



THE PRAYER CLOSET

*Transforming Lives Through Intercessory
Prayer And Fasting*

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ISSUE 2

PRAYING FOR YOUR PASTOR'S WIFE

Pastors have a difficult and demanding job. They are responsible to God for an entire congregation. They visit church members in hospitals and in homes. They preach two to three times a week. They perform weddings and funerals. They counsel those who are in need of help. They attend numerous meetings. The list of the responsibilities of a pastor could go on and on. They do have numerous tasks and responsibilities. Yet, what about pastors' wives?

It is true that a pastor has a difficult and demanding job. However, his wife also has a difficult and demanding job. Just as he has many tasks and responsibilities, so does his wife. She is a wife to the pastor of the church. She is the mother

of children. Often, she works outside of the home to help supplement the income. She is a Christian. She is a church member. She is often expected to serve actively in the church. There is a common assumption that the pastor's wife should do what nobody else can be found to do. She is the relative of parents and siblings. She has family that she needs to keep up with and share in their lives. A pastor's wife has the normal pressures of life coupled with the responsibility of ministry. This presents a constant challenge for her to cope with on a regular basis.

The pastor's wife is often forgotten and taken for granted. The pastor is the one who often receives the attention, the praise, and the thanks for ministry. Yet, the pastor's wife is often overlooked in this matter. And, when there are problems in church, the pastor's wife has to suffer in silence. It is difficult on the pastor. Yet, it is often more difficult for the wife who has a seemingly thankless task along with coping with the difficulties in the church.

For this reason, churches need to pray for the pastor's wife. In fact, the church needs to cover the wife of every staff member. It is not enough to intercede for and cover the pastor. Our intercession needs to extend to the wife. She is in need of the prayers of believers just as much as is her husband, the pastor.

ISSUE 2 - HIGHLIGHTS

PRAYING FOR YOUR PASTOR'S WIFE

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Why Should You Pray For Your Pastor's Wife?

There are some basic reasons why you should pray for your pastor's wife. These same reasons extend to the wives of other staff members. *The first reason that you need to pray for your pastor's wife is because she is a Christian and your sister in the family of God.* It needs to be remembered that the pastor's wife is first and foremost a Christian. She is an equal member of the family of God. As a fellow Christian and a member of the family of God, your pastor's wife needs your encouragement and help. There are many ways that you can do this. You need to minister to her in a variety of ways. Yet, the greatest thing that you can do for her is to intercede for her. She is a sister in Christ and should be prayed for as other believers. The Word of God states in **1 Corinthians 14:26**, "And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it." As a member of the body of Christ, the pastor's wife needs to be ministered to and prayed for by the other believers. This is your responsibility before God.

Another reason that you should pray for your pastor's wife is because his wife is going to be a help or a hindrance to his ministry. A wife can make or break a man's ministry. Her relationship to God and to her husband is going to have an impact on his ministry. You need to pray that God will bless the pastor's wife so that she can encourage and strengthen her husband, the pastor. When she is right with the Lord and pursuing a relationship with Him, she can have a powerful and positive impact on the effectiveness of her husband's ministry. If things are not right at home, a man's ministry is going to be hindered. A godly pastor's wife who is growing in the Lord can increase the effectiveness of her husband's ministry. As Vance Havner once said, "Some women have made fools out of men and some women have made men out of fools." You need to intercede for her so that she can encourage and strengthen her husband.

Believers should pray for their pastor's wife because of the spiritual warfare that she is going to face. The leaders of a church are going to face

attacks of Satan. Yet, this does not make the wives or their children immune from these attacks. The wife is going to face the temptations and attacks of Satan just as the husband will. Satan is a hateful and spiteful being. He will attack anyone to get a stronghold in order to destroy a ministry and a family. You need to pray for your pastor's wife so that she will be covered from the attacks of the enemy. She needs a continual prayer covering from the believers of the church. When the Word of God declares that Satan is a "roaring lion, seeking, whom he may devour," pastor's wives are a target also (**1 Peter 5:8-9**). If the enemy cannot hinder a pastor, he will then attack the family. The wife is particularly vulnerable in this situation and needs the prayers of believers.

Your pastor's wife needs your prayers because not only does she have to cope with the demand of everyday life, she also has to cope with the demands of the ministry. A pastor's wife is in one sense like all other women. She has the many responsibilities that other women have. She is like all other mothers, ~~dealing with the same~~ responsibilities and problems. This in and of itself puts a strain on a woman. Yet, unlike other women and mothers, she has the demands of the ministry placed on her. Not only does she have to deal with the everyday problems and struggles of life; she also has to cope with the problems and struggles that come with being involved in ministry. She shares the burden of ministry with her husband. She rejoices with him and cries with him. By saying these things, I am not trying to exalt pastor's wives over other women and/or other mothers. Yet, I am saying that there is a great deal of pressure to deal with as the wife of a pastor and /or church leader. Being involved in ministry is not something that you work at from eight to five and then walk away from it until the next day. It is a twenty-four hour a day responsibility. And this is added to the pressures of everyday life. For this reason, believers need to intercede for her so that she can cope with the pressure.

