

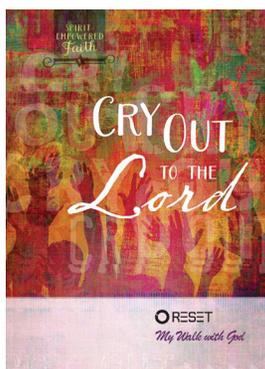


Turning a Nation to God

This article is from the book, *Cry Out to the Lord*. The article is an excerpt written by Tony Evans from his book, *America: Turning a Nation to God*.

CRY OUT TO THE LORD

Lord, I cry out to You because I want to do my part to bring our country back to You. I am depending upon You to change me and reveal Yourself to others through me. Use me for Your glory. Empower me by Your Spirit. Cause my heart to be awakened toward You, and fill me with a passion to serve You.

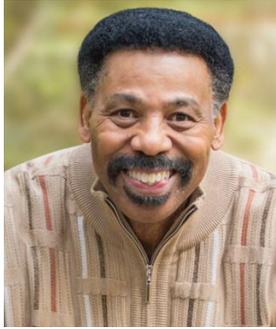


America is in serious trouble. From sea to shining sea, we are witnessing the devolution of a nation. Regardless of which side of the political aisle you sit on, it is clear that things are unraveling at warp speed. The **United States** is quickly becoming the **divided states** as signs of disunity and conflicts abound. From family breakdowns, to the immigration crisis, to the abiding racial divide, to Congress' inability to function, it is clear we are a fraying nation. Add to this the continuing moral decay that is engulfing us, whether it is the redefinition of marriage and the family, abortions on demand, a media that continues to dumb down decency, or an educational system that increasingly seeks to impart information without ethics in the name of "freedom." We are as a nation sliding south.

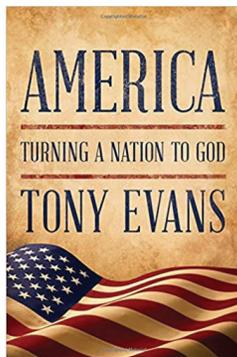
But there is a way back. We can return to our roots by a wholehearted pleading of the people of God through repentance and prayer. When we respond in this way, then God will hear our cry, see our hearts, and turn and heal our land.

The American dream is quickly becoming the American nightmare as more and more citizens become disillusioned with the direction things seem to be going. The constant threat of terrorism and an overblown debt threaten not only our economic future but the future of our children and grandchildren as well. As people gather unofficially around the water cooler at work—or officially around government sanctioned summits, seeking to find solutions to the myriad of issues that plague us—real long-term answers continue to elude us.





DR. TONY EVANS is the founder and president of The Urban Alternative, a national ministry dedicated to restoring hope in personal lives, families, churches, and communities. Dr. Evans also serves as senior pastor of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship in Dallas. He is a bestselling author and his radio program, *The Alternative with Dr. Tony Evans*, is heard everyday on more than 1,300 stations around the globe. For more information, visit: tonyevans.org.



Dr. Tony Evans Speaks From His Heart About Social Injustice



Click here to watch Video

In the midst of all of this, God's church seems to be of little help in giving real answers to real problems in spite of the proliferation of Christian literature, programming, and facilities. In fact, the Christian faith and its symbols are more marginalized than ever. There are only two explanations before us as we witness what is happening to our beloved nation. Either we are on the verge of the completion of an eschatology calendar that will usher in the return of Christ to judge the earth and set up His earthly kingdom, or we are enduring the passive wrath of God whereby He allows a person or a society to experience the consequences of their rejection of Him. The more people marginalize the true God of the Bible, the more chaotic things become. However, such judgment opens the door for revival when God's church returns to Him in humility and repentance. The return of Christ is outside of our hands, but revival and its social and cultural benefits are very much in our hands. Even when the church has become an unintentional co-conspirator in the culture's demise through its compromise with the culture, it can be empowered when it turns about to God in repentance.

LEARN to Encounter Jesus

Apart from Me you can do nothing (John 15:5).

None of us as individuals, families, or His church have any hope of living an abundant life in our own strength. Take a moment and imagine yourself bowing before the Lord as He reminds you of these things: "Remember, precious child, the air that fills your lungs and every cell of your physical body is a gift that comes from Me. Every thought, plan, strategy, and decision is possible because you are My creation. Your energy, your creativity, your strength, and your intellect are all provisions from Me. You are wonderfully made, but remember that apart from Me you can do absolutely nothing."

As you bow before the Lord, make a declaration of your helplessness, a declaration of your dependence upon God, and an acknowledgment of your hope in Him.

Lord, my power and strength are insufficient for all that I face in this world. I need You. Restore my perspective. I know I am nothing without You, but I know You are with me, available for me and sufficient for all my needs. I turn to You now.

