

National Solemn Assembly

Information

THE GATHERING

A NATIONAL SOLEMN ASSEMBLY

# A CALL TO HOLD ANNUAL SOLEMN ASSEMBLIES

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Whenever a solemn assembly or sacred gathering was called in Scripture, it was often called by those in leadership - whether that be a priest, prophet or king.

Oftentimes it would first be called for a specific smaller leadership sphere before spreading to the entire nation. Even in America, our historical records verify that prior to every national awakening, the spiritual leadership of the day placed a heavy emphasis on fasting and gathering for times of solemn assemblies, typically in smaller groups that then led to larger gatherings.

During its inception, God will often speak to people in separate locations giving them the similar vision of the need for this type of gathering. When leaders and people meet who may not see each other often, or even know each other, they find that conversations turn to God's movement within their hearts. As a result, synergy arises between denominations and leadership that might not have been there before. And people who may have never worked together across church, denominational or organizational lines now have their paths cross in this one overarching purpose.

A solemn assembly for the purpose of restoration is a sacred gathering where God's people, during a specific time of fasting and prayer, seek the renewal of their relationship with Him through the repentance of sin and the passionate pursuit of the return of His presence in their midst. It can also be defined as a specific move of God, by His Holy Spirit, through His leadership where He gathers the saints to Himself.

Biblical history is replete with this similar theme of the assembling of the saints and God's subsequent restoration. After all, God has a heart for reconciliation. From the garden in Genesis to the heavens in Revelation, God ushers a call time and again for reconciliation prior to issuing judgment. He is swift to spare, if we will but ask Him for the new heart and the new spirit as His prescribed pathway to seeing hope restored and lives transformed (Ezekiel 18:30,31).

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Every year in January for the last several decades, I have led our congregation in a weeklong solemn assembly starting on Sunday morning and culminating with a “Break the Fast” breakfast on Saturday morning. This solemn assembly involves giving up some personal physical need or desire every day to call on God for His presence throughout the year. It also involves meeting together as a church body six times in the week, and as individual families one night.

I’m not proposing this as a standard process for carrying out a national solemn assembly, but I am proposing that we enter into something that is more comprehensive and more collective nationwide than a gathering on a Sunday, or two.

If every serious Bible believing church would do their own solemn assembly simultaneously with the others - whether that be for a solid week, or spread out over four weeks allowing time for personal reflection during the weekdays - we would seek God as a nation together. If church and organizational leadership would come together in humility and unity, we could actually see the hand of God move in our midst in a way we may have never imagined.

The problem is not merely our waiting on God to involve Himself in our country’s demise, but it is also that God is waiting on us to call on Him collectively, and according to His prescribed manner. A couple of logistical suggestions exist for how we might carry this out nationally, which include:

### ***SCHEDULE OPTION ONE:***

A weeklong national solemn assembly to be carried out in the following manner:

- Sunday, churches across the nation teach the practice of the solemn assembly while individuals continue to pray for personal revival.
- Monday, churches convene with families for family revival.
- Tuesday, churches convene with their leadership teams for a time of local solemn assembly while congregants are equipped with the tools to pray for God’s hand in their leadership and church revival.
- Wednesday, churches are united via The National Simulcast Event to participate in the culmination of the week through a national focus of prayer and seeking God for national revival.
- Thursday, congregants take time on their own to pull away from others and seek the Lord on their own, interceding for the nation.
- Friday, families come together again in a time of worship and prayer, celebrating God’s mercy, and believing for national transformation.
- Saturday, all participants gather at the church for a “Break the Fast” meal, enjoying each other’s fellowship and celebrating as a church the work that God is about to do.

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### ***SCHEDULE OPTION TWO:***

A four-week national solemn assembly to be carried out in the following manner:

- Week One Sunday gathering focuses on matters of personal revival, followed up with study notes, questions and prayer guide for personal time Monday-Saturday related to individual confession, renewal, vision and praise.
- Week Two Sunday gathering focuses on matters of family revival, followed up with study notes, questions and prayer guide for personal time Monday-Saturday related to familial confession, renewal, vision and praise. (note: for singles, family can refer to the future family or primary family.)
- Week Three Sunday gathering focuses on matters of church revival, followed up with study notes, questions and prayer guide for personal time Monday-Saturday related to church confession, renewal, vision and praise.
- Week Four Sunday gathering focuses on matters of societal revival, followed up with study notes, questions and prayer guide for personal time Monday-Saturday related to societal confession, renewal, vision and praise. The National Simulcast Event takes place on the Wednesday and the four-week assembly concludes with a "Break the Fast" meal on Saturday.

For pastors/leaders who would like additional teaching material in preparing sermon notes, study guide questions, etc., The Gathering website has a Facilitator's Kit designed to help churches prepare for the National Solemn Assembly, to include teaching notes on solemn assemblies, prayer, fasting, etc. Please visit [thegathering2017.com](http://thegathering2017.com) and click on "Resources" at the top of the page.

Of course these are logistical suggestions only, but any way we can begin to unite to address the underlying spiritual issues in our land and let our collective voices be heard on high will be a wonderful way to begin to turn our nation to God. We are too far down the road in our country of turning away from God for us to just ignore it, or simply bemoan it - and do nothing about it from a Biblically strategic vantage point. We must set aside our personal, church, denominational and organizational biases and egos - and come together underneath the overarching rule and call of Jesus Christ. We must do this to seek God's favor in turning our nation to Him.

Since national revival begins with Christians comprehensively functioning under God's rule then it is past time for a new declaration. America was born out of a desire for independence from the tyranny of England. But spiritual revival demands just the opposite. It requires verbal and visible dependence on God. If we want God to bless America then America must first bless God and that means His people must first totally dedicate allegiance to Him.