



THE PRAYER CLOSET

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Praying For Your Pastor

It is the duty and privilege of all believers to pray for their pastors. God demands and expects that believers will pray for their pastors. It is true that pastors need to pray. The blessing and power of a pastor's preaching and ministry will be determined by his prayer life. No man will ever go beyond the depth and intensity of his prayer life. Yet, at the same time, the believers must pray for their pastors. Great preachers and great pastors are men who have believers praying for them on a continual basis.

The apostle Paul asked for the prayers of believers. If the apostle Paul desired and asked for the prayers of other believers, how much more should believers pray for their pastors? Paul knew the value of having believers pray for him and his ministry. In his letters, Paul requests five times for believers to pray for him. It must be remembered that Paul is asking for the prayers of believers. Yet, it needs to be pointed out that the Holy Spirit was inspiring Paul to write these requests. Paul's requests are actually God's demands for all believers to pray for their leaders. The five times that Paul requests prayer for himself and his ministry are:

1 Thessalonians 5:25: "Brethren, pray for us."

Romans 15:30: "Now I beg you, brethren, through the Lord Jesus Christ, and through the love of the Spirit, that you strive together with me in your prayers to God for me."

Philippians 1:19: "For I know that this will turn out for my salvation through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ."

Philemon 22: "But, meanwhile, also prepare a guest room for me, for I trust that through your prayers I shall be granted to you."

2 Corinthians 1:11: "You also helping together in prayer for us, that thanks may be given by many persons on our behalf for the gift granted to us through many."

From these verses, it is apparent that God wants believers to pray for their pastors. Pastors are in desperate need of prayer.

The main reason that you as a believer should pray for your pastor is because God demands it. To fail to pray for your pastor is disobedience to God. It is a sin. A pastor is a gift of God to the church. The head of the church, Jesus Christ, has placed that pastor in that church (**Ephesians 4:11-12; Revelation 2:2**). As with all of God's gifts, there is a responsibility to be a good steward of what God gives. To fail to support and pray for the pastor is to despise the gift that Christ has given to the church. It is a failure to be a good steward of God's gift. This is a sin in the sight of God.

A second reason that you as a believer should pray for your pastor is because pastors have more responsibility and accountability. All people are responsible and accountable to God. Yet, pastors bear the burden of a greater responsibility and accountability. Pastors will face a more strict judgment than others will.

HAVING TROUBLE WITH PRAYER?

As you read this newsletter, it is my hope and prayer that you are stirred and motivated to pray and spend time with God. The goal of this newsletter is to lead people into deeper fellowship with God by helping people to pray more effectively and consistently. Yet, it is necessary that I remind you of two basic truths concerning prayer.

First, the only people who can pray and have fellowship with God are those who have a personal relationship to God through Jesus Christ. The privilege of prayer belongs only to those who have surrendered their lives to Jesus Christ by faith and repentance. God becomes your Father only when you turn from your sin and to Christ in true faith (**Galatians 3:26**)! It is impossible to know God or pray to God unless you have turned from your sin and surrendered to the Lord Jesus Christ in true faith (**John 1:18; 5:37-38; 14-6, 10-11, 24**).

If you have never done this, your prayers are dead and useless. You must acknowledge your sin to God (**Exodus 20:1-20; Romans 3:9-20, 23**). You have failed to do what God commands and you have done what God forbids. Therefore, you are guilty, condemned, and headed to an eternity in hell. Yet, God has sent His son, Jesus Christ, to save sinners (**John 1:29; 3:16-19; Acts 4:12**). You must turn from your sinful, selfish lifestyle to Jesus Christ, trusting Him as your Savior and surrendering to Him as your Lord and Master (**Luke 13:1-3; Romans 10:9-10**). The problem in your prayer life may be that you have never come to know God in a personal relationship. It is only when you know God through Jesus Christ that you can truly pray and have fellowship with God.

