

9 -11 ANNIVERSARY PRAYER

Pastor Don Nelson

LORD Almighty, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ and our Heavenly Father:

Ten years ago, enemies of the United States launched a murderous assault upon this nation. This anniversary has reopened grievous wounds. We ask you to redeem this tragedy by the power of your Spirit and your Word.

We thank you that there have been no successful attacks of similar scale or ferocity in the years since. We confess that we still need protection.

Protect us from the violence of our enemies: those who would murder Americans; those who would strike our allies; those who would rob us of our dignity, paralyze us with fear, or persuade us to our exchange religious, social and political liberties for illusory physical security.

We give thanks for Americans who extend hospitality to their neighbors: those who see the image of God reflected in every person, and who honor the dignity of every human being. Protect us from our own inhospitality against Arabs, Moslems, and Sikhs, and against our fellow citizens who hold differing convictions about politics and war.

We give thanks for Americans who model right citizenship: patriots who deeply respect and appreciate the U.S. despite her weaknesses, and who also call our nation to more consistently achieve the ideals of liberty and justice for all. Protect us from the idolatry of unrestrained patriotism, which presumes that our way is God's way, and that our country is God's favorite.

We give thanks for Americans who make peace: men and women in military service who risk death to prevent violent attack upon our people and our soil; and all who strive for peace by means of dialogue and by establishing the necessary conditions for lasting

harmony. Protect us from the idolatry of uncritical militarism, which delights in sheer power and puts its trust in weapons and its hope in violence.

We give thanks for Americans who live in the truth that genuine and enduring peace, security, and life depend on right relationship with you through your One and only Son, Jesus. Protect us from the idolatry of self-reliance, which falsely assumes the sufficiency of human competency, wisdom, and knowledge.

Lead us into authentic repentance, not only as individuals but also as a nation. Forgive us our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Protect us from hatred toward our enemies and also those who are merely different from us. Empower us to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Guide our elected officials and our military decision-makers. Grant them wisdom, temperance, and compassion as they seek to defend our nation. Shield our leaders from disproportionate ambition, from all arrogance and from impatience. Help them to seek justice rather than vengeance.

Bless our nation with godliness and faith. Lead us in the way that honors you.

Shed your grace on us, that we might share it with others. Bless this nation, that we might bless God and the world. We pray this in the Name of the One who is king above all nations, God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.