

**A Prayer For A Briefing With Congressman Jeff Duncan**  
**Thursday, February 20, 2104**  
**Greenwood Chamber of Commerce**

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
our hearts are encouraged when we call to mind your mercy and patience,  
and we tremble when we consider your just and holy judgments.  
Both every citizen and *we the people* are accountable to you  
for the grace you've given and the privileges we enjoy.  
One day all human governments will retreat before the arrival of your kingdom,  
but until that day we thank you for the rule of law,  
for restraints upon the worst that is in us all,  
for a free pulpit in a free land,  
and for a chance to work together for the common good.  
We thank you, Lord, for those who offer themselves for public service  
and whose futures are shaped by our ballots.  
We pray especially today for our brother Jeff Duncan  
and for all who represent our beloved state in the nation's capital.  
Preserve them from personal and political vice and from the shame of lost trust.  
Give them wise counselors and true friends on both sides of the aisle,  
and may they never grow to hate those with whom they disagree.  
By your providence, O Lord, we live in these days as Americans,  
and to whom much is given, much is required.  
Our grand experiment is showing signs of wear and tear,  
and many are tempted to grow cynical and withdraw into private life alone.  
Save us from the indulgence of coasting on the work and sacrifice of others,  
from believing that our voice and vote no longer matter,  
and from the creeping despair that seems to trap so many of our citizens.  
Our lives, our beloved land and our futures are laid bare before you this day,  
and we are weighted in the balances.  
For this meal, for this political conversation,  
and for the churches of this city which shape the character of our people,  
we give you thanks through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

