

Fr. Perozich comments —

Pastor Shane Idleman reflects on the decline of America with a focus on shootings, sin, and sufferings to turn around America through worship of Jesus.

Unlike some Catholics, Idleman highlights

- ***I'm not under the delusion that we can fully create heaven on earth***
- ***I'm talking about the desperate need for God's people to seek Him:***
- ***America's foundation was once securely built on God's Word, but not so today. Massive cracks in the foundation have led to the complete deterioration of society.***
- ***one solution that must be sought; one cure that must be applied. It's simple, but it's not easy: heart-searching, life-altering prayer and fasting.***
- ***"The flesh got us into trouble, only prayer, fasting, and humility can get us out."***
- ***From Joel to Esther, and from Nineveh to Ezra, fasting secured God's protection or stayed His hand of judgment***
- ***Sadly, today fasting is replaced with bacon, eggs, and sausage rather than brokenness, surrender, and desperation.***
- ***Instead of rushing into prayer with our list of wants, we must wait on God to show us our true needs. Often, we are too busy to hear from Him. ... He wants to calm our restless soul, but we're too busy to wait, too rushed to be still, and too preoccupied to focus.***
- ***we often enter into prayer like a child who runs into the room and grabs his parents' attention, and then quickly exits.***
Can you imagine the knowledge and wisdom that goes unheard because we give God so little time to speak to us? Intimacy must precede petition. Once we spend time quietly seeking the heart of God, then we can present our requests to Him.
- ***Avoiding the prayer closet is really avoiding conviction and repentance.***
We have a choice to either pursue God or to let the relationship fall to the wayside.

- ***With God, there is always hope, but it will involve focused prayer, intentional fasting, and genuine perseverance — “But you, be strong and do not let your hands be weak, for your work shall be rewarded.”***

In homilies I stress the 4 types of prayer, ACTS: Adoration, Contrition, Thanksgiving, and Supplication.

In America, I observe that when we “do business”, we get right to the point presenting our concerns.

With Hispanic peoples, I note that they begin first with establishing relationship: a welcome, maybe a coffee, a solicitation of the welfare of the person and the family, and THEN getting down to business.

This approach would be better for me, first “seeking the heart of God before presenting requests.”

*Usually I begin with a greeting to the Lord, **adoration** in the Psalms of the Divine Office, praying a litany of praises of God, consecration to the Sacred Heart. Then for **contrition**, I pray a prayer of reparation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus as well as an examen of consciousness in Compline, night prayer.*

*When I have asked God for some need for self or another, and after it is granted, I pray TWICE as long in **Thanksgiving** as I did in supplication for favors granted.*

*Finally, I present my petitions, my **supplications**.*

When I read the Bible daily, I ask the Holy Spirit for wisdom and understanding.

*What I need to do more of is to be quiet before and after all this and to listen to God speak to me, rather than just presuming He will accompany me as my life unfolds during the day, just as Idleman says below: **“Once we spend time quietly seeking the heart of God, then we can present our requests to Him.”***

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Shootings, Sin, Suffering: What Can Turn America Around?



By **SHANE IDLEMAN** Published on June 17, 2022

When I write about turning America back to God, I'm **not under the delusion that we can fully create heaven on earth** — evil will always fight against good. I'm **talking about the desperate need for God's people to seek Him**: "The Lord is with you when you are with Him. If you seek Him, He will

be found by you, but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you.” (2 Chron. 15:2)

America’s decadence and depravity — from mass shootings and extreme violence to sexual abuse and perversion — is a direct result of rejecting God and suppressing the truth. (Romans 1)

The Futility of One Nation ‘Above’ God

America’s foundation was once securely built on God’s Word, but not so today. Massive cracks in the foundation have led to the complete deterioration of society. For more, watch *The Futility of One Nation Above God*. But, believe it or not, this shift away from God is not uncommon throughout our nation’s history. Remember, evil is always working against good.

Revival historian J. Edwin Orr once noted: “Not many people realize that in the wake of the American Revolution there was a moral slump ... and churches were in a terrible state.” Chief Justice John Marshall wrote that they were “too far gone ever to be redeemed.” Voltaire and Paine suggested that Christianity would be forgotten in 30 years. Princeton, Yale and Harvard had all drifted from God as students burned the Bible in the public square.

