

*I wrote this guide just after 9/11 to help Christians in America know how to pray about terrorism and for terrorists.*  
— John Marion

## **TERRORISM**

The terrorism we are experiencing in the world today is designed to create fear in the hearts of people. Many are afraid of terrorism. The threat is real. Evil people across the world are investing great resources into planning and executing acts of violence on a mass scale.

Terrorism also causes confusion. It raises difficult questions like “Why would anybody resort to acts of terror?” or “How do we respond to tragedies like this?” Sorting through all the possible answers is confusing.

Those who use terror as a weapon understand that when a whole society is thrown into fear and confusion then the terrorists are able to advance their cause.

Terrorism is a great evil. It is the poisonous fruit of spiritual darkness which has its roots in the sinful nature of humanity.

And Islamic terrorism is the fruit of the specific spiritual darkness of Islam.

Islam denies that Jesus is God, that He was crucified, and that He is risen from the dead. The Bible calls this denial of the person and work of Jesus Christ the “spirit of the antichrist.”

Of course, Islam is not the only ideology that denies Jesus Christ, but the point is that as we look at Islamic terrorism we must be fully aware of the fact that Islam is diametrically opposed to the gospel. This will help us as Christians to understand the spiritual realities of what we are dealing with when we talk

about Islamic terrorism.

## **TERRORISTS**

Muslims are those who adhere to the teachings of Mohammed, the founder of Islam. For the Muslim who is serious about his beliefs, the life and teachings of Mohammed are the prime example to follow.

Muslim terrorists justify their acts of terror with specific, historical examples from the life and teaching of Mohammed.

Muslim terrorists are simply following an ideology which was preached and lived by Mohammed. They are not illogical or insane; they are deceived.

## **STATE AND CHURCH**

So how should the Christian pray about Islamic terrorism and pray for Muslim terrorists?

Before I answer that question, I want to set the context by highlighting the distinction between the role of government and the role of the church, the body of Christ.

It is good and right for the government to pursue justice against those who plan or commit acts of terrorism. Government is the God-ordained institution which “bears the sword” for the purpose of upholding justice and punishing evil.

I believe the Church should indeed be a voice to hold the government accountable for living up to this God-given responsibility. The Church itself, however, has not been given the responsibility to bear the sword. The two institutions serve different purposes.

Christians should be involved in government. When Christians, as agents of the government,

pursue justice by the use of the sword, their actions, whether in the military or law enforcement, are acts of justice. They are a proper response to terror.

But the actions of the military and law enforcement do not represent the fullness of response to terrorism which God expects of the Church.

In other words, if the body of Christ responds to Islamic terrorism only by participating in the actions of the government, then the Church is failing in its own God-given responsibility to be salt and light at this time in history when Islam is the great challenge to the entire world.

## **PRAYER**

So what can Christians do? How can the Church respond? What is the role of the body of Christ? The answer is to pray. Every Christian can pray. Some can do more, but everyone can pray.

Here’s how.

### **1. Pray for the Progress of Justice**

Since the government has the responsibility to bear the sword, we should pray that God would grant it success in pursuing justice by tracking down and catching terrorists.

This is dangerous business, both physically and spiritually. So let us pray for those risking their lives on the front lines and those working hard behind the scenes to promote justice against evildoers.

### **2. Pray for Peace and Wisdom**

As non-Christians are thrown into fear and confusion as a result of Islamic terrorism, Christians have the opportunity to allow God

to grant us peace and wisdom. The peace of God through our Lord Jesus Christ is beyond human understanding, a peace “not as the world gives.” It is therefore a powerful witness to non-Christians.

There is no reason why any follower of Christ should be captivated by fear. And there is no reason why any Christian should be confused about the fact that Islam is a spiritually dark ideology which is of the spirit of the antichrist.

We must seek God through prayer and Bible study for this peace and wisdom in our response to Islamic terrorism.

### 3. Pray for the Salvation of Terrorists

How many Christians in America make a habit of praying for Osama bin Laden and other Muslim terrorists? Not enough!<sup>1</sup>

Since these terrorists are trapped in spiritual darkness, we should ask God to open their hearts and minds to truth and light.

The New Testament tells of a terrorist called Saul of Tarsus. He was committing acts of terror against Christians, hunting them from house to house and city to city. He persecuted them, threw them into prison and took responsibility for putting them to death. And what happened to Saul of Tarsus?

*He met Jesus Christ and was dramatically changed.*

We know him as the great Apostle Paul. He went on to establish many churches and wrote much of the New Testament.

<sup>1</sup> For excellent resources on praying for terrorists, see “Adopt a Terrorist for Prayer” at: [www.atfp.org](http://www.atfp.org). (ATFP is not associated with Truth For Muslims.)



I personally know a number of former Muslims who fought for the Islamic cause. They, and many others in our generation, are now our brothers and sisters in Christ!

I’ve also met many Muslims who are working hard to oppose the gospel of Christ and I’ve been able to tell them something about Christ that they didn’t know. I believe that God’s word given to them now can bear fruit years later.

God is in the business of changing hearts. When the Holy Spirit draws people to Jesus Christ, their hearts and minds are opened to truth and light by the grace of God.

The terrorists, blinded to the truth and planning evil deeds of violence, are those who can be transferred from the domain of darkness into the kingdom of God’s own Son!

This is not the role of the government – it can’t do these things. It is up to us as the body of Christ to pray about terrorism and for Muslim terrorists.

*John Marion and his wife Michele have been in full-time Muslim ministry – including evangelism, discipleship, church planting, teaching about Islam, and leadership development in America – since 1982. They lived in Afghanistan during the time of the mujabadeen in the mid-1990s, leading up to the rise of the Taliban.*

*John founded Truth For Muslims in 2004. TFM is dedicated to bringing a “comprehensive, Biblical response to Islam in America” through evangelism, apologetics, and public accountability.*

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Edition 2.0 (Aug. 2008)

# Islamic Terrorism and Muslim Terrorists

*a Prayer Guide  
for  
Christians*

by John Marion

distributed by



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