Second, you must be pursuing a holy life to have a powerful prayer life. You may be thinking, "I know I am a Christian. Yet, my prayers seem so lifeless and dead." When teaching how to pray, the Lord Jesus declares to pray to your Father "who is in heaven." The Lord Jesus Christ is emphasizing the fact that your Father is a holy and sovereign God. Those who enter into His presence must be dealing with the sin in their lives. You cannot be complacent with wind and expect to have power in prayer. You cannot go for days without confessing personal sin and expect God to honor and answer your prayers.

The Bible says in Psalm 66:18, "**If I regard iniquity (sin) in my heart, the Lord will not hear.**" You cannot harbor or cherish sin in your life and at the same time expect to have power in prayer. **START READING PSALM 15 ON A DAILY BASIS!! BE DILIGENT TO CONFESS YOUR SINS DAILY!** Ask God to reveal your sin to you. Confess that sin and forsake it (**1 John 1:9**).

The Bible says in **James 3:1**, "My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a *stricter judgment* (emphasis mine)." There is a standard for "teachers" or pastors and for all others. **There is a divine double standard!** In other words, pastors bear a greater responsibility and accountability before God than all others. For this reason, pastors need the believers of a church to pray continually and intensely for them. This means that you need to continually pray for you pastor; he has to live up to a stricter standard and faces a more severe and searching judgment before the judgment seat of Christ.

A third reason that you need to pray for your pastor is that he is a greater target for the devil. The Bible states in **1 Peter 5:8**, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour." The devil is the fierce enemy of the church. Nothing would delight him more than to see the failure or downfall of a pastor.

All believers are targets of the devil. Yet, the devil is more specific, intentional, and persistent when it comes to pastors. He actively works to hinder and destroy pastors. The principle that needs to be remembered is this: the higher up you go on the ladder of Christian leadership, the higher you go on the devil's hit list. The devil would rather destroy a pastor than he would anyone else. And, he will throw all the power of hell behind this wicked and hateful purpose.

Another reason that you need to pray for your pastor is because he is more vulnerable to temptation. Since he is a greater target for the devil, this means that the temptations the devil throws at him will be much more intense and frequent. The devil and demons will attempt to exploit the weaknesses and sin problems of a pastor. Your pastor needs the protection from this. You can provide this protection for him by continually interceding for him.

You need to pray for your pastor because of the influence that he has on others. A pastor has wide influence on people, whether it is direct or indirect. If he falls, it will have a devastating effect on many people. When a pastor falls, it has a ripple effect. His fall devastates those who are the closest to him to those who only had an acquaintance with him. It will also give the enemies of Christ and His church an opportunity to blaspheme Christ, ridicule His church, and question the Word of God.

At the same time, a pastor can have a powerful impact on the lives of numerous people. His preaching and ministering can significantly impact those who are the closest to him and those who only have an acquaintance with him. This will be due primarily to the prayers of the believers whom he leads. The influence of your pastor will be primarily determined by how intensely and specifically you pray for him.

Next, you need to pray for your pastor because of his visibility. The pastor is always in the eyes of the congregation and the people in the community. For this reason, he is often the target of criticism and gossip. The pastor is observed carefully and his life and ministry are no secret to anyone. This places a heavy burden on pastors. They need supernatural help to deal with this. Your prayers open the way for them to receive the help that they need to deal with this.

A final reason that you need to pray for your pastor is because your prayers will determine the effectiveness of his ministry. E. M. Bounds wrote, "**A praying church creates a spiritual atmosphere most favorable to preaching.**" A church that continually and intensely prays for its pastor will have a powerful and effective pastor. Again, E. M. Bounds writes, "**Prayer makes preaching strong, gives it unction, and makes it stick.**" Many times a congregation wants to complain about its pastor. It is hypocrisy to complain about a pastor if you never pray for him. A church that does not pray for its pastor should not expect a powerful and effective ministry from its pastor. A pastor is nothing and can do nothing without the prayers of the believers of the church. As Vance Havner once wrote, "**Many churches think they need a new pastor when all they need to do is pray for the one they have!**" It is time that believers hear and take to heart the words of Gardiner Spring in his "A Plea To Pray For Pastors":

