



THE PRAYER CLOSET

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Praying For Your Leaders

One of the privileges that you have as an American citizen is to vote for the individuals that you want to lead this nation. This is a privilege that many across this world do not have. It is a privilege that has been bought with blood, sweat, and tears. At the same time, it is a tremendous responsibility. You have the responsibility for voting for those who will make the laws and determine the direction of the country morally, ethically, and financially. You are accountable before God for whom you vote and why you voted for them. You cannot escape the responsibility that comes with this privilege.

However, there is a greater privilege and responsibility when it comes to your leaders, whether they are national, state, or local leaders. You have the privilege and the responsibility to pray for them. You have the privilege to pray for them due to the death of Jesus Christ and the work of the Holy Spirit. You can intercede for these leaders because Christ has broken down the barrier of sin between God and you. The Holy Spirit enables you to pray for these individuals. You can go into God's presence for these people who so desperately need your prayers. Yet, you have the responsibility to pray for them. They are "*your*" leaders. You are accountable to God for your prayers or lack of prayer in their behalf.

Some may protest by saying, "They're not "*my*" leaders. I didn't vote for them. I didn't want them in office." You may not have voted for some officials. Also, you may not agree with them or be pleased with the job that they are doing. However, that does not remove your responsibility before God to intercede for them. This does not make you exempt from crying out to God in their behalf.

There are several biblical reasons why you are responsible to pray for your leaders. The Bible declares that you are to intercede for your leaders. **The first reason that you are to pray for your leaders is because it is God's command for you.** The apostle Paul declares in **1 Timothy 2:1-2**, "Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, *for kings and all who are in authority* (emphasis mine)." In **1 Timothy 3:15**, Paul states the purpose of his writing this letter, "But if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourselves in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth." Paul writes to these believers how they are to conduct themselves as a body of believers. He states how they are to act as a body of believers. Paul explicitly states that the church "first of all" is to pray for authorities. The first priority of the church then is to intercede for men, especially for those in leadership positions. This is God's command for His church.

This is what God desires that the church do. It is the believer's responsibility before God to pray for those in authority. Paul states in **1 Timothy 2:3**, "For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior." What is good and acceptable in the sight of God? It is to pray for those who are in authority. It is to give thanks for these leaders and offer supplications, intercessions, and prayers for these individuals. This is a matter of obedience. To neglect this responsibility or to refuse to do this is to disobey God and to displease Him.

The second reason that you should pray for your leaders is so that it will ensure a peaceful society in which we can carry out God's will and work. In **1 Timothy 2:2**, the Bible declares, "For kings and for all who are in authority, *that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence* (emphasis mine)." Paul declares that believers are to pray for leaders because what they do affects those under them on a daily basis. If the leaders are being faithful and true to their task, then society will be under control and there will be order. This is one of God's purposes for government. It is to maintain peace and order in society. When this takes place, the church can carry out God's will and work. When the government is hostile to the church, it makes it very difficult to do these things. It is a hindrance to believers living a faithful, godly life for Jesus Christ.

It needs to be made clear that a hostile government does not stop the church nor can it be used as an excuse for failing to be faithful to Jesus Christ. The church can thrive and do the will and work of God even when the authorities have been hostile. A believer can be faithful to Jesus Christ despite his or her circumstances. This is being proved constantly throughout the world. However, the church is not to seek persecution. Believers are not to seek persecution from those who do not know Jesus Christ. It is the church's responsibility to pray for leaders so that there will be peace and order in society, allowing the church to do the will and work of God without the threat of resistance and hindrance.

Another reason that you are to pray for your leaders is because it is a part of being a good citizen before God. In **Romans 13**, the apostle Paul teaches that Christians are to be good citizens of the nation where they have been placed by Him. Government has been ordained by God. Submitting to these leaders is seen as a duty that is to be done before God. These officials are designated as "God's ministers" (**Romans 13:6**). Because of this, Paul goes on to state that believers are to "render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor (**Romans 13:7**). A necessary part of rendering their due to them is praying for them. They are accountable for their "ministry" to you; you are accountable for your submission to and your prayers for them.

