA NEEDS GOD'S DIRECTION

Stand beside her and guide her

This is another part of this prayer...this time not asking for God to bless America...but asking for God to guide America.

Passages in the Bible that are written to individuals can also apply to nations.

Prov. 3:5,6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
And lean not on your own understanding;
In all your ways acknowledge Him,
And He shall direct your paths.

Ps. 32:8

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;
I will guide you with My eye.

I think it's safe to say that we have lost our direction as a nation.

- We have communist and socialist winning elections
- We have big companies and organizations promoting sin and wicked living
- Divorce is rampant
- Homosexuality is everywhere
- In the last few years we have men that are wanting to be women and women wanting to be men...and others accepting this!!

In some places, men are allowed in women's locker rooms and bathrooms (country song back in the 90's is coming true that said, 'man, I feel like a woman')

I don't want to get too negative about things...but the fact remains...we are headed in the wrong direction...

Paul described the Jewish nation in...

Rom. 3:18

"There is no fear of God before their eyes."

Jeremiah was mourning over Israel and their sinfulness when he wrote...

Jeremiah 8:12

Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination?

No! They were not at all ashamed,

Nor did they know how to blush.

Many of our citizens(not all, but many)...have no fear of God...and they do not know how to blush.

That is, they are not embarrassed about anything they say or do!

Ps. 9:17

The wicked shall be turned into hell,

And all the nations that forget God.

I want you to notice what the prophet Isaiah writes to the nation of Judah.

He is warning them of their wickedness and asking them to turn back to God.

Is. 1:4

Ah, sinful nation,

a people laden with iniquity,

offspring of evildoers,

children who deal corruptly!

v.16,17

Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your deeds from before my eyes; cease to do evil, learn to do good;

v.18-20

Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord:

though your sins are like scarlet,

they shall be as white as snow;

though they are red like crimson,

they shall become like wool.

¹⁹ If you are willing and obedient,

you shall eat the good of the land;

²⁰ but if you refuse and rebel,

you shall be eaten by the sword;

for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

I am afraid that if we continue to go down the path we are on...if we continue to NOT be guided by God...then we are headed straight for destruction.

- And it doesn't matter how much wealth we have
- It doesn't matter how much technology we have
- It doesn't matter how much military might we have

When the Lord has had enough...he will destroy this land....and we will be eaten by the sword.

But what can get us back on track? What can steer our nation in the right direction...there are 2 things...

The first thing is God's word...

III. AMERICA NEEDS GOD'S WORD

Stand beside her and guide her

But notice how...

Through the night with the light from above

This is what our world and our country needs...the guiding light from above which is the Holy Word of God!!

Jesus said in...

John 8:12

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Ps. 119:105

**Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.**

Now more than ever, America needs God's word!!

God has blessed America because this nation was founded upon His principles and respected His word!

The first people that settled here all agreed that they came here in the name of God, to glorify Him, and to advance the Christian faith, and this is exactly what they did, in their families, in their towns, in their schools and in their government.

George Washington said, "It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible."

John Adams, "I have examined all religions, and the result is that the Bible is the best book in the world."

Thomas Jefferson, "I am a real Christian – that is to say, a disciple of the doctrines of Jesus Christ."

Charles Thomson, "I am a Christian. I believe only in the Scriptures, and in Jesus Christ my Savior."

Along With John Hancock, Thomson Was One of Only Two Founders to Sign The Initial Draft of the Declaration of Independence Approved By Congress:

Our Government made laws and rules based upon the teachings of God's Holy Word.

Our founding fathers believed that David was right when he wrote in **Psalm 33:12**, **"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord."**

And if we want God to continue to bless us...our nation must love and respect the word of God and be guided by its principles.

America does not need a better economy, stronger military, or wiser politicians.

America needs the guidance of Almighty God...America needs to follow the teachings found in God's word and continue to live by it!!

IV. AMERICA NEEDS GOD'S PEOPLE

From the mountains to the prairies to the oceans white with foam
God bless America, my home sweet home.

From every mountain, every river, every city, every state...from coast to coast...this land needs God's people to rise up and take a stand!!

After Solomon built the temple of God...God appeared to him and said...

2 Chronicles 7:14

if my people who are called by my name 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 the conditional statement IF/THEN

If—humble themselves, pray, seek my face, turn from wicked ways

Then—hear, forgive and heal their land

Notice where revival begins:

- Not in Congress
- Not in the White House
- Not in Hollywood
- Not in Washington DC

Revival begins with God's people!!

America's greatest need is for God's people to be what God has called them to be—people of prayer, people of holiness, people of truth, and people who shine the light of Christ in this dark world!!

I truly believe that America is resting on the shoulders of Christian men and women!!

And if we stumble and fall...if we stop praying, stop worshipping, stop living right...then God will stop blessing America.

My prayer is that God will continue to bless America
That He will guide us and give us direction
And that from sea to shining sea...we can be one nation under God!!

Back in the 1800's the city of Philadelphia was becoming very sinful. A young minister named Dudley Tyng wanted to do something to help his community. Tyng was known and loved for his zeal for the work of God. And so, he started having prayer meetings at the local YMCA during the middle of the day. The movement continued to grow until about 5,000 people were coming everyday to the prayer meetings.

On Tuesday, April 13th, 1858, Dudley Tyng was studying at his country home when he went to the barn to check on his mule which was driving a machine that shelled corn.

As he patted down the animal, the sleeve of his shirt got caught in the mechanism of the machine, and his arm was basically ripped off. He lost so much blood that the next week, Tyng died.

Before he died, his friend and fellow minister George Duffield was at his bedside. He asked Dudley, is there anything you want me to tell the Christians at the prayer meeting?

Dudley was so weak, the only words he could say were, "Tell them to always stand up for Jesus".

After the funeral his good friend George Duffield wrote the words of the hymn we know and love; they sang this song at the next prayer meeting:

Stand up! Stand up for Jesus, Ye soldiers of the cross, Lift high His royal banner, It must not suffer loss...From victory unto victory, His army shall he lead, Till every foe is vanquished and Christ is Lord indeed.

We need to stand up for Jesus
To stand up for His word
To stand up for righteous living

To continue to pray and turn from our sin...and seek His guidance.

America is "my home sweet home" but I have another home waiting on me.

That is my home in heaven!