American Views of Disasters, Relief, and Prayer

Survey of 1,040 American Adults
Methodology

- The online survey of adult Americans was conducted May 23-24, 2013
- A sample of an online panel representing the adult population of the US was invited to participate
- Responses were weighted by region, age, ethnicity, gender and income to more accurately reflect the population
Methodology Continued

- The completed sample is 1,040 online surveys
- The sample provides 95% confidence that the sampling error from this panel does not exceed ±3.1%
- Margins of error are higher in sub-groups
Survey Responses
One-third of Americans trust God more in times of suffering.

Q: “How do you feel about God when suffering occurs that appears unfair?”

- I doubt God exists: 7%
- I trust God more: 33%
- I am angry toward God: 5%
- I am confused about God: 25%
- I am resentful toward God: 3%
- I wonder if God cares: 11%
- I don't think about God in these situations: 16%
- None of these: 15%

Sponsored by LifeWay’s Bible Studies for Life curriculum
Nearly 60% of Americans agree their interest in God increase when a natural disaster occurs.

Q: "When a natural disaster occurs, my interest in God increases."
A majority of Americans trust faith-based agencies to be more responsible with donations than secular groups.

Q: "I trust faith-based disaster relief agencies to use their donations more responsibly than secular groups."
Almost 60% of Americans donate to relief agencies when a natural disaster occurs.

Q: "When a natural disaster occurs, to what type of relief agencies do you donate?"

- 32% I do not donate to any relief agencies
- 15% I donate to faith-based relief agencies only
- 12% I donate to secular relief agencies only
- 30% I donate to both faith-based and secular relief agencies
- 11% Don't know
A third of Americans agree that praying can avert natural disasters.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agreement Level</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly agree</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat agree</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat disagree</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly disagree</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Q: “Praying can avert natural disasters.”
30% of Americans will post a prayer using social media.

Q: "Do you post that you are praying for someone or something on social media (like Facebook or Twitter)?"
By about a 2-to-1 ratio, people who post prayers take a moment to actually pray versus consider the update a form of prayer.

Q: "If I post a prayer on social media,"
Significant Differences

Region
Age
Gender
Education Level
Church Attendance
Born-again, evangelical, or fundamentalist Christian
Significant Statistical Differences

- Comparisons were made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among region of the country, age, gender, and education level. Each category was divided into four groups.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Education Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>18-29</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>No College Degree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midwest</td>
<td>30-44</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>College Degree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South</td>
<td>45-54</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West</td>
<td>55-64</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>65+</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes:
Region is defined by US Census locations
Significant Statistical Differences

Comparisons were made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences in church attendance and whether they consider themselves a born-again, evangelical, or fundamentalist Christian.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Church Attendance</th>
<th>Born-again, evangelical, or fundamentalist Christian</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>More than once a week, About once a week</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Once or twice a month</td>
<td>No, Don’t Know</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Only on religious holidays</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rarely</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Never</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
“How do you feel about God when suffering occurs that appears unfair?”

- “I doubt God exists”
  - Americans age 18-29 (15%) are the most likely
  - Men are more likely than women (9% to 6%)
  - Americans who Never (19%) attend worship services are the most likely

- “I trust God more”
  - Americans in the South (40%) are the most likely
  - Women are more likely than men (37% to 29%)
  - Americans without a college degree are more likely than those with one (36% to 27%)
  - Americans who attend at least About once a week (50%) and Once or twice a month (43%) are more likely than those who attend Only on religious holidays (21%), Rarely (23%), and Never (11%)
  - Self-identified born-again, evangelical, or fundamentalist Christians are more likely (57% to 23%)
“How do you feel about God when suffering occurs that appears unfair?” continued

- "I am angry toward God"
  - American in the South (7%) are more likely than those in the West (3%)
  - Americans age 18-29 (8%) are more likely than those age 30-44 (3%) and 65+ (3%)
  - Americans age 55-64 (7%) are more likely than those age 30-44 (3%)

- "I am confused about God"
  - Americans age 65+ (17%) are less likely than those age 18-29 (29%) and 45-54 (29%)
  - Americans who Never (18%) attend worship services are less likely than those who attend Once or twice a month (28%), Only on religious holidays (31%), and Rarely (30%)

- "I am resentful toward God"
  - Americans age 18-29 (6%) are more likely than those age 55-64 (1%) and 65+ (1%)