If a people are looking for rich sermons from their minister, their prayers must supply him with the needed material. If they expect powerful and successful sermons, their prayers

must make him a blessing to the souls of men! . . . It is in their own closets that the people of God most effectively challenge their beloved ministers to take heed to the ministry they have received from the Lord Jesus . . . It is at a fearful expense that ministers are ever allowed to enter the pulpit without being preceded, accompanied, and followed by the earnest prayers of the churches. **It is no marvel that the pulpit is so powerless, and ministers so often disheartened when there are so few to hold up their hands. The consequences of neglecting this duty is seen and felt in the everlasting perdition of men; while the consequences of regarding it would be the ingathering of multitudes into the kingdom of God, and new glories to the Lamb that was slain** (emphasis mine).

God expects pastors to take prayerful interest in the spiritual walk and the specific needs and problems of many. Pastors carry the prayer burden for every person in his congregation. Yet, who prays for the pastor's spiritual walk? Who prays for the pastor's needs and problems. No matter how well you pay your pastor, praise him, or work for him, it is only through earnest, strategic prayer that you can ever really help him be an effective minister in the hands of an Almighty God.

I want to challenge you to pray for your pastor. And I want to challenge you to intercede for other pastors. This is God's demand of you. This will bring the blessing and power of God on their ministry and preaching. The following prayer list is offered to help you in your praying. These requests are based on the Word of God. Along with these, you need to pray about the specific needs that your pastor and other pastors have. This prayer list is simply a guideline to help you.

HIS RELATIONSHIP TO GOD

Please pray that your pastor will be:

- (1) **A man after God's own heart:** "Father, I ask you to make my pastor a man after Your own heart which will do all Your will (Acts 13:22; 1 Samuel 16:7)";
- (2) **A man of the Word of God:** "Father, cause my pastor to love the Word with all his heart and enable him to memorize and meditate on it all the day (Psalm 119:97)";
- (3) **Guided by God in all that he does:** "O Lord, I plead that You will guide my pastor in all that he says and does (Psalm 37:23)";
- (4) **Growing and maturing in his prayer life:** "God, I ask that you would make my pastor a mighty man of prayer (Mark 1:35)";
- (5) **Filled with the Holy Spirit:** "Father, I ask you to constantly control and empower my pastor for his own Christian life and the task that you have given him (Ephesians 5:18)";
- (6) **Manifesting the fruit of the Spirit:** "Lord, I ask that the fruit of the Holy Spirit will be powerfully and clearly displayed in my pastor's life (Galatians 5:22-23)";
- (7) **Truly humble:** "Father, I ask that my pastor will be humble, depending totally on You and remaining useable by You (1 Peter 5:5-6)";

(8) **Growing in godliness and holiness:** “God, I plead that You would make my pastor into a holy and godly man that You can use in a dynamic way (1 Timothy 4:7, 6:11; Hebrews 12:14)”;

(9) **Diligent in resisting temptation:** “Father, enable my pastor to overcome temptation and give him a hatred of sin in any form (1 Corinthians 10:13)”;

(10) **Doctrinally sound:** “God, teach my pastor the truth of the Word of God by the power of the Holy Spirit so that he can explain, proclaim, and defend the Word of God (1 Timothy 4:15; 2 Timothy 2:15; 1 Timothy 4:15-16)”;

(11) **Growing in his leadership skills:** “Lord God, enable my pastor to fulfill the calling that You have given to him (1 Timothy 3:1-7; 1 Timothy 3:15; 1 Peter 5:1-4)”;

(12) **A genuine servant:** “Father, I plead that you would give my pastor a servant’s heart and enable him to compassionately minister to this congregation and the lost in this community (Philippians 2:5)”;

HIS PREACHING

(1) **That he would be a Christ-centered and Christ exalting preacher-**1 Corinthians 2:1-4;

(2) **That he would remember that God, the Lord Jesus Christ, and the angels are listening to His preaching-**2 Timothy 4:1;

(3) **That he would preach all of the Word of God-**Acts 20:20-21, 27; 2 Timothy 4:2;

