



# Bless Your Nation

## – Week 7: Family

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As Christians, we must take responsibility for our own nation and trust that God wants to use us to bring about change. This is the **final article** in our 8-part series, entitled **Bless Your Nation**. Each article focuses on a different area of society to bless. In this final article we focus on blessing the Family.

Our first task as believers is to ask God to change our own hearts from a negative perspective of our nation to a faith perspective. If you have not yet read the **first article** in this series to prepare your heart to bless your nation, we suggest you do so before continuing.

### **Day 1. FAMILY**

Father God, thank You for adopting me into Your family through the work of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, and that I now belong to the 'household of God' (Ephesians 2:19).

**BLESSING:** Hear my prayers as I bless the families of \_\_\_\_\_ in the name of Jesus Christ, with responsible, loving, god-fearing fathers and mothers, with healthy family relationships, with respect between parents and children, with healing of the wounds of abuse and rejection. I pray for the restoration of families in our nation.

**PRAYER-WALK/DRIVE:** Visit at least two families in your neighbourhood this week. Ask them what you can pray for them, and bless them with this blessing: *"The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace."* (Numbers 6:24-26).

### **Day 2. FAMILY - FATHERS**

Jesus Christ revealed God to us. He showed us that God is our Father and Jesus instructed us to pray, saying, *"Our Father who is in heaven..."*

**BLESSING:** In the name of Jesus Christ, I bless every father and grandfather in \_\_\_\_\_. May the fatherlessness in our nation be healed, and may God reveal Himself to all the fathers in our nation as their heavenly Father. May they receive the ability to care for and provide for their families, and to love and cherish their wives and children. May they take up the responsibility to raise their children in the fear of the Lord. May the fathers in our nation be honourable and trustworthy heads of their families, and priests of their homes. I pray that every abusive relationship will be stopped. I resist and rebuke the spirit of lust that has gained

control over many men in our nation because of immoral sexual behaviour. I cry out for deliverance from rape and incest that have become prevalent in our families. Lord, please hear my prayer and have mercy on us! I pray that those who were neglected because of absent fathers will receive healing, and I pray that spiritual fathers will be raised up in our nation to pronounce fatherly blessings over children and to walk with them, giving godly advice and counsel.

PRAYER-WALK: Pray today for the fathers around you. Bless them to be instruments in the hand of God, to father your nation. If you are a father or grandfather, please pray today for the children around you and bless them, especially those who are fatherless. Pray this priestly blessing over them: *“The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.”* (Numbers 6:24-26).

### **Day 3. FAMILY - MOTHERS**

Mothers are the glue that keeps families together. Motherhood in our nation has become a challenge. So many mothers have to work away from home and leave their children with caretakers or with grandmothers.

PRAYER: In the name of Jesus Christ, I bless the mothers in our nation with the ability to protect and nourish their families, to love and support their husbands and to raise their children in the fear of the Lord. I bless the grandmothers in our nation, who selflessly care for grandchildren. I pray for single mothers. I pray that \_\_\_\_\_ will find a solution to stop teenage-pregnancies and the burdens that come upon families because of unwanted or neglected babies. I pray for the protection of women and girls in our nation against rape and incest. I rebuke and resist the spiritual forces of lust, sensuality and hedonism that are keeping many people in our nation in bondage. I pray for women in our nation to pursue godliness, holiness and purity in all their relationships.

PRAYER-WALK: Pray and bless mothers and grandmothers around you. Pray that they will be strengthened in the task of bearing and raising children. Pray for pregnant mothers among your friends and family. If you are a mother or grandmother, pray today and bless the children that God has entrusted into your care. Pray this blessing of Jesus over them: *“I bless you to know how dependent you are on God, for to you belong the kingdom of heaven. I bless you if you mourn, for you shall be comforted. I bless you with meekness, for then you shall inherit the earth. I bless you to hunger and thirst for righteousness, for you shall be filled. I bless you to be merciful, for you shall obtain mercy. I bless you to have a pure heart, for then you shall see God. I bless you if you are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for yours shall be the kingdom of heaven. I bless you when people revile you and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for the sake of Jesus Christ. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you”* (Matthew 5:2-12).

## **Day 4. FAMILY - MARRIAGES**

Malachi 2:14-16: *Yet you say, "For what reason?" Because the LORD has been witness between you and the wife of your youth, with whom you have dealt treacherously; yet she is your companion and your wife by covenant. But did He not make them one, having a remnant of the Spirit? And why one? He seeks godly offspring. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth. For the LORD God of Israel says that He hates divorce, for it covers one's garment with violence," says the LORD of hosts.*

PRAYER: In the name of Jesus Christ, I bless husbands and wives with godly marriages. I bless them to be faithful to each other, to respect, honour and cherish one another. I bless marriages to produce godly offspring. I confess the many instances of adultery in our nation, and I ask for forgiveness. I pray that God will have mercy on and restore broken marriages, and I pray for reconciliation between separated husbands and wives. I pray for those who are divorced and ask for forgiveness, cleansing and healing. I pray for the young generation in \_\_\_\_\_ to resist pre-marital sex, to keep themselves pure until marriage, and to understand the blessing of marriage as a covenant between one husband and one wife. I pray that marriages in \_\_\_\_\_ will once again reflect the relationship between Jesus Christ and the church as His Bride.

