

Prayer for the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of 9/11 by Pastor George Spencer, Presented to the  
Glory of God at CrossRoad Church, Jacksonville Florida on Sunday, September 11, 2011

Eternal and Loving God, long ago you designed a world of pure love in which the people created by You could have freedom to live and love and enjoy the ideal, eternal life you intended for us to live. And with that life, you gave us the free will to honor you and to love you and each other, as You love us.

But with that free will came another choice, and there are people who choose to do evil instead of good, who choose to hate instead of love, who choose to curse instead of bless, who choose to destroy instead of create.

On this day 10 years ago, we stopped in shock, as we watched thousands of our brothers and sisters – Americans and people from all over the world – die an undeserved death before their time, because of the hatred of a few.

We watched as planes flew into buildings, and those buildings fell, and people were forced to jump or to be burned or to be crushed.

We watched as our loyal military people who protect us were themselves attacked and killed.

We heard the voices of a handful of heroes in a plane over Pennsylvania who died courageously, preventing the deaths of thousands more, with the words: "Let's roll!"

And as the tragedy sunk in, we turned to You, God, for answers.

We watched Your tender mercy, as You took the innocent home to be with you in heaven, to a place where there is no more hatred, no more destruction, no more pain, no more sorrow, no more tears. We watched the difference between Love and hate, as brave firefighters and police officers ran *into* the danger, to *help* those in need, and gave their lives out of love to *save* people they didn't even know, from the destruction and the hatred of those trying to kill people they didn't even know.

We watched Your strong love through our President as he sat with the ones we often consider the least important, but whom Jesus called the greatest in the Kingdom of heaven - our children - and then a few minutes later and in the years after, with Your strength, he became the leader You desire every leader to become.

We have watched Your fatherly love through these years with the survivors and those who were widowed and orphaned on that Tuesday morning, giving them the courage not only to survive but to really live.

In the days and years since then, we have seen that freedom is not free, that it must be paid for, always in watchfulness and being on guard, and often with the blood of our

sons and daughters, our servicemen and women, who willingly choose to fight for right over wrong, for good over evil, and for justice over vengeance.

We have seen that the foundation of our buildings may crumble, but the foundation of our nation can never be shaken as long as we are "one nation under God."

We have seen You bring faith out of tragedy, and we have seen that you can bring good from evil with Your three greatest gifts to us.

God, you bring us these gifts of faith, hope and love in the person of Jesus Christ, who showed us how to love in the face of evil people - before, during and after his death. Jesus died on the Cross to pay the penalty for our sins. You raised Jesus from death on the Cross and death in the tomb, to new life in this life, so that we could know that nothing in this life can defeat us, nothing in this life can stop us from loving You, and You from loving us, and nothing can keep us from the new life You promise us.

We trust in You, God, that You will come to us, as you did on that day 10 years ago, with the power to overcome evil with good, and that we will mount up with wings like eagles, and you will be our Rock and our Refuge, our Mighty Fortress and our Source of Faith forever.

We trust in You, God, that when everything seems hopeless, You WILL be with us, and give us hope through the people who give their lives for us to live in freedom today.

We trust in You, God, that YOUR love is still the greatest weapon in the world, and that love will ultimately win whatever war that is waged, because neither death nor life, nor angels nor demons, nor things in the present nor in the past - and no power, no height, no depth, no danger, no weapons, nor anything else in all creation can ever separate us from Your love.

So today we honor You as God, and we re-commit our heart and soul and lives to You and to You alone, in memory of those who died on 9/11, that they shall not have died in vain, and that their love will continue on through us, as we live our lives for glory of Your Kingdom, here at CrossRoad Church, and out there in the world, through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. AMEN.