**United Cry, Washington, D.C., Anne Graham Lotz, April 10, 2016**

*(excerpts compiled by Pastor Forrest Stone)*

*(note: I watched this event and was so impressed by the prayer that Anne prayed, that I compiled the prayer word for word. I think it gives a good Biblical view of the state of America at that time. Unfortunately, I am afraid that we have moved even farther away from God in recent days. There are four sections, and I have tried to underline them for the reader.* ***The first*** *is an introduction,* ***the second*** *is the beginning of the prayer,* ***the third*** *is a time of confession with the congregation responding, “we repent” and* ***the fourth******final section*** *is the conclusion of the prayer.*

Our nation is in a mess. And I’ll tell you the reason I believe that’s so. It’s because God is forsaking us. We have forsaken Him, and He is backing away from us in a Romans One type of judgment. In Romans One when people sinned and they refused to repent, God backed away. If they refused to repent and continued to sin, He backed further away. If they continued to be defiant and continued in their sin refusing to repent, He backed away and gave them over to themselves. When we look at the nation of America, America is in a mess because God is turning us over to ourselves….

**Daniel, Chapter Nine: A Prayer for His Nation**

**Prayed under Compulsion, at God’s Character, in Contrition**

When I look at the problems in our nations and I see the anarchy on the streets, and the apathy in the church, and the arrogance of our leaders, and the antagonism of our culture toward the things of God I believe I can match that with the promise of God that we have prayed so many times, … *“****If your people*** *who are called by your name, will humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, you will hear our prayer, forgive our sin, and heal our land.”* (II Chronicles 7:14) So, God, we are holding you to your word! **Let’s pray:**

Creator of the universe, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we worship you as Lord—You are the boss!

We acknowledge your authority to do as You please, because You are our owner, the owner of all things, You made us at creation, You bought us at Calvary, You have the right to rule our lives.

You are merciful, yes, You are. You are loving, yes, You are.

You are gracious, yes, You are. You are kind, yes, You are.

You are faithful, yes, You are.

How we love you for the beauty of your character, but we would be dishonest if we did not also acknowledge that you cannot be less than yourself. And you are also just, you are holy, you are righteous; and a holy, righteous, just God demands judgment for sin…which is the message of the cross. If there was no accountability for sin, there would be no need for the cross. The cross reveals Your hatred for sin, it’s your extreme penalty for sin. You died so sinners could live. At the cross, we see You, the Lord, giving Your life for little “dust people.”

And we stand amazed in the presence of the crucified Savior, the Lord of Glory. The cross not only reveals the heinousness of our sin, but the infinite love of our Lord who stepped in and took Your own judgment for us. You are the Lord, the boss—and we are not! In light of who You are, we see ourselves more clearly. We are sinners. Forgiven, yes—Praise God. Redeemed, yes. But desperately in need of a spiritual bath. We need to be freshly cleansed so that we might be filled to overflow with your spirit.

Therefore, **we confess**: that our focus in life and even the focus in prayer has not been on You, and You alone as the solution to our problems, the answer to our needs,

**We confess**: that we have acted as though we are somebody and You are nobody,

**We confess**: that often we have been focused on them instead of ourselves. So, we turn to you now, we ask that you shine the light of Your truth into our hearts and what we feel, and into our minds and what we think so that we see ourselves as You see us and truly deeply repent of our sins. Strip us, most holy Lord, of any pride or self-righteousness or judgmental-ness before we pray for others. Teach us to first take the plank out of our own eye before trying to remove the splinter in someone else’s eye. We long for You to send revival to the hearts of your people. Let it begin right here, right now, with us, with me.

We committed our sins one by one, so we confess them one by one.

**Ingratitude**—we have not truly been thankful for the blessings You have given us. Instead, we have given ourselves credit for many of the blessings that come from Your hand. **WE REPENT.**

**We have lost our first love**—we have lost our passionate, emotional, affectionate love that puts You first and instead we give priority to our bank accounts, sports teams, pleasures careers, another person or even to ourselves. **WE REPENT**

**Neglect of the Bible**—we spend more time reading blogs or on-line news or the latest best-selling novel or our denominational material or our business periodicals or even our owner’s manual for our newest tech toy than we do reading Your word **WE REPENT**

**Unbelief**—in reality, we think your promises, your commands, your warnings are for others or for another day. We don’t think they actually work for us and thus we call You a liar. **WE REPENT**

**Prayerlessness**—we ask others to pray for us, but we don’t pray for ourselves. We daydream, fantasize, indulge in wishful thinking and call it prayer. Then we blame You when You don’t answer **WE REPENT**

**Lack of concern for the souls of others**—we stand by and watch friends, neighbors, co-workers, and even family members on their way to hell yet don’t care enough to warn them or pray for them, or even admit that that’s where they will end up if they don’t put their faith in Jesus. We have become so politically correct that we don’t apply the gospel to those we know and love for fear of offending them. **WE REPENT**

**Neglect of Family**—we put our needs and ourselves before our families, deceiving ourselves and cheating them by living as though financial, material gain is more important than their spiritual condition and development. We delegate to the church or the school our own responsibility to raise up Godly children so that faith in the living God has not been passed to the next generation. **WE REPENT**

**Love of the world and material things**—we complain or resent the thought that we owe you a minimum of 10% of our income so we don’t give it to you. **WE REPENT**

**Pride**—we have a “me-first” mentality **WE REPENT**

**Envy**—we struggle when others receive more recognition and praise than we do **WE REPENT**

**A Critical spirit**—we find fault with those who don’t measure up to our standards **WE REPENT**

**Slander**—we tell the truth in order for others to think less of someone.

**WE REPENT**

L**ack of seriousness toward You**—we give You the “leftovers” of our time, thoughts, emotions, money **WE REPENT**

**Lying**—we don’t tell the truth or say things that are not the whole truth in order to impress others. We exaggerate, we stretch the truth, we spin the truth **WE REPENT**

**Cheating**—we don’t treat others the way we want to be treated,

**WE REPENT**

**Hypocrisy**—we pretend to be something that we are not!

**WE REPENT**

**Robbing God**—we waste time on things that have no eternal value. We exercise our God-given gifts and talents for a fee. We are willing to do for a price what we will not do freely for God.

**WE REPENT**

**Temper**—we lose patience and speak crossly **WE REPENT**

**Bad temper**—we lose control of our emotions, thoughts and words so we abuse someone verbally **WE REPENT**

And the list goes on, and on, and on. O Holy Lord, with tears on our face and sobs in our throats, and shame in our hearts, we truly, sincerely, courageously rend our hearts. We stand in this place and repent of our sins. We not only name it for what it is in your sight, but we turn away from it.

You have said, God, and we pray it back to you, “if we confess our sins, you are faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us.” So right now, we thank You, based on Your word, we are cleansed. We thank You for Your forgiveness. We thank You for the blood that washes us clean. We thank You that our tears are on Your face. We thank You that as our High Priest You understand firsthand the feelings of the guilt and shame of our sin. We thank You that although You are sinless, You became sin for us that we might be right with You. Thank You that when we are under Your blood and our lives are hidden in You, we become a new creation, the old is gone, the new has come. Thank You for the blessed assurance that when we have confessed our sin, when we have been cleansed of our sin, we will receive a rich welcome in your presence in Your heavenly home because our Savior is the boss. He is the Lord. His name is Jesus and He knows the plans he has for America, plans to give us hope and a future if we seek Him with all our hearts. And we pray these things in the name of Jesus and for His glory. Amen and Amen