



52 Ways to Pray for Your Pastor

Few things are more important to the health of the church than the physical, emotional, and spiritual health of its pastors. It's why Paul urges in 1 Timothy 2:1 that, "petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving" be made for "all those in authority". It's why James 3:1 reminds us that leaders are held to a higher standard. And it's why God warns Israel in Zechariah 13:7 that if someone would "strike the shepherd, and the sheep will scatter". The health of the leader matters to the health of the church, and one of the ways you can improve the health of those in authority over you is to pray for them.

But praying for your pastor is a broad topic. Pray for what? Their health? Protection from temptation? What about their sermon writing? Because the topic is so vague, it's easy for people to devolve into vague "please bless" kind of prayers for their pastor. And it's not that God can't use general prayers, but it's hard to stay focused or fervent over a long period of time without specificity.

After years of reading books and articles on how to pray for your pastor, I created a list of *52 Ways to Pray for Your Pastor*. I then sent that list to my elders, asking them to commit to praying for me for that week's specific topic. Feel free to share this list with your elders, your leaders, your prayer team, or your prayer lists to help your church pray for your church!

52 Ways to Pray for Your Pastor

Their Relationship with God

- Week 1 Help them grow in their prayer life
- Week 2 Keep them sensitive and submissive to the Lord's leading
- Week 3 Help them stay consistent in their private time with God
- Week 4 Help them grow in their knowledge and understanding of God's Word

Their Priorities

- Week 5 Discernment to know their priorities
- Week 6 Good time management skills

Their Relationship with Others

- Week 7 Help them maintain healthy personal friendships
- Week 8 Help them resolve conflict with maturity, gentleness, and grace
- Week 9 Help them cope with the loneliness of leadership

Their Wisdom

- Week 10 For wisdom in the decisions they're making
- Week 11 For discernment to know the difference between their will and God's will

Their Health and Safety

- Week 12 Keep them mentally and emotionally healthy
- Week 13 Help them stay physically fit and active
- Week 14 Help them rest and remember their Sabbath
- Week 15 Protect them from sickness and injury
- Week 16 Help them maintain a healthy work/life balance

Their Spiritual Warfare

- Week 17 Protect them from all attacks and deception of the evil one
- Week 18 Strength to resist all sexual temptations
- Week 19 Strength to resist greed and all financial temptations
- Week 20 Strength to resist all addictions so nothing will have mastery over them

Their Finances

- Week 21 That God would bless them financially
- Week 22 Help them be content, whether they have little or much
- Week 23 Help them know the joy of sacrificial giving

Their Attitude and Conduct

- Week 24 Protect them from resentment and give them peace
- Week 25 Protect them from pride and give them a humility
- Week 26 Protect them from a domineering spirit and give them gentleness
- Week 27 Protect them from discouragement and give them optimism
- Week 28 Protect them from slothfulness and give them energy
- Week 29 Fill them with the fruit of the Spirit
- Week 30 Give them godliness in action, dress, and speech

Their Preaching

- Week 31 For sermons that are full of grace and truth
- Week 32 For sermons that are fresh and innovative
- Week 33 For sermons that are compelling and clear
- Week 34 For sermons that draw people closer to Jesus

Their Leadership

- Week 35 To keep their zeal for reaching the lost
- Week 36 Help them equip the saints for the work of the ministry
- Week 37 To call out sin with boldness and love
- Week 38 For healthy, positive relationships with staff and leaders
- Week 39 For the courage to lead even when it's difficult
- Week 40 To clearly know and follow God's vision for the church
- Week 41 To clearly communicate God's vision for the church

Their Spouse

- Week 42 For their spouse to complement and complete them as a leader
- Week 43 For a healthy and loving physical and emotional relationship with their spouse
- Week 44 Protect their marriage from conflict
- Week 45 Give them a united heart in ministry
- Week 46 Protect their spouse from sickness and injury

Their Children

- Week 47 For their children develop an intimate relationship with the Lord
- Week 48 Give their children godly relationships
- Week 49 Help their children honor their father and mother
- Week 50 Give their children good relationships with each other as siblings
- Week 51 Keep their children from resentment of the ministry
- Week 52 Protect their children from sickness and injury

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