(4) **That he would preach in the power of the Holy Spirit-**Acts 4:8-12;

(5) **That he would preach the Word of God boldly and fearlessly-**2 Timothy 4:1-2;

(6) **That he would not be afraid of men but faithful to preach the Word of God-**Proverbs

(7) **That he would have the time and be disciplined to study the Word of God-**1 Timothy 4:15;

(8) **That the Word of God would be central and absolute in his preaching and ministry-**2 Timothy 3:15-16;

(9) **That his preaching would be used by God to save the lost, mature the believers, and build up the church-**2 Timothy 4:5 (“do the work of an evangelist”); Ephesians 4:11-16;

(10) **That he would be faithful to preach the truth in spite of opposition or indifference-**1 Timothy 6:12, 20-21; 2 Timothy 3:13-14, 4:2-4;

HIS MINISTRY

(1) **That he would have a fruitful ministry-**John 15:16; Colossians 1:28;

(2) **That he would be devoted to prayer and the Word-**Acts 6:4;

- (3) That he would intercede and instruct the congregation-1 Samuel 12:23; Romans 1:9-10;
- (4) That he would equip the saints for service and discipleship-Ephesians 4:11-12; 2 Timothy 2:2;
- (5) That he would be protected from Satan and all his attacks-2 Thessalonians 3:1-3;
- (6) That he would be protected from and strengthened during the attacks of unregenerate church members-2 Timothy 4:15-18; 2 Corinthians 11:26 ("false brethren");
- (7) That God would give him insight and direction into the solutions for the problems of the church-1 Kings 3:7-9;
- (8) That God would give him wisdom and discernment in counseling those who come to him for help or advice-Proverbs 2:6;
- (9) That he will have a strong, close, and harmonious relationship with those in leadership in the church-Psalm 133:1; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; Amos 3:3;
- (10) That he will be able to respond to criticism and opposition in a gracious, Christlike way combined with a determination to be faithful to God and His Word-Matthew 5:10-12, 43-48, 10:28; Romans 12:14, 17-21;

HIS RELATIONSHIP TO THE CHURCH

- (1) Pray that the congregation will be stirred by the Spirit of God to pray for your pastor-1 Thessalonians 5:25;
- (2) Pray that the congregation will have a growing love and hunger for the Word of God-Psalm 119:97;
- (3) Pray that the deacons and the congregation will be committed to the pastor's ministry and leadership-Hebrews 13:17;
- (4) Pray that the congregation will respect and love the pastor-1 Thessalonians 5:12-13;
- (5) Pray that God would silence any rumors, gossip, or slander that is being spread about the pastor-Proverbs 15:28, 20:19, 21:28;

HIS RELATIONSHIP TO HIS FAMILY

- (1) Pray that the pastor's family would be loving, unselfish, respectful, and understanding to each other-Ephesians 5:25; 1 Peter 3:7; Ephesians 5:33; Ephesians 6:1-2, 4;
- (2) Pray that God would strengthen and bless your pastor's marriage and family life-Proverbs 5:15-20;
- (3) Pray that the pastor's family would be a source of joy and blessing to one another-Proverbs 23:24, 31:28, 30;

(4) Pray that the pastor's family will experience constant peace and protection, especially from the attacks of Satan-Psalm 91:1-8;

Praying For Your Deacons

Genuine spiritual leadership is a necessity for the church that will be effective in carrying out God's purpose. A church that does not have godly, Spirit-filled, and Bible-leadership is a disgrace to the Lord Jesus Christ. This type of church will not be effective in carrying out God's purpose. It will be powerless and unable to fulfill the task assigned to her by the Lord Jesus Christ, the Head of the church.

It is time that we, the body of Christ, understand that the church is dependent on godly leadership. The church rises or falls on the basis of her leadership. It is impossible to expect a church to grow spiritually, numerically, and financially if its leaders are not qualified according to the Bible, filled with the Holy Spirit, and seeking to lead according to God's Word.

