

## THE OUTSIDE-THE-BOX FORMULA FOR REPUBLICAN SUCCESS.

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Democrats are ecstatic over their expectation of an easy win for Hillary Clinton to continue the fundamental transformation to Socialism advanced by the Obama administration. The polls indicate Republicans have no one to compete with Hillary, and given the present schism among Republicans, between conservatives and moderates, Hillary may not have to work very hard. Is there any way, then, for Republicans to win in 2016 to reset this nation's systems and institutions to look more like the America we once knew? I believe there is, but you won't hear about it on T.V. or even talk radio. In fact, it's so far "outside-the-box" that most politicians would be afraid to even think it. Ironically, it's as plain as the Motto on our coins, "In God We Trust." That must become the rallying cry for unity to bring Americans together once again to defeat the powers of godless Socialism. Let's take a lesson from our history.

At the very founding of our nation the United States was anything but united. It was, in fact, an association of thirteen different colonies with different religions, cultures and ethnic identities. There were deeply rooted differences particularly between the slave holding colonies and those that deemed slavery to be the ultimate "inhumanity to man." There were also deeply rooted religious differences, particularly between Roman Catholics and Protestants. The European tensions of the Reformation had simply moved to the New World to create New World tensions. How could thirteen colonies so different come together to defend against the greatest force in the known world?

In God's providential grace he raised up men like Jonathan Edwards and George Whitefield whose preaching would unite the thirteen colonies as "One Nation Under God." That was the one fundamental belief they all held in common. They all believed, as was reflected in one of their rallying calls, that there was "No King but Jesus!" Whether Catholic, Protestant, Baptist or Quaker, they could all come under the banner of Christendom, and even the Jew could come under the banner of the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob-- the God of the Bible.

It was this unity that helped break the stalemate at the Constitutional Convention when there was so much division that progress on a Constitution came to a deadlock until the wisdom of Ben Franklin suggested they take a time-out to seek the Lord's counsel. Remember the recorded address:

*Mr. President*

*"...In this situation of this Assembly, groping as it were in the dark to find political truth, and scarce able to distinguish it when presented to us, how has it happened, Sir, that we have not hitherto once thought of humbly applying to the Father of Lights to illuminate our understandings? In the beginning of the contest with Great Britain, when we were sensible of danger we had daily prayer in this room for the divine protection. Our prayers, Sir, were heard, and they were graciously answered. All of us who were engaged in the struggle must have observed frequent instances of a superintending providence in our favor. ...And have we now forgotten that powerful friend? I have lived,*

*Sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth- that God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without his aid? We have been assured, Sir, in the sacred writings, that 'except the Lord build the House they labour in vain that build it.'... I therefore beg leave to move, that henceforth prayers imploring the assistance of Heaven, and its blessings on our deliberations, be held in this Assembly every morning before we proceed to business, and that one or more of the Clergy of the City be requested to officiate in that service."*

As it turns out, after the Convention, and nine days after the first Constitutional Congress convened with a quorum (April 9, 1789), they implemented Franklin's recommendation. Two chaplains of different denominations were appointed, one to the House and one to the Senate, with a salary of \$500 each. This practice continues today, posing no threat to the First Amendment. How could it? The men who authorized the chaplains wrote the Amendment.

They succeeded because they were united as members of "One Nation Under God!" We can speak of countless times in our nation's history when our reaffirmation of this fundamental truth was key to our success as a nation, from President Lincoln's call to prayer in 1863 to President Roosevelt's D-Day prayer over the radio, to President Kennedy's reminder that our rights come not from the generosity of the state but from the hand of God. Every coin of currency boldly declares "In God We Trust." This is the unifying spirit of Americanism. President Eisenhower told us in 1953:

*"Without God there could be no American form of government, nor an American way of life. Recognition of the Supreme Being is the first –the most basic- expression of Americanism"*

If Republicans really want to win they will have to come back to first principles. Not only will they rally Americans around our common standard, but they may also employ the favor of Heaven which has been eluding us as we have drifted away from our public acknowledgement of the God who gave us liberty.

The cry of my heart is to hear a politician running for office begin his speech by boldly declaring, "We are One Nation Under God, and that truth will mark the beginning of all my public policy decisions."

That will be the words of a winning candidate. Outside the box? You better believe it. Foolishness? To some, absolutely. A winning strategy? I'd bet the future of my grandkids on it. Now, to find a man or woman of courage to carry it through.