

Winning the Battle for the Soul of America-I

“The Role of America’s Covenant Partner”

America boasts of its independence, and the freedom and liberty that come from it, but may not know the one thing that always sustained it in hard times was its connection to God. In 1774, in the midst of the political turbulence preceding the war for independence, the delegates to the Continental Congress gathered to consider what their next step should be. They were not getting very far until it was suggested that they start their deliberations with prayer. The next day, the 35th Psalm was read, *“Plead my cause, Oh LORD, with them that strive with me: fight against them that fight against me. Take hold of shield and buckler, and stand up for mine help”* (Psa. 35:1-2). The impact of prayer and faith in God electrified the atmosphere and brought unity among the diverse traditions. The delegates realized they needed God's blessing and power in their struggle for independence. For more detail, read ["Prayer Undergirding the Declaration."](#)

Today, America is less dependent upon God and more inclined to depend upon the political system for a breakthrough. When the breakthrough comes, the worldly system rarely acknowledges the miraculous hand of God, but rather attributes them to luck. Luck did not win the War for Independence, or the War of 1812, or the Civil War. Luck did not deliver America from Germany and Japan in World War II. America's Covenant Partner did. For this, it is right to exalt God with the psalmist, and *“... call upon his name, make known his deeds among the people... Remember his marvellous works that he hath done...”* (1 Chr. 16:8, 12).

So, the question has to be asked, “Who is America’s Covenant Partner, and what sustained our freedom in all these contests?” It goes back to a seminal event 2,000 years ago that sent shock waves to the spirit world and shook the foundations of the earth: Jesus Christ took on and brought down the spirit of tyranny that held man captive against his will (Col. 2:15). With His dying words, *“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do”* (Lk. 23:34 NKJV), miraculous power was unleashed into the earth, setting the stage for the ministry of reconciliation between God and man. As He hung on the cross, Jesus saw in the distance oppressed people of many nations fleeing tyranny coming together as one nation, under God, indivisible, conceived in liberty and justice.

And so, in the process of time, people of faith, armed with the holy cause of liberty, refused to bow their knee to the spirit of tyranny and surrender their birthright to freely govern themselves under God. They did not have money or weapons to defend themselves. That came later. But they did have a Covenant-keeping God as their partner who had a vision to fulfill. Through Him, religious liberty created America, this one nation under God, and made it the freest nation on earth. Free, not because everyone who came to America became a Christian, but because moral power was written into its founding documents, so people of all races, colors and creeds could taste of freedom.

In time to come, no enemy, foreign or domestic, would be able to uproot the Judeo-Christian foundation upon which this nation stood, because it was built upon a covenant between an all-powerful God and the people. Bombs bursting in air, a great depression, two devastating world wars, not even a secessionist-driven civil war would take it down. In every crisis threatening the moral foundation, the source of our nation’s power, America’s Covenant Partner brought us through to victory. Let’s revisit two of the contests.

In the midst of the Civil War, God saw the bloodshed and mounting military defeats suffered by the Union. As the Confederate forces advanced toward Washington, it looked like the Union would be defeated. But as if a voice was heard in Heaven saying, “it is enough,” suddenly the tide began to turn in favor of the Union. No doubt, it was the voice of America’s Covenant Partner moving on President Lincoln to issue the Emancipation Proclamation. Soon the one nation under God would survive its greatest assault against liberty, proving the foundation on which it stood was unshakeable.... You see it again in World War II. In a suicide mission to free France from Germany’s advances, valiant warriors stormed the beaches of Normandy. If there ever was a battle to lose, this was it. But America’s Covenant Partner “*took hold of shield and buckler*” (Psa. 35:2), breaking through Germany’s defenses to rescue France from captivity, and ultimately, the world. Once again, the Judeo-Christian foundation emerged unshakeable.

We are a blessed people for another reason. Of all the tribes scattered throughout the world, God chose us to inhabit this land of the free and be part of the remnant to show forth His praises and evangelize the world. Sadly, many freedom-loving people have forgotten, or possibly never knew, where their freedom comes from, and the moral values that uphold it, values which came to embody . . .

. . . *The Spirit of America!* America was founded on the Biblical principle of “natural” rights afforded to every person by His Creator at birth (see Declaration of Independence). By comparison, Adolf Hitler, the one-time Fuehrer of Nazi Germany, wanted to make Germany great by killing people he perceived as dragging it down; he thought by ridding Germany of the poor and disabled, he could create a master race. America stood out in the world as a nation that was forgiving and magnanimous, especially toward its rivals, the less powerful, and defeated foes at home and abroad. After World War II, America poured billions of dollars under the Marshall Plan to help Western Germany and other European countries decimated by the war rebuild their economies. This is what a nation built upon a Judeo-Christian foundation does. This was a nation that prayed, read the Bible, and attended church. This was a people who heard inspiring and convicting messages to turn the cheek and reconcile with their enemies, and as God worked through them to do good, the spirit of Christianity spread throughout the nation, and I might add, the world! Alex de Tocqueville, a French statesman in the 1830’s, said he saw in America an “ostensible respect for Christian morality and virtue.” America, he said “is great because America is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great.”