You must pray for your leaders because it can make a difference. It often seems that authorities on every level are going to do what they choose without any regard for what the citizens want. And, there is corruption in every level of government. It appears that the corruption blinds and guides the decisions of many leaders. However, your prayers can make a difference. The Word of God states in **Proverbs 21:1**, "The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, like the rivers (or channels) of water; He turns it wherever He wishes." In Solomon's day, the king was absolute. Whatever he said

was law. Whatever he desired was done. There was no greater authority or power on earth. However, Solomon states that even the king's heart is in the hand of the Lord. The "rivers" or "channels" that the text speaks of refers to irrigation ditches. Farmers would dig these ditches to get water to wherever they needed it. They simply would dig the ditch in the direction they wanted the water to go. Solomon is teaching that God can guide the king to do whatever He wants. God is the supreme and absolute Ruler. He can change and guide the heart of any ruler no matter how power that ruler is. You are praying to the supreme, all-powerful God. He can change the hearts of your leaders. He can guide your leaders whether they know Him or not. **Too many believers want to whine and complain about the way things are. Too many believers want to have a "pity party" rather than a "prayer meeting" concerning these matters. It is time to repent of this!** Your prayers can make a difference!

A final reason that you must pray for your leaders is because it is a part of being salt and light for Jesus Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ declares in **Matthew 5:13**, "You are the salt of the earth." In **Matthew 5:14**, Jesus Christ continues by stating, "You are the light of the world." The person who follows Jesus Christ is to have a positive, powerful impact on the world around him or her. You are commanded by Christ to make a difference in this world. You can do this in various ways. Yet, the most powerful way to do this is by praying for your leaders. You can be salt and light by interceding for those who are in powerful positions, directing this nation, your state, your local affairs. No matter who you are and no matter where you are, you can impact this nation, your state, and your area by praying. You can stand for Jesus Christ by praying for these individuals.

The following is a list of national officials for whom you need to be praying. Following this, there will be a list of prayer requests that you can use to intercede in their behalf. These prayer requests are offered as a guide to help you in praying for them. You need to develop some type of plan to pray for these leaders during your prayer times through the week. Customize your own schedule and intercede for these individuals.

Executive

President: William Clinton
 White House Chief of Staff: Erskine Bowles
 Secretary of Defense: William Cohen
 Sec. of Housing & Urban Development: Andrew Cuomo
 Secretary of Commerce: William Daley
 Secretary of Energy: Federico Pena

Secretary of the Interior: Bruce Babbitt
 Secretary of Transportation: Rodney Slater
 Chairman Joint Chief of Staffs: Gen. Henry H. Shelton
 Surgeon General: Dr. David M. Satcher
 National Security Advisor: Samuel Berger
 U.N. Ambassador: Bill Richardson
 CIA Director: George J. Tenet

Vice-President: Albert Gore
 Secretary of State: Madeleine Albright
 Secretary of Treasury: Robert Rubin
 Secretary of Agriculture: Dan Glickman
 Secretary of Education: Richard Riley
 Secretary of Health & Human Services:
 Donna Shalala
 Secretary of Labor: Alexis Herman
 Secretary of Veteran Affairs: Togo West
 Attorney General: Janet Reno
 Postmaster General: Marvin Runyon
 Trade Representative: Charlene Barshefsky
 FBI Director: Louis Freeh
 NSA Director: Lt. Gen. Kenneth Minihan

IRS Commissioner: Charles Rossotti

United States Senate

Majority Leader: Trent Lott (R-MS)
 Minority Leader: Thomas Daschle (D-SD)
 Whips: Don Nickles (R-OK)\Wendell Ford (D-KY)
 Chaplain: Lloyd Ogilvie
 YOUR UNITED STATES SENATORS

