

# Why Should I Pray For My Spiritual Leaders?

## Selected Scripture

The foundation for becoming a Hedgebuilder is understanding why believers should pray for their spiritual leaders. This is also crucial for building a Hedgebuilders team. The Bible reveals several reasons why the spiritual leaders of a church need prayer.

- ✓ *It is God's will for you to pray for your spiritual leaders (1 Thessalonians 5:25).*
  
- ✓ *It is the only way that your spiritual leaders can fulfill their accountability to God (James 3:1).*
  
- ✓ *It is the best defense against Satan's hatred of your spiritual leaders (1 Peter 5:8).*
  
- ✓ *It is their great need because of their vulnerability to temptation (Luke 22:31-32).*
  
- ✓ *It is essential because of their visibility and influence (1 Samuel 12:13-14).*
  
- ✓ *It is crucial for the effectiveness of their ministry (Jeremiah 32:17).*

## Practical Applications:

- (1) Pray that God will fill your heart with the desire and power to pray for your spiritual leaders.
- (2) Understand the incredible difference that your prayers will make in the lives and ministries of your spiritual leaders.
- (3) Ask God to help you grow in appreciation for your spiritual leaders.

# The Power Of Praying For Your Leaders

## Acts 12

How does God respond when we pray for our leaders? God delights in our prayers for our spiritual leaders. He loves our intercession for them. In Acts 12, we have an example of what happens when we pray for our leaders. It is a vivid demonstration of what God does when we stand in the gap for our leaders.

*(1) God sends divine help into the leader's life.*

When you pray for your leaders, God will send help into their lives. Whatever their need is, God will grant them help as we pray for them.

*(2) God covers the leader with divine protection.*

As you pray for your leaders, God will protect them physically, spiritual, emotionally, and financially. He will also grant protection over their marriages and families.

*(3) God thwarts the schemes of the evil one against your leader.*

Satan is out to hinder, hurt, and destroy your spiritual leaders. Yet, your prayers can thwart all of his wicked schemes against them.

*(4) God will strengthen the church.*

Your prayers for your leaders will actually bless and strengthen the church. The church that prays fervently for its spiritual leaders can expect God's blessing and help.

### **Practical Applications:**

- ✓ Your prayers for your leaders are significant and they do make a difference.
- ✓ The enemy will try to attack the leadership of your church in a variety of ways.
- ✓ The enemy's schemes cannot stand against the prayers of God's people and the power that is released through them.
- ✓ God blesses and strengthen the church that prays for its leadership.

# Building A Hedgebuilders Team

## Selected Scripture

The focus of this message is on practical ways to involve believers in praying for their leaders.

(1) *What is a spiritual hedge?* (**Job 1:9-10, Jeremiah 32:17**)

A spiritual hedge is a wall of God's blessing, protection, and power that guards the lives of your spiritual leaders and enables them to be effective in ministry. This hedge is built through prayer.

(2) *Who can be a Hedgebuilder?* (**Hebrews 11:6**)

First – You must believe that God hears and answers prayer.

Second – You must be committed to your spiritual leaders.

Third – You must be committed to praying faithfully for your spiritual leaders.

(3) *How do you build a Hedgebuilders Team?* (**Colossians 4:2**)

- ❑ Pray.
- ❑ Share this burden with your pastor.
- ❑ Recruit believers who will be committed to praying.
- ❑ Train those who will commit to be Hedgebuilders.
- ❑ Launch the ministry.
- ❑ Update and develop special themes.
- ❑ Have annual times of celebration and sharing.

(4) *How you maintain a Hedgebuilders ministry?* (**Luke 18:1**)

- ❑ Prepare for apathy.
- ❑ Continue to train.
- ❑ Continue to encourage one another.
- ❑ Pray for the hedge.

### Practical Applications:

- ✓ Through the Spirit's leadership and hard work, you can develop a powerful and effective hedge around your spiritual leaders.
- ✓ God desires to build spiritual hedges around His leaders.
- ✓ A Hedgebuilder does not have to be a "prayer warrior" or "super spiritual saint."

# The Church That Builds Hedges

## Exodus 17:8-16

What does the church that builds hedges look like? What are the characteristics of a church that prays for its spiritual leaders? In **Exodus 17**, we see the traits that will manifest themselves in the church that builds hedges.

(1) *It will be able to withstand the attacks of the enemy.*

As you pray for your spiritual leaders, it will protect the church from the attacks of the enemy.

(2) *Leaders will be able to carry out God's will for the body.*

As you pray for your spiritual leaders, God will enable them to powerfully and effectively carry out His will for the body and their ministries.

(3) *God will help the church to stand strong in the battles that it faces.*

If the church is going to stand strong and be victorious, it must pray for and support its spiritual leaders.

(4) *God will reveal Himself in significant ways.*

When God's people pray for their spiritual leaders, He will make His presence and power known among them.

### Practical Applications:

- ✓ The church that prays for its leaders will exhibit spiritual strength.
- ✓ A "prayed-for" leader can be effective in fulfilling His calling.
- ✓ God will honor the church that prays for its leaders.