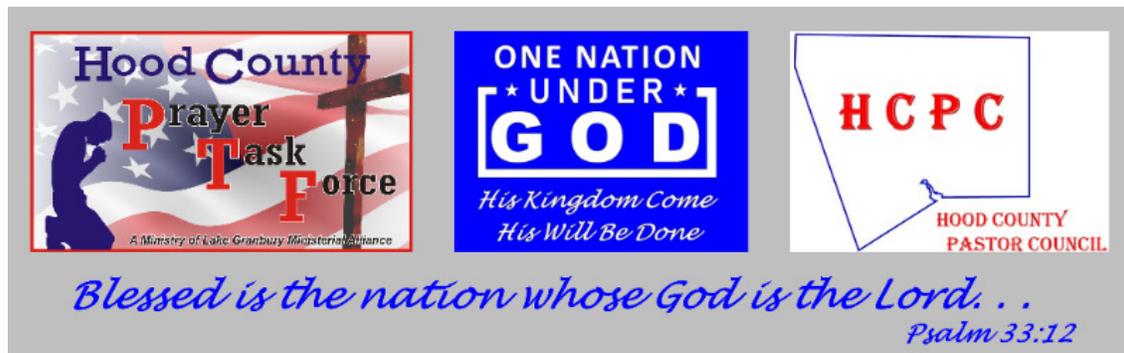


Fred Orcutt

From: Hood County Prayer Task Force <ptf@granburyministries.org>
Sent: Sunday, October 14, 2018 1:59 AM
To: fred@orcutfamily.net
Subject: ONE NATION UNDER GOD Devotional - October 14, 2018

ONE NATION UNDER GOD Devotional

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Surrendering Ourselves to the Lord

He said to *them* all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.

Luke 9:23-24

Reflections

Being 21st Century Jesus Followers, we are all called to leave our self-centered ways - in order to pursue Him and His will - on a daily basis. While this kind of living is never easy nor popular, it can be rewarding in this life and will be very rewarding in our life to come.

As a believer since childhood, I must admit that it is outright impossible to live like this consistently - denying ourselves daily - without His help; which is why our

Challenge

Following the Lord empowers us to deny self and denying self frees us to follow the Lord. Doing this should be part of our daily lifestyle.

For Discussion

seeking Him in prayer is so vitally important. Sincerely doing so in surrender to Him, while pursuing His presence and guidance, is where we receive the strength we need to be able to surrender.

In the text above Jesus basically said two things that work together as one thing. He said, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me." It seems to me that we must deny ourselves in order to be able to follow Him and we must follow Him in order to be able to deny ourselves. Both kind of instructions are dependent upon the other and necessary in our pursuit of giving up our lives to follow the Lord.

We Christians often talk about our conversion as it being the time when we first gave our life to the Lord. For me, I can remember such a time but I also can remember many other times, not in being converted but in giving my life to Him. In fact, just today I gave my life to Him in prayer again. Almost every time I pray, especially at the start of a day, my prayers will include a fresh giving up of my life and will to the Lord.

May all Hood County citizens be reminded of this truth - from our Master's commands - every time we personally and corporately pray and any time we talk about our conversion.

As Jesus' people, we really do need to completely give Him our lives daily. Doing so will ultimately lead us to fulfillment beyond anything our human selfishness could

When did you give your life to the Lord?

What do you think the Lord is calling you to surrender?



Since 1991, Alan Latta has served Hood County as senior pastor of the congregation now known as Generations Church of Granbury.

ever produce and it will bless everyone around us, including our families, churches and community. This is why Jesus went on to say, “. . . whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.”

Growing up in southern gospel music culture I remember hearing a song by the Gaither's that said, “. . . *I lost it all, to find everything. I died a pauper, to become a king. When I learned how to lose, that's when I learned how to win. Oh, I lost it all, to find everything. . .*”

Unlike that silly old Alka-Seltzer commercial, which had an actor saying, “Try it, you'll like it. Try it, you'll like it. . .” when we go beyond trying to surrender with our human efforts and really give our lives to the Lord on a daily basis, we will more than just like it. In fact, we will begin to love it and enjoy the fruit of doing so.

In the following are some little things I often do when praying in private as a means of focusing as I surrender my life to the Lord.

Sometimes, while praying, I will take off my watch and lay it down beside me as act of recognizing the value of yielding time to Him.

Then, while still praying, I will take off my shoes as a sign of giving up my strength to the Almighty. Next, I remove my glasses and lay them down in recognition of my weaknesses before Him and the need for His power in my life.

I may even lay down my wallet and pray something like,
“Lord, here is a symbol of all my identity and our resources. Help me to surrender, everything You have blessed me with, back to You and Your will. Empower me to be a faithful steward.”

This simple practice can also include laying down my phone and all it represents while surrendering personal relationships, connections, technology, schedule and records, etc.

Keys may also be laid before the Lord while praying about His helping me to lay down all my authority and ownership before Him and His will, on earth as it is in Heaven.

These are simple exercises that anyone can do and are shared here in hopes of inspiring the reader to wholly focus on fully surrendering to God.

Try it, you’ll like it. . .

Prayer

Father in Heaven,

I come to You in the name of Jesus Christ. Help me to know Your will for my life and to surrender my will to You every day.

Whenever I miss opportunities to surrender, please have Your Holy Spirit convict me and guide me away from self-willed living to You.

May Your Kingdom come and Your will be done, on

earth and in my life; just as Your will is being done in
Heaven.

For Your fulfilled will, blessing and glory,
Amen!

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