A Spiritual Earthquake is Often God’s Answer

It’s in these dark moments that the church can be awakened from her spiritual slumber and revived. From California’s early years of building missions to New England’s revivals under Whitefield, Wesley, and Edwards, God often pours His Spirit upon those who are desperate for more of Him. His life-giving rain floods the soil of the heart that is prepared.

What are you doing to prepare the soil of your heart?

There is one condition that must be met; **one solution that must be sought; one cure that must be applied. It's simple, but it's not easy: *heart-searching, life-altering prayer and fasting.***

The decadence and depravity we are seeing in America today is astounding and overwhelming. Are we too far gone? Have we reached the point of no return? Is there any hope?

Fasting, along with prayer, is a final step of desperation. In essence, we are saying, **“The flesh got us into trouble, only prayer, fasting, and humility can get us out.”** To be clear, fasting isn't a *good work*; it simply positions us to hear from a *good God*.

From Joel to Esther, and from Nineveh to Ezra, fasting secured God's protection or stayed His hand of judgment.

Dethrone King Stomach

Since the 1700s, America has called for over 140 national days of prayer, humiliation, fasting, and thanksgiving. **Sadly, today fasting is replaced with bacon, eggs, and sausage rather than brokenness, surrender, and desperation.**

I can hear it now, “But Shane, not as many people will attend prayer meetings and gatherings if we don't serve food.” And therein lies the problem — King Stomach is still on the throne for many of us. I'd rather have a small hungry remnant than a large stuffed gathering pleading for our country.

Food can be good and God-given, and there are times for feasting and fellowship, but spiritual apathy has obviously run its

course. Just like in the prophet Joel's time, it's time to call America to prayer and fasting. For more, watch *Transformed by Fasting – My 40-day Journey*.

Too Busy for God

From the upper room in Acts to the walls of the catacombs — and from the bended knees of the Puritans to us today — we must lay hold of the baton of prayer and run as if nothing else matters — because nothing else does.

Instead of rushing into prayer with our list of wants, we must wait on God to show us our true needs. Often, we are too busy to hear from Him. Oh, how it must pain the heart of God; He wants to calm our restless soul, but we're too busy to wait, too rushed to be still, and too preoccupied to focus. After all, we have things to do and places to go — we are simply too busy for God!

The More I Seek Him, the More I Find Him

Scripture is clear: Only those who “wait upon the Lord will renew their strength.” (Isaiah 40:31) **Prayer requests must follow intimacy with God.** Instead, we often enter into prayer like a child who runs into the room and grabs his parents' attention, and then quickly exits.

Can you imagine the knowledge and wisdom that goes unheard because we give God so little time to speak to us? Intimacy must precede petition. Once we spend time quietly seeking the heart of God, then we can present our requests to Him. (Phil. 4:6)

The more we seek Him, the more we find Him. That may not be proper English but it's wonderful theology.

Apostasy Begins at the Closet Door

Matthew Henry once wrote, “Apostasy begins at the closet door.” During quiet times of intimacy, God deals with us about certain habits that must go. He may also confront pride and a critical spirit. God also gives us wisdom and discernment and reinforces His will in certain areas. **Avoiding the prayer closet is really avoiding conviction and repentance.**

We have a choice to either pursue God or to let the relationship fall to the wayside. Which direction will you take?

The decadence and depravity we are seeing in America today is astounding and overwhelming. Are we too far gone? Have we reached the point of no return? Is there any hope?

With God, there is always hope, but it will involve focused prayer, intentional fasting, and genuine perseverance — “But you, be strong and do not let your hands be weak, for your work shall be rewarded.” (2 Chronicles 15:7)

Shane Idleman is the founder and lead pastor of Westside Christian Fellowship in Southern California and the creator of the [WCF Radio Network](#). His program, Regaining Lost Ground, points us back to God and reminds us that although times change, truth does not. His books, blogs, and sermons can all be found at [ShaneIdleman.com](#).

