



Dear Friend of [Abiding Above](#),

June 2014

It was an honor and privilege to be able to speak to the people of Lakeland, Tennessee, during our nation's yearly Day of Prayer.

The theme of this year's National Day of Prayer, was taken from [Romans 15:6](#) which speaks of a call for God's children to "... *have one mind and one voice so that we might glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*"

As a nation of many Christians, we can have one mind and one voice only as we hold to the Apostles' doctrine we find in God's Holy Word. How do we hold to it? By reading God's Word with the full intention of learning from it and obeying what we learn. It is that simple.

I'm afraid many Christians never really get around to reading and applying God's Word to their lives. It is tragic! It is a national disaster!

When we choose to read and obey God's Word, as we listen to His indwelling Spirit, we will have one mind and one voice. This will show in every area of our society, and will show on our national election days each year.

In the context of this Romans passage, this will involve God's children in **instruction**. This instruction changes the heart and mind. It also involves **perseverance**. Perseverance involves patience. The good news is that patience is a fruit of the Holy Spirit, for we read in [Galatians 5:22](#) – "*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience ...*"

This will also involve us in **encouragement**. This speaks of the encouragement and comfort we receive from learning about God and His perfect plan according to the Scriptures. We have all seen those special godly saints in our local churches who remain content "**in Christ**" in the midst of extreme hardship and sometimes physical pain. How is this possible? They have intimacy with God through learning of Him.

And then there is **hope**. Now, we might ask, "*Where is hope in all that is going on in our national life?*"

Remember, when we have learning from God's Word and heart knowledge, we need not ask such a question because we will have learned what Paul said in:



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**Romans 5:3-5** – “...we also exult (boast) in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance (patience); 4 and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; 5 and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”

You see, as individuals, getting up each morning and spending time alone with God in His Word and listening to His indwelling Holy Spirit, we will:

- *be of the same mind.*
- *and with one voice glorify God.*

So, the greatest thing we can do as flag waving, patriotic, God-fearing American citizens is:

**2 Chronicles 7:14** – “... and if My people (**individuals**) who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land. 15 “Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to the prayer offered in this place.”

**Let’s remember, Washington does not surround us, we the people surround Washington!  
Let’s not forget to surround Washington with our prayers!**

Thanks for praying for me as I preached this past week downtown under a large tent at Memphis Union Mission. We saw many pray to receive Christ, and many pray to give God control of their lives. These individuals will be disciplined at the mission.

Please continue to support us with your prayers and financial offerings. We truly need you. Our radio and Internet ministry of sermons continues to expand thanks to you!

Abiding above,



Chris S. Hodges  
President  
Abiding Above Ministries  
Colossians 3:1-3