PRAYER-WALK: Pray today for married people in your workplace. Bless them with the priestly blessing: *"The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace."* (Numbers 6:24-26). Pray also for those around you who are divorced, that God will heal their wounds and restore them to full intimacy with Himself, and bring reconciliation in their families.

## **Day 5. FAMILY**

*God sets the solitary in families; He brings out those who are bound into prosperity; but the rebellious dwell in a dry land. (Psalm 68:6)*

PRAYER: In the name of Jesus Christ, I bless single and lonely people, and widows and widowers. May they know the companionship of friends and family. May the Lord provide for all their needs, comfort their hearts and heal their wounds. I pray that families and churches would reach out to single people and provide 'homes' for them. I pray for people who are suicidal due to loneliness and depression, and I ask that they will be discovered, comforted and loved.

PRAYER-WALK/DRIVE: Walk through your shopping mall or public park/walkways. Notice people who are sitting on their own. Talk with them and pray this priestly blessing over them: *"The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace."* (Numbers 6:24-26).

PRAY for estranged and/or depressed and suicidal family members.

INTERCEDE for the salvation of perpetrators: rapists, paedophiles, abusers, domestic violence offenders, adulterers, etc.

## **Day 6. FAMILY - CHILDREN**

BLESSING: In the name of Jesus Christ, I bless the children of \_\_\_\_\_. I pray that all children, including orphans, will grow up in a safe and protective environment. I pray that children will learn to respect and obey their parents, grandparents, elders or caretakers. I bless children to have a future filled with hope. May they grow up as sons and daughters of God, knowing how to discern between good and evil, right and wrong, righteousness and wickedness. May the children of our nation be like Samuel, David, Moses, Daniel and others who served God from a young age, worshipped and obeyed Him and were leaders in their respective callings.

PRAYER-WALK/DRIVE: Children's homes.

PRAY for the children in your neighbourhood by name. Pray this blessing of Jesus over them: "I bless you to know how dependent you are on God, for to you belong the kingdom of heaven. I bless you if you mourn, for you shall be comforted. I bless you with meekness, for then you shall inherit the earth. I bless you to hunger and thirst for righteousness, for you shall be filled. I bless you to be merciful, for you shall obtain mercy. I bless you to have a pure heart, for then you shall see God. I bless you if you are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for yours shall be the kingdom of heaven. I bless you when people revile you and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for the sake of Jesus Christ. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you" (Matthew 5:2-12).

## **Day 7. THE NATION**

Ask God to once again cleanse your heart and lips, and to use you to bless \_\_\_\_\_.

PRAYER: Father God, please forgive me for hardening my heart towards other people. Where I have become insensitive to Your voice and to the suffering of people, I ask You to remove the darkness and bring light and life. Help me to love again, and to look at other people with compassion and mercy. Help me to guard my heart.

Father God, please forgive me for every harsh word that I have spoken in anger, impatience, hatred or insensitivity to family members, people of other races, leaders or foreigners. Remove every curse from my lips, and use me as an instrument of righteousness to bless \_\_\_\_\_. Help me to watch my words.

In the name of Jesus Christ, I bless \_\_\_\_\_: *The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.* (Numbers 6:24-26).

*Matthew 5:3-12: Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

*Ephesians 1:3-4: Blessed are You, our God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ...that we should be holy and without blame before You in love.*

## **BLESS OUR GOD!**

At the conclusion of this series, *Bless Your Nation*, stretch out your hands towards heaven and bless our God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

Father God, I bless You, for You are always ready to pardon. You are gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abundant in kindness and will never forsake us (Nehemiah 9:17).

*You are the Holy One of Israel, our Saviour, the First and the Last; and besides You there is no God* (Isaiah 43:3; 44:6).

*Great and marvellous are your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are your ways, o King of the saints! Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify your name? For You alone are holy. For all nations [including \_\_\_\_\_] shall come and worship before You, for your judgments have been manifested* (Revelation 15:3-4).

Lord Jesus Christ, I bless You, You are our Saviour, the Head of the church, our Good Shepherd, the Bread of Life, the Way, the Truth and the Life, the Light of the world and the Word of God, the Son of God and the Son of Man.

*You alone are worthy to open the scroll that is in the right hand of Him who sits on the throne, for You were slain and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and language and people and nation, and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth. Yes, worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honour and glory and blessing!* (Revelation 5:9-10, 12).

Holy Spirit, we bless You as the Helper, sent from God to abide in us and teach us all things. You are the Comforter who testifies of Jesus. You are the Spirit of Truth who guides us into all truth and glorifies Jesus Christ (John 14:15-16).

I pray and ask to be empowered by the Spirit from on high, I ask for the restoration of the gifts of the Spirit (Romans 12:6-8) to the church in \_\_\_\_\_, and for the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) to come to maturity in the body of Christ.

I surrender my life unto You, God, and present myself as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to You, which is my reasonable service. I pray that I will not conform to this world, but that I will be continually transformed by the renewing of my mind, so that I may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God (Romans 12:1-2).

The Spirit and the Bride say: "Come, Lord Jesus!"