

Day 16 - Praying for Americans on Welfare

by Bernadette Love

Only, they asked us to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do.

Galatians 2:10

Today in America, there are approximately 4,300,000 people on welfare and 46,000,000 on food stamps. 5,600,000 are on unemployment insurance and America spent a whopping 131.9 billion on welfare (not including food stamps and unemployment.)

"There will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore I command you, 'You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land'" (Deut. 15:11).

For those who have never been on welfare, food stamps, or suffered through unemployment, it is easy to point a finger and say, "Go get a job", but sometimes that is easier said than done. Some people actually don't want to be on welfare but are victims of circumstances. Some have inherited a spirit of poverty. Some never had a fighting chance, having been negatively spoken over by parents who didn't know what to say. And then there are those who just don't see the point in even trying to do better.

There is much to pray about when you consider the welfare system in this country. For the citizens who honestly want to support themselves, who have no desire to live out their lives on the system, for them we pray for God's provision and wisdom. We pray for doors to open and opportunities to abound. We pray that they will one day soon be able to hold their heads high knowing that they are providing for themselves and their families.

Then there are those who blatantly take advantage of the system and are content with allowing our tax dollars to take care of them. Believe it or not, they need our prayers even more. There is an old saying that welfare mothers begat welfare mothers. I believe that this is largely due to a spirit of poverty that can be passed down from one generation to the next. These citizens don't want better, are making no effort to get better and actually feel that they are entitled to better.

The Bible does say that the poor will always be among us and those who have are to help those who have not. I believe in my heart that everyone who is earnestly trying to help themselves or are unable to do this due to physical or mental limitations, should be aided and taken care of. I believe that all who desire to better their situation should be given a chance to do just that. We cannot ignore those who desperately need help...and this what we should be praying to God for.

Let us pray...

Father, in the name of Jesus, we ask that you forgive us for our sins. Cleanse us from all unrighteousness as we bow before your throne. We praise you, oh God, for

who you are. We magnify your name and give you all honor and glory.

Father, as a nation, we lift up those who are struggling on welfare. Father, you see your children who need a hand and those who are looking for a hand out. Please open doors for your children who are in need of that hand to help them get back on their feet. Lord, provide jobs and open doors for the parents who desperately want to provide for the children that you have blessed them with.

And Father, you see the parent who just happens to be at their wits end, the one who thinks that things are so hopeless that suicide is the only way out. You see the single mom who is working two jobs just to make ends meet, and they never do. Your Word says that if we trust you, you will be our help in time of need. Your Word says that if you feed the birds of the air, you will feed us too. Help our unbelief, Father. Help us to have that faith that is the size of a mustard seed, that faith that can move mountains.

These things we ask in the name of Jesus...Amen.