



## The Burning Bush - Online article archive

### PRAYING ABOUT THE COMING ELECTION IN ULSTER

*"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land," 2 Chronicles 7:14.*



There has been a number of calls for prayer as the latest election in Northern Ireland approaches.

Most of them would appear to suggest that people have but to go through a form of praying and thus obtain an answer for God that will benefit the land.

I have seen the text which is at the head of this article used as a basis for the call to prayer.

Like so many things related to the purpose and cause of Christ, there is great confusion and folly to be found amongst what people believe regarding prayer.

Many believe if you repeat a prayer often enough it will be heard and answered! This is quite contrary to what the Saviour teaches.

"But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him," Matthew 6:6-8.

There is more to prayer than a mere repeating of requests, no matter how commendable those requests may be.

Our verse in 2 Chronicles 7 does set forth the substance of what God requires when we pray.

It is right for Christians to pray regarding the outcome of the forthcoming election. God says: "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray," Our little country is in a dire state and it is in the hands of God's elect to see it changed. The aftermath of ecumenism and terrorism is still upon us. That must be faced.

There are those who still suffer the consequences of the wickedness of the murderers and bombers that afflicted Ulster for so long. The land needs honourable politicians who will pursue the needs of such victims in an upright fashion and not just to get their names in the paper and cultivate votes for themselves.

Again, to our shame, there has been the accepting of unapologetic terrorist murderers and supporters of murder and terror into the highest political offices in our land. This wickedness was perpetrated through the deceitfulness of men like that icon of political chicanery, Tony Blair and those whose political ambitions deceived them into embracing what was, in former years, utterly repudiated, even by those who were prepared in 2007 to acquiesce in the wickedness of power-sharing with terrorists.

Again, there is the wickedness of sodomy which many in the Assembly are supportive of. Even those who are opposed to this perversion are ready to, Pilate-like, wash their hands of



NI political party leaders



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their duty and permit this matter to receive endorsement as happened on November 28th when DUP MLAs, including professing Christians, stood afar off and refused to assist in the resisting of the the legislative consent motion brought forward by the Northern Ireland Justice Minister to grant a posthumous pardon to sodomites.

Ulster needs better men and women than such as these compromisers. Representatives who are uncorrupted by ecumenical philosophy and self-seeking ambition are what we require if change for good is to be achieved.

Yes, we need to pray but how should we pray?

2 Chronicles 7:14 tells us clearly for these are the words of God (verse 12) as He directed Israel how they should pray in times of trouble.

In times when God's judgments are in the land, and this is just such a time, we need to pray as He commands us.

### **1. WE NEED TO PRAY HUMBLY.**

Ulster has done wrong and sinned. Chiefly, that sinfulness is seen in the endorsing of the plan to put terrorists into government. A majority in Ulster voted for that. Such an outcome indicates the poisoning that had taken place. Doubtless, many of them were deceived and deluded by their political and religious leaders who urged them to support the sinful plan. That does not absolve the populace of the sin of heeding the deceivers and supporting their schemes.

Before we can ever know God's blessing upon the whole land again there must be a sincere and humble acknowledging of this sin.

### **2. WE NEED TO PRAY CONTRITELY.**

That is what God says. "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways." True sorrow is always accompanied by a repudiating of that for which we are sorry. This requires Ulster to repudiate those who urge upon us policies which are contrary to God's Word. The policies of most parties in Ulster on matters such as sodomy, abortion and the bringing of terrorists to justice are completely at odds with God's Word. The teaching of the ecumenical/liberal churches in company with the Roman Catholic Church have utterly perverted the teaching of God on these matters.

We can never have God's blessing until these matters are dealt with honestly and openly by the people of God in Ulster.

We have an example to follow in the reaction of the Israelites in the days of Ezra.

"Now when Ezra had prayed, and when he had confessed, weeping and casting himself down before the house of God, there assembled unto him out of Israel a very great congregation of men and women and children: for the people wept very sore. And Shechaniah the son of Jehiel, one of the sons of Elam, answered and said unto Ezra, We have trespassed against our God, and have taken strange wives of the people of the land: yet now there is hope in Israel concerning this thing. Now therefore let us make a covenant with our God to put away all the wives, and such as are born of them, according to the counsel of my lord, and of those that tremble at the commandment of our God; and let it be done according to the law. Arise; for this matter belongeth unto thee: we also will be with thee: be of good courage, and do it," Ezra 10:1-4.

What a cost had to be paid by these people in order to put in order the affairs of the nation and recover God's favour!

The matter is comparatively easier for our land, but just who is ready to act as did the people of God in the days of Ezra?



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**3. IT IS ONLY IN THE WAKE OF SUCH PRAYING THAT WE CAN EXPERIENCE AGAIN THE BLESSING OF GOD.**

"Then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." This is the promise that was given to Israel. It is the essence of the promise given to the people of God today. "Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent," Revelation 2:4-5.

The conditions are the same as is the promise. Remember your sins, repent of them and return to your first love and works. When that happens the cloud of judgment will be lifted and blessing will be restored.

Dear Christian, no ritualistic gathering together to repeat prayers, no spending of time in a huddle will alter affairs in Ulster.

No, we must humbly submit to God's Word, acknowledging our backsliding and sin and put such away from us utterly before we can rightly expect God to smile again upon this land of ours.

May the Lord help us to do right "though the stars fall"!!

Ivan Foster.

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