

# DEVOTIONAL

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**"Also seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper." Jeremiah 29:7**

**"For kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness." I Timothy 2:2**

Two verses, two authors, two places in time. And yet, God reveals to us in both of them his unchanging nature. And. He also reveals to us in these verses what he wants the position of our hearts to be. Even as we live in a fallen world. Even as we look at and experience this fallen world. Even as we seek to follow Christ and be salt and light while living in the middle of it and seek his wisdom in doing so.

He wants us to pray for the cities where he's placed us and for those in authority. And when that gets difficult, he calls us to remember that Good Friday long ago when Jesus did the same thing in his prayer for us and called out to the Father, "forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing" (Luke 23:34).

Let's take a moment today, in keeping with this call to prayer, to pray for police officers, for first responders, and for those in authority in local, state, and national government and to give thanks to the unchanging God who daily gives us a refresh of his abounding grace.

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Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gifts of police officers, first responders, and for those in authority in local, state, and national governments. As we're in this holiday season, we know that, for some in these fields, the holidays are much busier than any other time of the year. We thank you for the benefits that you give us through them, that as you tell us in Jeremiah 29:7, as the land prospers we also will prosper.

We confess that there are times when we haven't remembered them in prayer, that we haven't considered the blessings we receive as the nation prospers. God, in this time of unrest and of COVID, we pray specifically for police officers and first responders. We know that during this time of difficulty, they may be feeling discouraged and maybe even afraid. God, we pray that you would encourage them through the hope found only in the gospel. Place people in their lives who will share this message with them if they haven't heard or believed it yet. If they have heard and believed it, help them to see that its message isn't just static but that it applies even to the challenges they're facing now.

Lord, where there is fear, let there be peace. Be also with their families as they live through these challenges with them. God, we also pray that you would give them the wisdom needed to perform their duties faithfully even in the face of the changing landscape of this nation. In Jesus' Name, we pray, Amen.

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