Genuine church growth is not an accident nor a coincidence. Genuine church growth is when sinners are converted to Jesus Christ, truly disciplined, and make a visible, tangible difference in the church and their sphere of life. And, this is a result of Spirit-filled, Bible-centered leadership. **Any clown can get a crowd together, yet, it takes godly, Spirit-filled, and Bible-centered leadership to build a church that glorifies Jesus Christ, obeys the Word of God, and carries out the will of God.**

When the church functions as God commands in His Word, He adds to the church (Acts 2:40-47; 6:1-7). An essential part of a church functioning as God commands in His Word is to have godly, Spirit-filled, and Bible centered leadership. This is why three books in the New Testament are dedicated to church leadership (1 Timothy 3:14-15; 2 Timothy 1:13, 2:1-2; Titus 1:5). These books emphasize the necessity of establishing and maintaining godly leadership for the church. A church cannot expect to experience true growth, fulfill the Great Commission mandate, or please God without this.

The leadership of the pastor and deacons is crucial for a church. It is essential that you pray for and support your pastor. Yet, it is just as essential that you pray for and support your deacons. A pastor cannot do the work of ministry and leadership alone. Without the support and godly leadership of the deacons, the pastor is often limited in fulfilling his ministry and his calling in that church. The deacons play a major role in providing leadership and ministry for the church. If these men do not provide this, the church will be hindered and even crippled.

It is unfortunate that the office of deacon has become the object of ridicule and contempt in many situations. Regrettably, this is partly due to the fact that many unqualified, and even unregenerate, men have been placed in this office. These men have become cancers on numerous local churches and have done considerable damage to the witness of churches and the ministries of many pastors.

Yet, the office of deacon has also been disgraced by a lack of support and prayer from the congregation. When a church sets men apart for this office, this is a commitment to pray for and support these men. Too many churches see their deacons simply as targets for criticism and contempt rather than spiritual leaders who desperately need their prayers. Deacons are spiritual leaders who need the prayers and support of God's people. You are not pleasing God if you are not supporting and praying for your deacons.

The following prayer list is provided as a guide to help you in praying for your deacons. These prayer requests are based on the Word of God and is consistent with God's will for these men. You need to add your requests for their particular needs and problems along with these requests.

(1) Pray that God would give your deacons the assurance of salvation-1 John 5:13; 2 Corinthians 13:5;

- (2) **Pray that your deacons will be filled with the Holy Spirit-Acts 6:3; Ephesians 5:18 (In Acts 6, it is important to notice that Spirit-filled leadership resolves problems in the church; Spirit-filled leaders do not create or cause problems);**
- (3) **Pray that your deacons will have a growing love and hunger to know and obey the Word of God-Psalm 1:2; 119:33, 36; 44, 48, 97, 112-113, 127, 159;**
- (4) **Pray that your deacons will be filled with spiritual wisdom and discernment-Acts 6:3; Proverbs 2:3-6, 10-12;**
- (5) **Pray that your deacons will be men of serious and balanced character-1 Timothy 3:8 (“grave or reverent”);**
- (6) **Pray that your deacons will be men of reliable and godly speech-1 Timothy 3:8 (“not double-tongued”);**
- (7) **Pray that your deacons will be men of unquestionable honesty-1 Timothy 3:8 (“not greedy for money”);**
- (8) **Pray that your deacons will be men who understand the Word of God and are growing in their ability to share and defend the Word of God-1 Timothy 3:8 (“holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience”);**
- (9) **Pray that your deacons will be men of godly conduct-1 Timothy 3:10 (“blameless”);**
- (10) **Pray that your deacons will provide stable, sound, and godly leadership in his home-1 Timothy 3:12);**
- (11) **Pray that your deacons’ wives will live godly and sincere lives-1 Timothy 3:11;**
- (12) **Pray that your deacons will be faithful and serve well in this office-1 Timothy 3:13;**
- (13) **Pray that your deacons will be bold and faithful personal witnesses of the Lord Jesus Christ-Acts 1:8, 4:31;**
- (14) **Pray that your deacons will be faithful in their finances and will honor God in their personal giving-Malachi 3:8-11;**
- (15) **Pray that God will give each of your deacons a servant’s heart-Acts 6:2-3;**
- (16) **Pray that God will give your deacons a deep love and commitment to your pastor-1 Thessalonians 5:12-13.**
- (17) **Pray that God will make your deacons holy and godly-1 Thessalonians 4:3; Hebrews 12:14.**

WHAT KIND OF SPIRITUAL FOLLOWER ARE YOU?

