

Pray:

Pray for people to RETURN to the Lord.

“Yet even now,” declares the LORD, “Return to Me with all your heart, and with fasting and weeping and mourning.” — Joel 2:12 (NASB)

Joel 2:12-14 Consider how the present hour could be a critical moment as in Joel’s day, a “yet even now” moment. For different reasons, many of God’s people have drifted away from Him. But now He is calling us to return with all our hearts. Returning to God means more than going back to church and turning away from sin. It means turning our full attention to God, coming close to Him with confidence in His amazing love. As we turn to Him, He desires to turn toward us. His mighty love not only rescues us from our wrongs, but bestows blessing, empowering us to offer Him extravagant, grateful worship.

Pray:

For believers to GATHER together.

“Gather the people...and let them say, ‘Spare Your people, O LORD...’ Why should the peoples say, ‘Where is their God?’” — Joel 2:16-17 (NASB)

Joel 2:15-17. To repent as a people we must come before God together. He wants to encounter us as a people. That’s why He’s summoning us to break normal routines in order to assemble before Him in gatherings large and small. It’s a time to interrupt daily habits of life, fasting from our normal diet, even moving from familiar rituals of worship to assemble in special ways. Why this urgency? Because something great is at stake for God’s glory. Let’s allow our hearts to be grieved by what we, as God’s people, have done to bring shame upon His name. To the watching world, it can appear as if we have no God. Consider what brings sorrow to the heart of God, and pray that He will transform us to bring Him the glory He deserves.

Transformation

- for God’s people to bring the influence and blessing of Christ into every aspect of commerce, arts, education and governance in ways that bring lasting transformation.
- for God’s wisdom to be upon our government leaders, bringing changes that increase righteousness and justice.
- for the righteousness, peace and joy of Christ’s kingdom to be a reality by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Pray:

For a spirit of HOPE for the hopeless

- for the basic needs of food, water and health care for the poor, for the sick, for refugees and for children.
- that God’s people would become, by His Spirit’s help, agents of healing and change, bringing forth the abundance, justice and peace that God desires.
- for God’s people to break patterns of poverty in their communities, fulfilling God’s promise of blessing amidst all peoples.

“Then the LORD will be jealous...and take pity on His people...Be not afraid...be glad and rejoice. Surely the LORD has done great things.” — Joel 2:18, 21

Read Joel 2:18-22. We can be zealous to repent because God is so jealous for His name and for His people. Because of God’s great love, our repenting should be bold and fearless. Our God will contend with the forces that devastate our communities. As great as the evil may be, God will do even greater things. Such hope brings joy as we sincerely turn to God, knowing that He desires to bring great goodness throughout the earth, transforming our cities, restoring our economies and healing our lands.

Please turn over...