

WHAT NOW?

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Election season is officially over. In a matter of time, the winners of the national elections will be proclaimed. We, as a church, praise God for the opportunity to spend 40 days praying for our nation leading to the election. God has spoken and guided us through Scripture on what to pray for our nation and how to conduct ourselves.

However, even though our hearts were united in prayer, we admittedly have different convictions; we have personal reasons for preferring one candidate over another. We need to learn to disagree and respect each other's personal opinion.

Everyone thinks each one's candidate is the best person to lead the nation, while the other candidates are less qualified, or not qualified at all. Most likely, all of us prayed for our own candidate to occupy the highest position in the land. The question is, "To whom did God listen?"

If our preferred candidate did not win, we would most likely doubt the future of our nation. We ask, "Why would God appoint such a leader?"

But a more crucial question to wrestle with is, "What should be the posture of our hearts during this post-election period?"

Let me give you seven (7) biblical guidelines on how we should conduct ourselves wisely in this season.

1. Focus on things that build up rather than tear down.

"Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear."³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.³¹ Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.³² Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you." - Ephesians 4:29-32

2. Humble yourself and stop grumbling against one another.

"Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you,⁷ casting all your anxieties on

him, because he cares for you." - 1 Peter 5:6-7

"Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door." - James 5:9

3. Respect others based on everyone being created in the image of God.

"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them." - Genesis 1:27

"Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor." - 1 Peter 2:17

4. Submit to the newly established authorities, fulfill your obligations to the government, and obey authorities unless directed to contradict God's commands.

"Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God." - Romans 13:1

"Remind them to be submissive to rulers and

authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work." - Titus 3:1

"Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?"¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, 'Why put me to the test, you hypocrites?¹⁹ Show me the coin for the tax.' And they brought him a denarius.²⁰ And Jesus said to them, 'Whose likeness and inscription is this?'²¹ They said, 'Caesar's.' Then he said to them, 'Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.'" - Matthew 22:17-21

5. Pray constantly for those who are in positions of authority.

"First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people,² for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.³ This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior,⁴ who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." - 1 Timothy 2:1-4

Specific prayer items for those in positions of authority: (a) salvation through faith in Christ; (b) submission to God's authority

as the ultimate source of their authority; (c) sincerely and selflessly serve the people with no selfish interest and personal agenda; (d) stop evil, injustice, and corruption; (e) suffer the consequences, if they will do evil deeds, to bring them to light.

6. Pray for God to bless and fulfill His purposes upon our nation for His glory. Ask God for the impossible. Believe with God that nothing is impossible. Claim God will do the impossible according to His will.

"But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare." - Jeremiah 29:7

"Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and thrown into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him.²⁴ Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours." - Mark 11:23-24

7. Let us reflect the light of Christ in our lives. If you want to see a change in our nation, let's begin with ourselves.

"For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as

children of light⁹ (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true),¹⁰ and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.¹² For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret." - Ephesians 5:8-12

In this post-election season, let us hold on to our faith in God. Let us anchor ourselves in Christ—the foundation of our faith and nation.

Conduct yourself wisely.
Humble yourself.
Respect others.
Intercede for our nation constantly.
Strive to walk right with God.
Trust God's sovereignty.

You may lose faith in our government, but never lose your faith in Christ.

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and **let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,**² **looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith,** who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God." - Hebrews 12:1-2 ✱