

Young Prayer Warriors

Theme: Prayer

Subject: School Prayer

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Pray without ceasing (KJV)

Deck the Halls!

Our secular society quite logically and consistently is trying to close the door to the freedom of religious expression in public places. This censorship is most visible in the public schools where, as of this writing, many Christian teachers and students are severely restricted in terms of free speech.

On June 25, 1962, a Supreme Court ruling made it illegal to offer voluntary prayers in American schools. The freedom of children and youth to talk to God in a public classroom setting was taken away from them. The prayer in question went something like this: Almighty God, we acknowledge our dependence upon you. We ask for your blessings upon our parents, our teachers, and upon our government. Though this is not a full-page parable prayer, its very content was powerful.

When the right to pray this prayer was removed, a hedge of protection also fell from around our homes, families, churches, and our government. We, the people upon whose currency is inscribed the words, In God We Trust, found ourselves silenced on one of the most powerful weapons that we have against our adversary the devil.

Since 1962, our nation seems to have been going down hill, beginning with the assassination of President John F. Kennedy the following year. The number of homicides has soared to over 400 percent and the divorce rate has climbed to 62 percent. In 1994, in America alone, there were 23,760 murders; 10,567 of these were killed by handguns. Abortion, drugs, robberies, rape . . . why? Because America has dropped her prayer guard.

I challenge you today, young people, to take advantage of the moment of silence that has been given to students in the public schools. Use that moment as a time to talk to God about yourself, your school, including the principal and teachers, your home, and your church. Pray for the President of the United States, your governor, the mayor of your city, and all of those in authority in this nation.

Remember, you can make a difference through the power of your prayer life. Don't be ashamed of the Lord. Start a prayer group or a Bible club in your school.

The apostle Paul would not have issued the command to pray without ceasing if it were an impossibility. We do not need a Supreme Court ruling in order to pray. The Almighty God knows your very thoughts. So, go ahead, talk to Him without spoken words and listen for His silent response. The two of you can deck the halls of your school with boughs of prayer, praise and thanksgiving.

Closer Look

Read Ezra 10:1: While Ezra was praying and confessing, weeping and throwing himself down before the house of God, a large crowd of Israelites men, women and children gathered around him. They too wept bitterly (NIV). When Israel returned to Jerusalem from exile, the people continued in some practices that were evil in the sight of God. Ezra was appalled when he saw the sin in his nation. He tore his clothes, pulled his hair from his head and beard, and fell on his knees with his hands spread out to God and prayed. He confessed the sins of his people and pled with God for mercy. As Ezra prayed, all the people gathered around him. They made a new covenant with God that they would turn from their wicked ways and obey Him.

Often God uses the prayer of one person to cause a whole nation to return to right living. Just a few simple words to the Lord in prayer can change the very atmosphere of your school. Aren't you proud of your school? If you love your school, your friends, and if you care about your future there, and even the future of the children you will have someday, then make our schools a priority on your prayer list.

TIME OUT

WORD UP

Monday:	O Lord, let me not be ashamed to pray in my school.	Psalm 34:4
Tuesday:	I pray for God's protection over my entire school today .	.Psalm 118:6
Wednesday:	Dear Jesus, I pray for my teachers today. May they find a closeness with You.	1 John 5:14, 15
Thursday:	Help me, Holy Spirit, to do my part in getting prayer back in my school.	1 Timothy 2:1-4
Friday:	I ask for You to direct my principal by Your Spirit, dear Lord.	Psalm 105:3, 4
Saturday:	I pray for the bus drivers, maintenance personnel, and kitchen and office staff, as well as every teacher, guidance	

Time To

Fill in the blanks below with the names of school staff for prayer:

TEACHERS

Math _____
 Science _____
 Biology _____
 Social Studies _____
 History _____
 Civics _____
 Algebra _____
 English _____
 Band _____
 Music _____
 Art _____
 Geometry/Trig _____
 Calculus _____

STAFF

Coaches _____
 Principal _____
 Guidance Counselor _____
 Kitchen Staff _____
 Bus Driver _____
 Grounds Keeper _____
 Office Staff _____
 School Nurse _____
 Special Ed. _____
 Computer Science _____
 Cheer Leaders/Sports _____
 Color Guard _____