- "I wonder if God cares"
  - Americans age 45-54 (5%) are less likely than those age 18-29 (15%), 30-44 (13%), and 55-64 (12%)
  - Americans without a college degree are more likely than those with one (12% to 8%)
“How do you feel about God when suffering occurs that appears unfair?”

continued

• “I don’t think about God in these situations”
  • Americans age 45-54 (8%) are the least likely
  • Men are more likely than women (19% to 13%)
  • Americans who Never (35%) attend worship services are the most likely
  • Self-identified born-again, evangelical, or fundamentalist Christians are less likely (6% to 20%)

• “None of these”
  • Americans in the Northeast (21%) are more likely than those in the South (13%) and West (12%)
  • Americans age 45-54 (22%) and 65+ (20%) are more likely than those age 18-29 (10%) and 30-44 (11%)
  • Americans who attend Only on religious holidays (23%) are more likely than those who attend at least About once a week (13%) and Once or twice a month (9%)
  • Self-identified born-again, evangelical, or fundamentalist Christians are less likely (9% to 17%)
“When a natural disaster occurs, my interest in God increases.”

- Americans in the South (32%) are more likely to Strongly agree than those in the Northeast (21%)
- Americans in the Northeast (21%) are more likely to Strongly disagree than those in the Midwest (13%) and South (12%)
- Americans age 45-54 (20%) are less likely to Somewhat agree compared to those age 18-29 (37%), 30-44 (30%), and 65+ (32%)
- Americans age 65+ (10%) are less likely to Strongly disagree than those age 18-29 (17%) and 45-54 (18%)
- Women when compared to men are
  - More likely to Strongly agree (31% to 25%)
  - Less likely to Strongly disagree (12% to 19%)
- Americans with a college degree compared to those without one are
  - Less likely to Strongly agree (24% to 31%)
  - More likely to Somewhat disagree (20% to 14%)
“When a natural disaster occurs, my interest in God increases.” continued

- Americans who attend at least About once a week are the most likely to Strongly agree (43%) and the least likely to Somewhat disagree (9%)
- Americans who Never attend are the least likely to Somewhat agree (12%) and the most likely to Strongly disagree (42%)
- Self-identified born-again, evangelical, or fundamentalist Christians are
  - More likely to Strongly agree (47% to 21%)
  - Less likely to Strongly disagree (4% to 20%)
“I trust faith-based disaster relief agencies to use their donations more responsibly than secular groups.”

- Americans in the Midwest (28%) are more likely to Strongly agree than those in the Northeast (16%) and West (17%)
- Americans in the West (19%) are more likely to Strongly disagree than those in the Midwest (12%) and South (11%)
- Americans age 30-44 (42%) and 65+ (39%) are more likely to Somewhat agree compared to those age 45-54 (27%) and 55-64 (28%)
- Americans age 18-29 (19%) and 55-64 (21%) are more likely to Somewhat disagree compared to those age 30-44 (10%) and 45-54 (11%)
- Americans age 18-29 (9%) are less likely to Strongly disagree than those age 30-44 (15%), 45-54 (19%), and 55-64 (16%)
- Americans with a college degree compared to those without one are
  - Less likely to Strongly agree (17% to 23%)
  - More likely to Somewhat disagree (17% to 12%)
  - More likely to Strongly disagree (19% to 11%)
“I trust faith-based disaster relief agencies to use their donations more responsibly than secular groups.” continued

- Americans who Never (37%) attend are the most likely to Strongly disagree
- Self-identified born-again, evangelical, or fundamentalist Christians are
  - More likely to Strongly agree (38% to 15%)
  - Less likely to Somewhat disagree (10% to 17%)
  - Less likely to Strongly disagree (8% to 16%)
“When a natural disaster occurs, to what type of relief agencies do you donate?”