Another reason that you should pray for your pastor's wife is because of the loneliness that she has to endure. A pastor's wife experiences a lot of lonely times. She has to share her husband with an entire congregation. There are numerous pastors that have a job outside of the responsibilities of the

pastorate. This often increases the pressure on his wife. She has to be home alone many times. She has to do things by herself that other couples often do together. She often has more of the responsibility of raising the children in this situation. In many cases, her family is a long-distance from her. There are times when she needs her husband and he is not available. This can put a strain on her and on her relationship to him. A pastor's wife is a human being also. She gets lonely and frustrated. Because of this, your pastor's wife needs your prayers.

The various expectations of a pastor's wife should cause you to cover her in prayer. People in churches have a variety of expectations concerning their pastor. It seems that people have their own ideas of what a pastor should be and what a pastor should do. The same is true of pastors' wives. A pastor's wife is often judged by the fickle standards of people. If she does not behave in a particular way or if she does not do exactly as people feel that she should, she is the subject of gossip and backbiting. It is determined that she is not a "very good pastor's wife." Attempting to live with the stereotypes and expectations of people can be a burden to a pastor's wife. She needs wisdom and grace to know how to deal with these things. She can receive these things through your praying.

A final reason why you should pray for your pastor's wife is because she has sins and weaknesses. A pastor's wife is like all other believers. She has sins and weakness that plague her. Sometimes these are apparent; sometimes they are not. Yet, these should drive believers to pray for her, asking God to help her grow in holiness. You need to plead that God will enable her to grow to maturity and to strengthen the weaknesses that she has. Too often people want to criticize and gossip about what they perceive are the sins or the weaknesses of a pastor's wife. Rather, than gossiping and criticizing, believers should be driven to pray that God would help her and enable her to overcome these things. It is much better and more productive to pray than to criticize. God is pleased when we pray rather than giving into petty criticism and gossip. He will also honor this commitment by blessing the pastor's wife. You can truly make a difference in the life of your pastor's wife by praying to the Father for her. Your prayers can

enable her to grow into the Christian and the pastor's wife that God desires her to be. Your prayers on her behalf can be a significant investment in her, in your church, in your pastor, and in the advancement of the kingdom of God. It is a worthy task to intercede for your pastor's wife.

Ways That You Can Pray For Your Pastor's Wife

The following are some suggested prayer requests that you can use to intercede for your pastor's wife. You can use these or develop your own requests from this material. You also need to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leadership. He may give you specific insights on how to pray for her. At the same time, be aware of what is going on with your pastor's wife. By doing this, you can know how to pray more specifically and intensely for her.

Her Relationship to God

- (1) Pray that she will have a growing and intimate relationship with God (**Psalm 42:1-2; 63:1**). Plead that your pastor's wife would have a hunger for God. Pray that she will love Him more fully and will be growing in her intimacy with Him.
- (2) Ask God to enable her to have the time and discipline to spend time with Him (**Matthew 6:6; Colossians 4:2**). In order to have a growing and intimate relationship with God, she needs to spend time alone with God. Pray that God would give her the discipline to do this and work in such a way that she would have these opportunities. This is especially true if your pastor's wife works outside the home. In this case, she will have many demands and time constraints on her. Pray that God would enable her to find the time to spend with God and that this time will be quality time.
- (3) Plead that God would enable your pastor's wife to grow in her knowledge of the Word of God (**1 Peter 2:2; 2 Timothy 3:16-17**). The pastor's wife is going to deal with people on a regular basis that are in need of her advice and

counseling. As a pastor's wife, people are going to turn to her for answers, especially women in a congregation. She needs to have a deep understanding of the Word of God in order to give sound, biblical answers. Pray that she will grow in her understanding of the Word so that she can mature as a Christian and then help others mature in the faith and find the answers that they need.

- (4) Pray that your pastor's wife would be diligent to confess and repent of her sins (**Proverbs 28:13; 1 John 1:9**). In order for her to grow in holiness, your pastor's wife must confess and repent of her personal sins. Ask the Holy Spirit to give her an awareness of those things that are not right in her life and then for the grace and the strength to root those things out.
- (5) Pray that your pastor's wife will be filled with the Holy Spirit (**Ephesians 5:18**). Just like all other believers, your pastor's wife needs the power of the Holy Spirit to live the Christian life and to minister to others. Pray that she will learn to depend on the Holy Spirit so that she can live the Christian life and help others.
- (6) Ask that the pastor's wife would be a personal witness for the Lord Jesus Christ (**Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:19-20**). Your pastor's wife needs to be a witness of the Lord Jesus Christ both with her words and with her actions. Pray that God would mold her and shape her into the personal witness that Jesus Christ wants her to be.
- (7) Pray that she will know that her first priority is to please God above all others (**1 Corinthians 10:31**).