The Word of God declares the personal qualities and duties that are to characterize the lives of spiritual leaders. Spiritual leaders will be accountable to God for how they lived and how they ministered. They will have to answer to God for how they labored to make these qualities a part of their lives and how they fulfilled these duties in their personal lives.

At the same time, the Word of God reveals the attitudes and actions that believers are to have toward their spiritual leaders. All believers will have to give an account to God for what their attitude was and what actions they took or didn't take toward their spiritual leaders. Every believer will be held accountable for how they treat their spiritual leaders. **Pastors and deacons will be judged by Jesus Christ concerning the quality of their spiritual leadership; you will be judged by Jesus Christ concerning the quality of the support and prayers that you gave your spiritual leaders!**

This truth leads to an obvious question: **what kind of spiritual follower are you?** People often want to know about the quality and character of a spiritual leader. Pastors fill out resumes to send to churches. These resumes describe the pastor and are used to evaluate the pastor. It would be interesting if churches had to fill out resumes. It would be interesting to see what churches would say if they had to fill out resumes describing their attitudes and actions toward their past spiritual leaders. It is time that believers turn this question around and ask it of themselves. Instead of asking, "What kind of spiritual leader is he?," believers should start asking, "What kind of spiritual followers are we?" You need to ask yourself this question pleading with the Holy Spirit to show you the answer, **"What kind of spiritual follower am I?"**

The following verses are God's will for believers concerning their spiritual leaders. These are God's demands of you concerning your spiritual leaders. God expects you to obey Him in these matters. **This is the standard that you will be judged by one day!** Along with these verses, there are questions to help you examine yourself and evaluate what kind of spiritual follower you are. Prayerfully consider each verse and examine yourself with the questions. Ask the Holy Spirit to convict you of your sin in this area. Ask Him to show you how you can obey these commands. Plead with Him to show you how you can be obedient to these commands.

1 Thessalonians 5:12: "And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you."

Do I take for granted the work that my pastor and other spiritual leaders do in order to deepen my relationship to God?

Do I take for granted the fact that God has sent my pastor into my life to lead me in the will and the Word of God?

Have I ever become angry at my pastor simply because he pointed out sin in my life?

Have I ever become angry at my pastor simply because he told me the truth of God's Word which did not agree with my own desires or opinions?

1 Thessalonians 5:13: "And to esteem them very highly in love for their works' sake. Be at peace among yourselves."

Do I respect those who minister to me spiritually?

Do my spiritual leaders know that I love and appreciate them?

Do I regularly take time to recognize my spiritual leaders and realize the spiritual impact that they have on my life?

Do I have the kind of commitment to Christ, His Word, and His church that is an encouragement to my spiritual leaders?

Do I express gratitude and appreciation to my spiritual leaders for their ministry toward me?

Galatians 6:6: "Let him that is taught in the word share in all good things with him who teaches."

Am I financially investing in and supporting those who teach me the Word of God?

Do I look for opportunities to minister to the practical needs of my spiritual leaders?

1 Timothy 5:17-18: "Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine. For the Scripture says, '*You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads on the grain,*' and, '*The laborer is worthy of his wages.*'"

Do I show honor and respect in plain and practical ways to those who lead me spiritually and teach the Word of God to me and my family?

Have I invested financially in the lives of those spiritual leaders who have faithfully taught me the Word of God and helped me grow as a Christian?

Hebrews 13:7: "Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct."

Am I seeking to learn from the lives of those who preach and teach the Word of God to me?

Do I seek to imitate the godly characteristics that I see in my pastor and in other spiritual leaders?

