



National Day of Prayer

May 2, 2024 | Charleston Prayer Guide

We live in a time when there is great concern about our country's leaders, our education system, our churches, and the direction of our culture. The National Day of Prayer is a call to pray for the entire nation, and we are specifically asking you to make 2 Chronicles 7:14 a template for this year's Day of Prayer.

"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

While this passage was given specifically to ancient Israel, there are principles in this verse which apply to our lives in 2024. The National Day of Prayer is an invitation to pray for our community, our churches, our city, our nation, and the world. When shall we pray? We are asking that you pray on May 2, then choose a time to pray, perhaps 7am or 7pm for the next 14 days, a "7:14 prayer time." How should we pray? It's always best to pray the Bible, and this verse instructs us how to pray for a nation.

"My people, called by My name" means all those who know and love God, the entire church of Charleston.

Prayer based on 2 Chronicles 7:14 involves this posture:

- *humility*
- *praying and seeking God's face*
- *confessing sin, repenting of sin*
- *acknowledging and lamenting the sins of the community*
- *seeking God's reviving presence and healing power for the community, city, nation*

You may want to consider the following as you pray:

- *Parents, marriages, single parents, families in need of direction*
- *Elected Leaders: city, state, national leaders*
- *Courts, judicial officials, police, first responders*
- *Educational leaders, schools and teachers*
- *Churches and leaders in churches to be faithful to Christ and his mission*
- *Children and youth affected by depression and isolation from social media*
- *Media*
- *Those struggling with addictions*
- *Victims of violence, domestic, sexual, criminal*

Thank you for going to your knees for the community. Complaining about the darkness is not going to do any good, but a heart praying humbly will open the floodgates of heaven.

While you can use the verse and these suggestions to pray on your own, if you're looking for an encouragement from someone who is already praying for our city, this is the prayer offered daily by Jerry Young, founder of the Charleston Leadership Foundation:

Heavenly Father, Almighty Savior, I come before You as Your humble servant. You are sovereign and good; I am a foolish, finite, and sinful creature...yet forgiven and made new by Your grace alone. I confess and repent of my sins. I confess that my city, my nation, and the world are broken by sin. Only You can heal our land. I pray You will pour out Your Holy Spirit for (insert name here, perhaps a leader or a friend you know) that he/she may come to You, to know Your grace. For our leaders, may they be guided to listen to Your voice to do what is right in Your sight rather than any other motive. I trust You that my prayer will be answered as You promise in a manner that glorifies You, in the name of my Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.