Today America is not as forgiving and brotherly. Some justify violence while standing on the law of liberty. More adversarial than forgiving, more combative than peaceable, and more determined to tear down than to rebuild and restore, they want their due. This sets the nation on edge. The people look for a “political” solution, but there will not be one. How then is it possible to bring a nation so ideologically and socially divided back into the fold? The better question may be, “How can God’s people be a positive influence in a nation that has lost its moral footing in so many ways?” To get the answer, we must once again consider carefully the faith of our forefathers and three Biblical principles that worked in their favor. In them, we may detect a path forward.

Those “Beautiful Pilgrim Feet.” We come to a period of time in England when there was much political corruption under a tyrant king aligned with a compromised religious system. Together they laid down repressive laws to govern the people, and if they resisted, they suffered severe persecution. Out of this arose the Pilgrims (Separatists). Seeking an escape from the rigid control of the political/religious system, they spiritually pulled away from it, the first and foremost Biblical principle to be noted in the faith of our Pilgrim Fathers (2 Cor. 6:16; Col. 2:8).

In his book, *Of Plymouth Plantation*, William Bradford, Governor of the Plymouth settlement, recounts the Pilgrims' journey. In it, he wrote that as zealous preaching convicted the Pilgrims of their ignorance and sins, they began to reform their lives through God's grace (Matt. 7:24), the second Biblical principle. Then touched with the fire of divine revelation, they "shook off their anti-Christian bondage" and "joined themselves" in covenant with God, bringing truths of God's Word into the culture, the third Biblical principle modeled by our Pilgrim Fathers (Mic. 6:8). They understood the liberty to govern themselves was their birthright, and so they put themselves under God, and when they arrived in America in 1620, the Bible came with them. With it, their Covenant Partner led them on a journey that one day would make their colonial enterprise an independent nation with the freedom to speak, worship, and govern themselves according to their conscience, fulfilling the original intent of the Pilgrim Fathers.

We can draw inspiration from the faith of our Pilgrim Fathers to turn the tide in the battle for the soul of America. The most important step of faith that led them out of darkness was to separate from the corrupt philosophies permeating the political/religious system. A lot has changed since then. For one thing, we do not pledge allegiance to a monarch. As Christians, our accountability is to God, and though we participate in the political process, we know not to lean on it, put our trust in it, or draw power from it, inasmuch as it is the arm through which Satan rules in the earth (Lk. 4:5-6). As such, much of the information it disseminates in which citizens are asked to rely on is a mixture of truth and lies calculated to deceive. And another thing, receding from the contentious political battles frees us to speak moral truths into the consciousness of the nation, as the Pilgrims accomplished with their separation.

So, following the Pilgrims' faith, the first Biblical principle to free ourselves from the dark spirit enveloping the nation is to pull away from it (internally). In that the worldly/political system is hostile toward God (Jas. 4:4), it will separate us from His presence the more we depend upon it, but pulling away from it draws us back into His presence. Then the sun begins to shine through the clouds. What happened? We changed channels, and the Omniscient One started to converse with us and from that conversation came a closer walk with God, along with the purifying fire of reformation, the second Biblical principle in the faith of our Pilgrim Fathers.

Divine revelation begins to flow to correct our faulty reasoning, and we see the world through God's eyes. We now know that not everything we heard, listened to, and believed was true, and even if true, will ever come to pass, in whole or in part, as we feared or anticipated. The reason is because God is in control, and this increases our faith in *HIS power*. We freely submit our fears of every evil report to God, and rather than hearken to its substance, we first acknowledge Him (Prov. 3:6) and His counsel. Putting our trust in it guards our heart and mind (Phil. 4:6-8). What changed? We are living by the Word and being transformed by it. God said if we walk in His commandments, He will perform His Word in us (1 King 6:12). The more we distance ourselves from the worldly system and follow Christ, the greater will be the revelation of His power in us to spread truth to the nation, the third Biblical principle of our Pilgrim Fathers. If we follow these three Biblical principles, we will overcome the spirit of the world, walk in the power of God's might (Zech. 4:6), and pick up His burden for the soul of America. You'll see in the sequence to this article that the next step in the battle for America's soul is national reconciliation. Click here to read "[Repairing Broken Down Walls.](#)"

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