

72.5 God First to Make America First

We sometimes spend a great deal of time worrying about tomorrow. Jesus reminds us of an overriding divine principle in **Matthew 6:33** (NKJV). This principle applies to individuals and nations. He said:

³³ **But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.**

We hear a lot today about a “Patriot Movement.” Loosely interpreted, this movement puts America at the forefront of the lives of “real Americans.” That sounds noble, but it may be off-base and heretical. One of my teachers used to say that heresy is truth slightly off-target. God follows certain principles, and even a slight violation will negate their impact. Let me explain.

When Paul spoke to the pagan philosophers on Mars Hill in Athens, he clarified that God is the Creator of all things, including sovereign nations. Listen to his statement in **Acts 17:26**. This time I am using the NLT:

²⁶ **From one man he created all the nations throughout the whole earth. He decided beforehand when they should rise and fall, and he determined their boundaries.**

Did you catch what Paul told them? In His sovereignty, God decided national borders (yes, nations have borders that should protect citizens from invasion) and when nations would rise and fall. Did you make an application to America?

Americans seem to think that we are the exception to all rules and that America will endure indefinitely. God says that America can rise and fall, like Assyria, Babylon, Greece, Rome, Nazi Germany, and the Soviet Union.

What is the basis for America’s rise and fall? The answer is in how we treat God. God scheduled Nineveh and the nation of Assyria to fall. Jonah reluctantly preached repentance to them, and God spared them for a time. God allowed the Babylonians to conquer them when the Assyrians reverted to their idols.

There is no question that many came to America in the name of God and that through the years Americans gave their primary allegiance to Him. There are numerous examples of our leaders declaring that we were a “Christian nation.” Those involved in the War for Independence attributed our success to God’s providential hand. **George Washington** stated in his General Orders on May 5, 1778:

"It having pleased the Almighty ruler of the Universe propitiously to defend the Cause of the United American-States and finally by raising us up a powerful Friend among the Princes of the Earth to establish our liberty and Independence up lasting foundations, it becomes us to set apart a day for gratefully acknowledging the divine Goodness and celebrating the important Event which we owe to his benign Interposition."

You will remember one of my favorite illustrations of **Benjamin Franklin**, who called for prayer at the Constitutional Convention. He reminded the delegates of how they had prayed during the War for divine intervention and believed it was also necessary for the Convention. I won’t read his whole speech but listen to the following segments:

We have gone back to ancient history for models of Government, and examined the different forms of those Republics which having been formed with the seeds of their own dissolution now no longer exist. And we have viewed Modern States all round Europe, but find none of their Constitutions suitable to our circumstances.

In this situation of this Assembly, groping as it were in the dark to find political truth, and scarce able to distinguish it when presented to us, how has it happened, Sir, that we have not hitherto once thought of humbly applying to the Father of lights to illuminate our understandings?

In the beginning of the Contest with G. Britain, when we were sensible of danger we had daily prayer in this room for the divine protection.-Our prayers, Sir, were heard, & they were graciously answered. All of us who were engaged in the struggle must have observed frequent instances of a superintending providence in our favor.

To that kind providence we owe this happy opportunity of consulting in peace on the means of establishing our future national felicity. And have we now forgotten that powerful friend? or do we imagine that we no longer need his assistance?

Today Benjamin Franklin and other Founders might say something like:

Methinks we have forgotten our God and His hand in the history of our country. We relied on His intervention in the crises of the Revolution, the Civil War, the Great War, the Great Depression, and WWII, but we have forgotten Him today. Past omission of a duty does not justify the further omission. Let us return to our Savior and Friend with our whole hearts. Let us seek His forgiveness in our repentance and see if He will be faithful to His word and forgive and restore us.

God makes promises in His word that we may overlook. For instance, God tells us that He will give to us if we give to Him in **Malachi 3:10** (NLT):

Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do,” says the LORD of Heaven’s Armies, “I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won’t have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test!

Here is the catch, we do not simply give to God so that we can get more back from Him, and that would be treating Him like a Wall Street investment. Instead, He tells us to give to Him with pure motives, and He will out-give us.

The same is true regarding America. He has proven that if we sincerely seek Him as the priority for our nation, He will give us whatever we need. We teach this personally, but should it not apply to the whole country as well? Too many Americans want to give God lip service and merely go through the motions of loyalty to Him, holding back their most precious gifts. God will likewise hold back as long as we do. Once we take the step of faithfulness and rely on God 100%, things will change for the better.

Being a true American Patriot is more than flag-waving or conservative-leaning; instead, it is God-embracing. Americans trusted God when our initial immigrants came with the gospel and under the banner of Christ to create that “city set on a hill.” We have wandered far from our beginnings, thinking we are too sophisticated for God and His word but look at the abyss where we have fallen.

We cannot rely on Donald Trump or any other man to restore America. We must depend on God. We need a “Great Awakening” and national repentance beginning with each of us to get there. Then we will be like “patriots of old.”

I realized as I concluded this podcast that I have given you the essence of the GNA Ministry. My goal is to reconnect God and Americans by telling His story in our history. God must be preeminent for true American Patriots.

Let’s Keep The Light of Putting God First Burning!