Her Relationship to the Church

- (1) Plead that your pastor's wife will have a servant's heart (**Matthew 20:28**). Pray that she will grow more and more like Jesus Christ, having a heart to serve others. Call on God to give her opportunities to minister to the

members of the church and to those who are outside of the church. Ask God to give her wisdom how to serve others. Plead that she would grow in her compassion for others.

- (2) Pray that the members of the church will have a deep, sacrificial love for the pastor's wife (**1 John 3:11; 4:7**). The congregation needs to have a heart for the pastor's wife—for her life, her growth, and her needs. Pray that God would move on the hearts of the people. Pray that they will develop a love that will move them to care for and minister to the pastor's wife. Ask God to make the believers sensitive to her needs and how they can minister to her.
- (3) Ask God to give the pastor's wife a deep, sacrificial love for the people (**1 John 3:11; 4:7**). Pray that the pastor's life will have a deep and sacrificial love for the congregation. God is pleased when there is mutual love and sacrifice between believers. This is true of the pastor's wife and a congregation. Pray that this mutual love and sacrifice will become a reality.
- (4) Plead that God would use your pastor's wife in a significant way in the church (**1 Corinthians 12:7**). Ask God to enable your pastor's wife to serve in the body and to make a difference. She has particular spiritual gifts and talents that God can use. Pray that she will have the wisdom and the strength to do what God is calling her to do in the body. Ask for God to give her wisdom to know what she is supposed to do in the body.
- (5) Call on God to give her wisdom in personal relationships (**Proverbs 2:9-11**). The pastor's wife is in a difficult position when it comes to friendships inside and outside of the church. Many times there is a question of who she can trust and depend on. Many pastor's wives have been wounded by the betrayal of those they felt could be counted on as a friend. Pray that God will give her wisdom and discernment concerning this issue.
- (6) Plead that your pastor's wife will be protected from loneliness (**Matthew 28:20; Hebrews 13:5-6**). Loneliness is a constant problem for

many pastor's wives. Pray that she will experience the presence and peace of God in her life and that these things will fill the void in her when times of loneliness come.

- (7) Ask God to raise up friends for your pastor's wife that can be trusted, can be depended on, and will pray for her (**Ecclesiastes 4:9-12**). You can minister to your pastor's wife by praying that God will raise up friends who can be trusted, depended on, and will intercede for her. Sometimes there are things that cannot be shared with those inside the church. Your pastor's wife will need someone that she can talk to and count on to listen to her. Pray for God to grant this valuable blessing in her life.
- (8) Pray that God would give her the grace and courage to cope with the struggles and difficulties associated with being involved in the ministry (**2 Corinthians 12:9-10**). As I stated earlier, there are numerous struggles and difficulties that have to be faced as a pastor's wife. The pressure and the demands will stress the godliest of Christian woman. It is only the strength and grace of God that can enable the pastor's wife to endure these things and to thrive in the midst of them. Pray that God will be pouring out His grace and strength on your pastor's wife. This is an enormous need in her life and you will be blessing her by pleading for God to grant these things to her.
- (9) Ask God to give her the wisdom and discernment to deal with difficult people (**Proverbs 18:19; Matthew 10:16**). Within every church, there are going to be people that are going to be a difficulty. They may be hard to deal with for a variety of reasons. Pray that the pastor's wife will have the wisdom and discernment to know how to deal with these types of individuals.

Her Relationship to Her Family

- (1) Pray that she would have a growing and intimate relationship with her husband (**Proverbs 5:15-18**). The pressure and demands of the ministry can be a hindrance to the intimacy of a pastor's relationship to his wife. Plead that God will strengthen their marriage and will produce a deep and powerful intimacy between the two of them. This is extremely important because this is an area where Satan will work to get a stronghold in the life of a pastor. Pray for God's protection of their marriage and that they will grow in their relationship to each other.
- (2) Plead that her husband will be sensitive to the fact that she has needs (**1 Peter 3:7**). The pastor spends most of his time ministering to and encouraging his congregation. There are times when he forgets that his wife has needs and that she needs to be ministered to and encouraged just like the other believers who make up the church. Pray that he will have a special sensitivity to her needs and a willingness to meet those needs. Ask God to remind your pastor that he is a husband and a father too.
- (3) Pray that the pastor will have a deep and passionate love for his wife (**Proverbs 5:19-20**). Again, the demands and pressures of ministry can strain the marriage relationship of the pastor and his wife or any staff member and his wife. In **Proverbs 5:19**, the writer declares that the husband should be "intoxicated" with his wife and her love. This speaks of a deep and passionate love for the wife. The first reason that you should pray this is so that their relationship would grow stronger and better. Yet, you should also pray this as a safeguard against adultery. **Proverbs 5:20** indicates that if he has a deep and passionate love for his wife, it will be a barrier against committing adultery against that wife. Plead that God would increase their love for the other and would strengthen their commitment to one another.

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