- Americans in the Midwest (22%) are more likely to Donate to faith-based relief agencies only compared to those in the Northeast (9%) and South (13%)
- Americans in the West (18%) are more likely to Donate to secular relief agencies only compared to those in the Midwest (8%) and South (10%)
- Men are more likely than women to Donate to faith-based relief agencies only (18% to 12%)
- Americans with a college degree compared to those without one are
  - Less likely to Not donate to any relief agencies (27% to 37%)
  - More likely to Donate to secular relief agencies only (16% to 11%)
“When a natural disaster occurs, to what type of relief agencies do you donate?” continued

- Americans who Never (44%) or Rarely (41%) attend are the most likely to Not donate to any relief agencies.
- Americans who attend At least about once a week are
  - Most likely to Donate to faith-based relief agencies only (26%)
  - Least likely to Donate to secular relief agencies only (4%)
- Americans who Never (16%) attend are the least likely to Donate to both faith-based and secular relief agencies.
- Self-identified born-again, evangelical, or fundamentalist Christians are
  - Less likely to Not donate to any relief agencies (27% to 34%)
  - More likely to Donate to faith-based relief agencies only (21% to 12%)
  - Less likely to Donate to secular relief agencies only (6% to 15%)
  - More likely to Donate to both faith-based and secular relief agencies (38% to 27%)
“Praying can avert natural disasters.”

- Americans in the South (18%) are more likely to Strongly agree than those in the Midwest (10%) and West (9%)
- Americans in the Northeast (14%) are less likely to Somewhat agree compared to those in the Midwest (25%) and South (21%)
- Americans in the South (27%) are less likely to Strongly disagree than those in the Northeast (39%) and West (35%)
- Americans age 55-64 (14%) are less likely to Somewhat disagree compared to those age 18-29 (22%) and 45-54 (23%)
- Americans age 45-54 (22%) are the least likely to Strongly disagree
- Women as compared to men are
  - Less likely to Somewhat agree (18% to 23%)
  - Less likely to Somewhat disagree (16% to 22%)
- Americans with a college degree compared to those without one are
  - Less likely to Strongly agree (9% to 17%)
  - More likely to Strongly disagree (39% to 30%)
“Praying can avert natural disasters.” continued

- Americans who attend worship services at least About once a week are the most likely to Strongly agree (23%) and the least likely to Strongly disagree (17%)
- Americans who Never attend worship services are the least likely to Somewhat agree (8%), least likely to Somewhat disagree (11%), and the most likely to Strongly disagree (60%)
- Self-identified born-again, evangelical, or fundamentalist Christians are
  - More likely to Strongly agree (28% to 7%)
  - More likely to Somewhat agree (28% to 17%)
  - Less likely to Strongly disagree (15% to 39%)
“Do you post that you are praying for someone or something on social media (like Facebook or Twitter)?”

- Americans in the South (36%) are more likely to select “Yes” than those in the Northeast (25%) and West (25%)
- Americans in the South (61%) are less likely to select “No” than those in the Northeast (73%) and West (72%)
- Americans age 65+ are the least likely to select “Yes” (12%) and the most likely to select “No” (86%)
- Women as compared to men are
  - More likely to select “Yes” (36% to 24%)
  - Less likely to select “No” (61% to 73%)
- Americans who attend at least About once a week are the most likely to select “Yes” (45%) and the least likely to select “No” (52%)
- Americans who Never attend are the least likely to select “Yes” (13%) and the most likely to select “No” (87%)
- Self-identified born-again, evangelical, or fundamentalist Christians are
  - More likely to select “Yes” (51% to 22%)
  - Less likely to select “No” (47% to 75%)
“If I post a prayer on social media,“

- Americans in the South (26%) are more likely to Always take a moment to actually pray compared to those in the West (17%)
- Americans in the South (59%) are less likely to Not post prayers than those in the Northeast (68%) and West (69%)
- Americans age 65+ are the least likely to Always take a moment to actually pray (10%) and the most likely to Not post prayers (84%)
- Women as compared to men are
  - More likely to Always take a moment to actually pray (25% to 20%)
  - More likely to Consider posting the update to be a form of prayer (12% to 8%)
  - Less likely to Not post prayers (59% to 69%)
- Americans with a college degree compared to those without one are
  - Less likely to Always to a moment to actually pray (17% to 23%)
  - More likely to Not post prayers (70% to 62%)
“If I post a prayer on social media,” continued

- Americans who attend at least About once a week are the
  - Most likely to Always take a moment to actually pray (37%)
  - Least likely to Not post prayers (48%)
- Americans who Never attend are the
  - Least likely to Always take a moment to actually pray (7%)
  - Most likely to Not post prayers (88%)
- Self-identified born-again, evangelical, or fundamentalist Christians are
  - More likely to Always take a moment to actually pray (39% to 16%)
  - Least likely to Not post prayers (46% to 71%)
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