Senate Committee Chairmen

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Richard Lugar (R-IN)\Tom Harkin (D-IA)
 Appropriations: Ted Stevens (R-AK)\Robert Byrd (D-WV)
 Armed Services: Strom Thurmond (R-SC)\Carl Levin (D-MI)
 Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Alfonse D'Amato (R-NY)\Paul Sarbanes (D-MD)
 Budget: Pete Domenici (R-NM)\Frank R. Lautenberg (D-NJ)
 Commerce, Science, and Transportation: John McCain (R-AZ)\Ernest F. Hollings (D-SC)
 Energy and Natural Resources: Frank Murkowski (R-AK)\Dale Bumpers (D-AR)
 Environment and Public Works: John Chafee (R-RI)\Max Baucus (D-MT)
 Ethics: Robert Smith (R-NH)\Harry Reid (D-NV)
 Finance: William Roth (R-DE)\Patrick Moynihan (D-NY)
 Foreign Relations: Jesse Helms (R-NC)\Joseph Biden (D-DE)
 Governmental Affairs: Fred Thompson (R-TN)\John Glenn (D-OH)
 Indian Affairs: Ben Nighthorse Campbell (R-CO)\Daniel Inouye (D-HI)
 Judiciary: Orrin Hatch (R-UT)\Patrick Leahy (D-VT)
 Labor and Human Resources: Jim Jeffords (R-VT)\Edward Kennedy (D-MA)
 Rules and Administration: John Warner (R-VA)\Wendell Ford (D-KY)
 Small Business: Christopher Bond (R-MO)\John Kerry (D-MA)
 Veterans' Affairs: Arlen Specter (R-PA)\John Rockefeller (D-WV)

United States House of Representatives

Speaker: Newt Gingrich (R-GA)
 Majority Leader: Dick Armey (R-TX)
 Minority Leader: Richard Gephardt (D-MO)
 Whips: Tom DeLay (R-TX)\David Bonior (D-MI)
 Chaplain: James Ford
 YOUR U.S. REPRESENTATIVES

Committee Chairmen

Agriculture: Robert Smith (R-OR)\Charles Stenholm (D-TX)
 Appropriations: Bob Livingston (R-LA)\David Obey (D-WI)
 Banking and Finance: Jim Leach (R-IA)\Henry Gonzalez (D-TX)
 Budget: John Kasich (R-OH)\John M. Spratt (D-SC)
 Commerce: Thomas Bliley (R-VA)\John Dingell (D-MI)
 Education and Workforce: Bill Goodling (R-PA)\William Clay (D-MO)
 Government Reform and Oversight: Dan Burton (R-IN)\Henry Waxman (D-CA)
 House Oversight: Bill Thomas (R-CA)\Sam Gejdenson (D-CT)
 International Relations: Benjamin Gilman (R-NY)\Lee Hamilton (D-IN)
 Judiciary: Henry Hyde (R-IL)\John Conyers (D-MI)
 National Security: Floyd Spence (R-SC)\ Ronald Dellums (D-CA)
 Resources: Don Young (R-AK)\George Miller (D-CA)
 Rules: Gerald Solomon (R-NY)\Joe Moakley (D-MA)
 Science: James Sensenbrenner (R-WI)\George Brown Jr. (D-CA)
 Small Business: James Talent (R-MO)\John LaFalce (D-NY)
 Transportation and Infrastructure: Bud Shuster (R-PA)\James Oberstar (D-MN)
 Veterans' Affairs: Bob Stump (R-AZ)\Lane Evans (D-IL)
 Ways and Means: Bill Archer (R-TX)\Charles Rangel (D-NY)

United States Supreme Court

Chief Justice William Rehnquist
 Justice John Paul Stevens
 Justice Sandra Day O'Connor
 Justice Antonin Scalia
 Justice Anthony Kennedy
 Justice David Souter
 Justice Clarence Thomas
 Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg
 Justice Stephen Breyer

State and Local Officials

Your Governor
 Your Lieutenant Governor
 Your State Legislators
 City and Local Judges, Police, and Firemen
 School Officials

Prayer requests that you can pray through concerning these leaders:

- (1) That, if they are unsaved, they will be drawn into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ; if saved, that they will be strengthened and encouraged in their faith (**John 3:16-18; Ephesians 1:17-23**);
- (2) That they would be God-fearing and recognize that they are accountable to Him for every decision and act of their lives (**Proverbs 9:10**);
- (3) That they be given godly counsel and God-fearing advisors (**Proverbs 24:6**);
- (4) That they recognize their own inadequacy and pray and seek the will of God for their lives and decisions (**Proverbs 3:5-8; Luke 11:9-13**);
- (5) That they be honest in financial, tax, and ethical matters (**1 Corinthians 6:10; 1 Timothy 6:6-10**);
- (6) That they be generous and have compassionate hearts for the poor and the needy (**Psalm 112:9; Luke 10:33-37**);
- (7) That they have the courage to resist manipulation, bribery, pressure, and the fear of man (**Proverbs 29:25; 2 Timothy 1:7**);
- (8) That they desire honesty, integrity, and loyalty (**Psalm 26; Proverbs 11:3**);
- (9) That they be prepared to give an account to Almighty God (**Hebrews 9:27**);
- (10) That they desire humility and meekness and be willing to serve and cooperate (**John 13:14; Titus 3:1-2**);
- (11) That they endeavor to restore the sanctity of life, families, divine order, and morality in our nation (**Ephesians 5:22-6:1**);
- (12) That they would be granted wisdom, knowledge, and understanding (**James 1:5**);
- (13) That they be convicted of sin, transgression, and iniquity (**Psalm 51:17; John 8:9**);
- (14) That they heed their conscience, confess their sins, and repent (**Proverbs 28:13; James 4:8**);
- (15) That they read the Bible and attend prayer meetings and Bible studies (**Psalm 119:11; Colossians 3:2**);
- (16) That they value and regard the Ten Commandments and the teachings of Jesus Christ (**Psalm 19:7-11; John 8:31-32**);
- (17) That they respect authority and practice accountability (**Romans 13:1-7**);

- (18) That they be faithful and honest to their spouses and children (**Malachi 2:15-16**);
- (19) That they may desire purity and avoid debauchery, pornography, perversion, and drunkenness (**1 Corinthians 6:9-20; Titus 2:12**);
- (20) That they have thankful and teachable spirits (**Romans 1:21**).

Learning To Praise God: God The Son

In previous issues of *The Prayer Closet*, we have focused on learning how to praise God. Every child of God desires to praise God. This is a result of the new birth, the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, and a new understanding of who God is. This desire has to be cultivated into a discipline. Praising God should not become a habit or a routine. However, it has to be a discipline that you develop. **The desire to praise God has to be channeled into a disciplined pursuit of God and the turning of every truth you learn about Him into praise for Him.**

In order to help you do this, *The Prayer Closet* has been offering you guides to the attributes, the names, and the titles of God. This issue is concerned with the Son of God, Jesus Christ. As the Lord and Savior of sinners and the Head of the church, He is worthy of your praise. He is worthy of you seeking to know Him more intimately and praise Him more fully. The following is a list of the titles of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. The Scripture where each title is found is also given. Study these verses in order to learn what this title reveals about Jesus Christ. Meditate on how this title of Jesus Christ affects your life. Record these insights and use this truth to praise Jesus Christ.

As you study these titles, you will see as never before that Jesus Christ is truly God in human flesh. In Jesus Christ, there is the power to change situations, lives, and worlds. In Him, you can find protection, stability, growth, guidance, authority, boldness, and restoration. You can find these things and more in the name and titles of Jesus Christ. He is sufficient for your every need, burden, and crisis. Seek to know Him and praise Him like never before in your life.

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| Advocate-1 John 2:1-2 | Alpha and Omega-Revelation 1:8; 22:13 |
| Apostle and High Priest-Hebrews 3:1 | Author and Perfector-Hebrews 12:2 |
| Author of Salvation-Hebrews 2:10 | Blessed and Only Ruler-1 Timothy 6:15 |
| Branch from Jesse-Isaiah 11:1 | Bread of God-John 6:33 |
| Bread of Life-John 6:35 | Bridegroom-Mt. 25:1-10; Mk. 2:19-20; John 3:29 |
| Chosen of God-Luke 23:25; 1 Peter 2:4 | Chosen One-Isaiah 42:1; Luke 23:25 |
| Christ Jesus our Lord-2 Timothy 1:2 | Christ of God-Luke 9:20 |
| Christ the Lord-Luke 2:11 | Christ, the Power and Wisdom of God-1 Cor. 1:24 |
| Consolation of Israel-Luke 2:25 | Cornerstone-Isaiah 28:16; 1 Peter 2:6 |
| Deliverer-Romans 11:26 | Desired of All Nations-Haggai 2:7 |
| Everlasting Father-Isaiah 9:6 | Faithful and True-Revelation 19:11 |
| Faithful and True Witness-Revelation 3:14 | Firstborn-Hebrews 1:6 |
| Firstborn from the dead-Col. 1:18; Rev. 1:5 | Firstborn among many brethren-Romans 8:29 |
| Firstborn over all creation-Colossians 1:15 | Forerunner-Hebrews 6:20 |