

# Praying for Your Pastor and Leaders



**1 Peter 5:1-3** Now as an elder myself and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as one who shares in the glory to be revealed, I exhort the elders among you <sup>2</sup> to tend the flock of God that is in your charge, exercising the oversight, not under compulsion but willingly, as God would have you do it—not for sordid gain but eagerly. <sup>3</sup> Do not lord it over those in your charge, but be examples to the flock.

- Our pastors and leaders have been given to us by God.
- Our job is to encourage, support, and follow them in carrying out our mission and vision.
- We need to ask God to help us see them as God sees them.

Remembering . . .

**Philippians 4:6** (NRSV) Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

## 1. What are the strengths of your pastor and leaders?



- Pray with thanksgiving for the gifts and graces God has given each of them.

## 2. Come alongside your pastor leaders to hold up their arms in the battle.

**Exodus 17:10-13** (NRSV) So Joshua did as Moses told him, and fought with Amalek, while Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. <sup>11</sup> Whenever Moses held up his hand, Israel prevailed; and whenever he lowered his hand, Amalek prevailed. <sup>12</sup> But Moses' hands grew weary; so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held up his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side; so his hands were steady until the sun set. <sup>13</sup> And Joshua defeated Amalek and his people with the sword.



- Pray for ways we can lift up and support our pastors and leaders

## 3. We are called to love. We need to love our pastors and leaders.

Love is Jesus' motivation for intercession. Is it ours?

Without love we cannot pray as we ought.

**1 Corinthians 13:1** (NRSV) If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.



- Let us pray and ask God to fill us with his love for our pastor and leaders.

#### **4. How will you handle the weaknesses in your pastor and leaders?**

Can you bring them before God in love?



- Pray that your pastor and leaders would be all that God desires of a servant leader.

*The following scriptural prayers give you a starting point for your intercession.*

#### **5. Faithful Shepherds and Servants.**

**1 Peter 5:1-3** Now as an elder myself and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as one who shares in the glory to be revealed, I exhort the elders among you <sup>2</sup> to tend the flock of God that is in your charge, exercising the oversight, not under compulsion but willingly, as God would have you do it—not for sordid gain but eagerly. <sup>3</sup> Do not lord it over those in your charge, but be examples to the flock.



- Pray your pastor and leaders would be fruitful shepherds and servants of the flock, eager to serve.

#### **6. Wisdom and Godly Counsel.**

**James 1:5** (NRSV) If any of you is lacking in wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and it will be given you.

**Psalms 32:8** (NRSV) I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

**Isaiah 11:2** (NRSV) The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.



Pray God will give your pastor and leaders wisdom and godly counsel.

## 7. Build a Hedge of Protection.

**Psalm 91** (NRSV) You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, <sup>2</sup> will say to the LORD, “My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust.” <sup>3</sup> For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence; <sup>4</sup> he will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler. <sup>5</sup> You will not fear the terror of the night, or the arrow that flies by day, <sup>6</sup> or the pestilence that stalks in darkness, or the destruction that wastes at noonday.

<sup>7</sup> A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you. <sup>8</sup> You will only look with your eyes and see the punishment of the wicked.

<sup>9</sup> Because you have made the LORD your refuge, the Most High your dwelling place, <sup>10</sup> no evil shall befall you, no scourge come near your tent.

<sup>11</sup> For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. <sup>12</sup> On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone. <sup>13</sup> You will tread on the lion and the adder, the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot.

<sup>14</sup> Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name. <sup>15</sup> When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble, I will rescue them and honor them.

<sup>16</sup> With long life I will satisfy them, and show them my salvation.

**Ephesians 6:10-18** (NRSV) Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. <sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. <sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. <sup>13</sup> Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. <sup>14</sup> Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. <sup>15</sup> As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup> With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup> Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

<sup>18</sup> Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints.

**Psalm 138:7** (NRSV) Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies; you stretch out your hand, and your right hand delivers me.



- Pray God will build a hedge of protection around your pastor, leaders, and their families to protect them against the schemes of the enemy.
- Pray directly against discouragement and burnout in ministry.

## 8. Give thanks for God choosing your pastor and leaders.

**Jeremiah 1:4-8** (NIV) The word of the LORD came to me, saying, <sup>5</sup>“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.”

<sup>6</sup>“Alas, Sovereign LORD,” I said, “I do not know how to speak; I am too young.” <sup>7</sup> But the LORD said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am too young.’ You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. <sup>8</sup> Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you,” declares the LORD.



- Pray and give God praise and thanksgiving for the appointment of your pastor and the selection of your leaders to be your spiritual and practical guides for the church.

## 9. Fruitful Ministry.

**John 15:16** (NRSV) You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name.



- Pray that your pastor’s ministry and the ministry of your leaders would bear fruit that endures.

## 10. A Holy Spirit Anointing.

**Acts 1:8** (NRSV) “...But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

**Romans 5:1-5** (NRSV) Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup> through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup> and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup> and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

**1 Corinthians 2:4-5** (NRSV) My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, <sup>5</sup> so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.



- Pray for a powerful anointing of the Holy Spirit, a refilling of God’s love for your pastor and leaders.
- Pray for a fresh call to preaching and ministry for your pastor.
- Pray for a fresh call to leadership and guidance for your leaders.

*(Invite the pastor and leaders to come to the altar to pray the following prayer together.)*

### **11. A Covenant Prayer for your Pastor and Leaders**

*(Wesleyan Covenant Prayer: Hymnal pg. 607)*



- I am no longer my own, but yours.  
Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will.  
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.  
Let me be employed by you or laid aside for you,  
exalted for you or brought low for you.  
Let me be full, let me be empty.  
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.  
I freely and heartily yield all things  
to your pleasure and disposal.  
And now, O glorious and blessed God,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
you are mine, and I am yours. So be it.  
And the covenant which I have made on earth,  
let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

*During a time of silent prayer Play Mark Swayze's song "Wesley Prayer (Come Like a Fire)"*

### **12. Blessing your Pastor and Leaders.**

*(Invite the congregation to pray over the pastor and leaders, following the reading of the scriptures, as they remain at the altar.)*

**3 John 1:2** (NRSV) Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, just as it is well with your soul.

**Deuteronomy 33:12** (NRSV) Of Benjamin he said: The beloved of the LORD rests in safety—the High God surrounds him all day long—the beloved rests between his shoulders.

**Ephesians 3:14-19** (NRSV) For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, <sup>15</sup> from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. <sup>16</sup> I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, <sup>17</sup> and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. <sup>18</sup> I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, <sup>19</sup> and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Pray this blessing, taken from Paul's prayer to the Ephesians (3:14-19), over you pastor and leaders:



- We pray that, according to the riches of God's glory, that he would grant that each of you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Holy

Spirit. We pray Christ would dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are each being rooted and grounded in love.

- We pray that you will have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth of God's grace and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that each of you may be filled with all the fullness of God. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray, Amen!

*(all leaders can return to their seats)*

### **13. Make Ephesians 3:20-21 your benediction.**

**Ephesians 3:20-21** (NRSV) Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, <sup>21</sup> to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.