<u>Response to the 2012 Presidential Election</u>

We are in the middle of a great battle for the soul of our nation. Yet, in the midst of this battle, the Lord our God is in the midst of us. And He is mighty. He is the Lord, strong and mighty in battle. This is a fight. But it is a "good fight" because Jesus will always and ultimately lead us in His "triumphal procession." And through us He will "spread everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of Him" (2 Corinthians 2:14).

I am grateful for our nation's freedoms.

In a country where once only white male landowners could vote, I am glad to see not only all citizens given the right to vote—but also women and people of all races being elected into political offices.

I am grieved when we as a nation, in the name of "liberty," cast aside Biblical, moral standards, which have been foundational to our nation's strength and influence in the world.

I am grieved by our seeming indifference to aborting the lives of over 54 million children, denying them their "equal rights" to live and dream and fulfill their destinies.

I am grieved over the blatant disregard of the Biblical standard of the covenant of marriage, redefining it to accommodate our own conveniences.

I am grieved by a significant shift in our nation's posture toward the nation of Israel and our long-standing alliance to stand with them, honoring God's command in Genesis 12:3- "*And I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed."*

I am concerned about a national turn toward economic socialism and its impact on our financial future and our personal liberties; an unhealthy dependence on the government to meet our needs; and the vilifying of those who succeed.

I am concerned to see our nation divided along many of these lines. Concerned, because a nation divided against itself cannot stand (Matthew 12:25).

Yet, in the midst of all these changes, I am grateful for the things that do not change:

1. **Jesus is Lord of the nations** and King of the ages. He has an unlimited term in office. His reign will never cease.
2. **We are the salt of the earth**. We are the lights in the world. "If My people" (2 Chronicles 7:14). Not "if the Democrats" or "If the Republicans." The power to shift a nation lies with us.
3. **We are not of those who shrink back**. We have not received a spirit of fear. We have received the Holy Spirit—and He has filled us with so much power and love, we have a sound mind and a heart full of wisdom.
4. While I am thankful for our right to vote, **our greatest impact will be found in our call to pray and our command to love.**

5. We are **not simply called to "outlaw" sin. We have been called to overcome it.** Legislation does not fulfill the Law. Love does (Romans 13:10).
6. We are being called to **new levels of humility**, totally dependent on Jesus—knowing that apart from Him we can do nothing.
7. We do not exalt ourselves in arrogance or anger. Rather, **in humility He will exalt us by His mighty hand.** We will discover what it means to "do all things through Christ who strengthens (us)." We will discover what it means to be the "head, and not the tail." We will exercise our leadership and our influence in the spirit of Jesus—knowing that the "leader of all" must be the "servant of all."
8. It is not merely through our "protest" of the "bad news"—but through our **"proclamation" and demonstration of the "good news"** that we will shift a culture and restore our nation.
9. We must **receive ALL that God is pouring out upon us**. Desperate times call for Divine measures. Our Father did not spare His own Son. "Along with Him," He has "graciously and freely given us all things" (Romans 8:32). We need His "all things!" This is an hour calling us to "follow the way of love AND eagerly desire spiritual gifts" (1 Corinthians 14:1). We need His mercy AND His miracles.
10. This is not a time for cowering. It's **a time for courage**. In the face of great opposition, the church prayed this prayer:

    "Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen. Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus."
    After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly." (Acts 4:27-31)

This is not the end. It could very well be **the beginning**—of one of the **greatest spiritual awakenings** our nation has ever experienced.

So, "lift up your heads—that the King of glory may come in" (Psalm 24:9).

"Stand and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near" (Luke 21:28). We are securely in His hands. Firmly established in His plans.

With you for Jesus' glory,
Dave Hess