Am I thankful for those spiritual leaders who have faithfully, boldly, and in an uncompromising way preached and taught the Word of God to me?

Hebrews 13:17: "Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account."

Do I make it easy for my spiritual leaders to lead me spiritually?

Do I respond to the spiritual leadership of my leaders?

One day when all of my pastors give an account to God for my life, will they be able to do it with joy?

Do I realize that my spiritual leaders are accountable for my soul before God?

Do I submit myself to the authority of my spiritual leaders?

1 Timothy 5:19: "Do not receive an accusation against an elder except from two or three witnesses."

Have I been careful to keep from attacking or confronting my spiritual leaders?

When I have a problem with a spiritual leader, do I approach him with the matter prayerfully, humbly, and respectfully?

Have I allowed people to slander a spiritual leader with lies without ever attempting to answer the person?

Am I careful not to plant the seeds of disloyalty among the members of the church by allowing or giving evil reports about my pastor or other spiritual leaders?

Do I talk about spiritual leaders even when I don't have all the facts?

1 Timothy 2:1-2: "Therefore I exhort first of all that supplication, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority."

Thessalonians 5:2: "Brethren, pray for us."

Do I thank God for the spiritual leaders that He has placed in my life?

Do I pray faithfully for the spiritual leaders who are over me and must give an account for my soul?

Do I take the initiative to find out how I can best pray for my spiritual leaders?

1 Corinthians 3:5-6: "Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one? I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase."

Am I careful to give God the praise for the spiritual growth and fruit in my life?

Am I careful not to exalt one spiritual leader over another?

Do I realize that it is ultimately God who is at work in my life and those who have had the greatest spiritual impact and influence in my life are simply God's servants?

Praying The Beattitudes Matthew 5:6 Blessed Are The Hungry And Thirsty

Righteous God, Faithful Father, I praise You because of Your grace that has rescued me from my sin and my damnation. I praise You for Your plan of salvation. I praise the Lord Jesus Christ for coming as my Savior. I exalt His precious name and give Him all the glory because He died for my sin. I praise the blessed Holy Spirit for breaking the power of sin in my life, living inside of me, and changing me. Blessed and only God, I glorify You for Your gracious salvation!

Father, I realize that I have no spiritual good in me and can produce no spiritual good of myself. I mourn because of the sin that I commit and am so easily entangled by in my life. I know that I have no rights of my own and belong to You. I ask You to make me holy. I hunger and thirst to live a life pleasing to You. I desire above all things to be obedient to Your Word. Remove the sin that exists in my life. This is Your desire for me. This is Your standard for me. I ask You to do this in my life. Because this is Your desire and Your command and this is what I desire, I know that You will do this. Because this is Your will and I am asking You to do this, I know You hear me; I know You will answer me; I know that You will do this in my life. Amen.

Are You Playing Or Are You Praying?

"Poverty-stricken as the Church is today in many things, she is most stricken here, in the place of prayer. We have many organizers, but few agonizers; many players and payers, but few pray-ers; many singers, but few clingers; lots of pastors, few wrestlers; many fears, few tears; much fashion, little passion; many interferers, few intercessors; many writers, but few fighters. **Failing here, we fail everywhere . . .** The secret of praying is praying in secret. A sinning man will stop praying, and a praying man will stop sinning. **We are beggared (beggars) and bankrupt, BUT NOT BROKEN, NOR EVEN BENT.**" (Leonard Ravenhill, **Why Revival Tarries**, Bethany House Publishers, 1986)

The Beloved Unbeliever Network is a network of intercessors who pray for believers who have spouses that are not Christians. This network of intercessors pray daily for believers who are in this situation. These intercessors have been trained and are committed to praying for believers who find themselves in this type of marriage. If you would like to be added to this prayer list or if you know of someone who is in the situation and would like to place them on this prayer list, please contact Dr. Kevin Meador. Please provide the following information:

Name of the family members
Church affiliation
Any special requests

Any information that is submitted will be kept in strict confidence and the privacy of the individuals will be protected.



THE PRAYER CLOSET
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