

Revive Us Again: One Nation Under God (Psalm 85:8)

Introduction: “God Bless America” is more than a patriotic song or political slogan – it’s a prayerful plea.

Psalm 85 – a prayer of ancient Israel – speaks powerfully to this moment. It recalls a past of God’s favor, a troubled present needing revival, and a hopeful future if we return to the Lord.

On this Independence Day weekend, let’s explore Psalm 85 and see how God’s people must lead the way back for our nation to truly be “one nation under God.” *The psalmist begins by...*

I. Acknowledging the past: (Psalm 85:1–3) – Grateful for God’s favor

A. God restored His people -The psalmist begins with gratitude, remembering how God forgave His people and restored them.

1. **Israel had experienced God’s favor**, much like America has in our history. (v.1)
2. **Similarly, our nation’s birth and survival** through trials were not by our genius or resources, but by God’s mercy.

B. America has experienced God’s favor -

1. From the Pilgrims’ prayers on the Mayflower, to Washington kneeling in snow at Valley Forge, to Congress singing “*In God is our trust*” as our motto, our nation’s past is filled with acknowledgment of God’s favor.
2. “**God has blessed America**”. “*Blessed is that nation whose God is the Lord*” (Psalm 33:12).
3. Acknowledging our past means humbly thanking God for His favor and realizing that any greatness in our nation’s story is because of His grace, not our merit. *This kind of gratitude sets the stage for seeking Him again.*

II. Questioning the present: (Psalm 85:4–7) – he makes a plea for revival:

A. He asks hard questions – essentially, “*Lord, are You done with us? Can we be revived again?*”

B. He asks in prayer - Notice, “Your people” need revival. The psalmist understood that renewal starts with **God’s people**, not with the pagan nations around them.

1. Revival begins with God’s people, not culture. (2 Chor. 7:14)
2. Judgement must begin at the house of God. (1 Pe. 4:17)
3. Righteousness exalts a nation ... (Prov. 14:34)
4. Personal repentance is the key to national revival.

III. Anticipating the future (Psalm 85:8–13) – Hearing God for Restoration

A. The psalmist plea - After plea and repentance, the tone of Psalm 85 shifts to **hope**. “*I will hear what God the Lord will speak, for He will speak peace to His people and to His saints; but let them not turn back to folly*” (v.8).

B. Now the psalmist waits and listens – anticipating God’s answer.

C. This is crucial: *after we cry out, we must listen to God’s Word.*

D. Any national restoration depends on heeding God’s voice.

1. God promises peace to those who listen and turn from folly. (vv. 9-13)
 2. The psalmist pictures national healing “*Mercy and truth... righteousness and peace...*”
 3. Historically revivals have impacted society (e.g., First Great Awakening).
 4. Our role in revival is we are called to be salt, light and heavenly ambassadors. (Mt. 5:13-16, Mt. 28:19; Mk. 12:31)
- a. **We must do more than just desire this**, we must *anticipate* this, meaning we live in expectation and work toward it.
 - b. **We sow seeds of righteousness now**, trusting God for the increase (v.12).
 - c. **We speak truth in love** (Ephesians 4:15) in the public square, even if it’s countercultural, believing God’s Word will not return void.
 - d. **And we continue to listen** – staying in Scripture, attentive to the Holy Spirit.
 - e. **Personally repent and Seek God**
 - f. **Pray fervently for revival**
 - g. **Live the Word & speak the Word:** Make sure we are **listening to God** (v.8) by daily reading Scripture and obeying it.
 - h. **Show the world what “one nation under God” looks like by living under God’s rule in your personal life.**

Conclusion: verse 13: “*Righteousness will go before Him, and shall make His footsteps our pathway.*”

This implies that as we walk in God’s righteousness, we prepare the way for His intervention.