

PRAYER GUIDE

Praying for
PASTOR *and*
STAFF MINISTERS



PrayerPower

Helping God's people learn to pray.

Prayer Guide for Pastor and Staff Ministers
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Prayers from God's Word

These Bible-based prayers have been written in a way that makes them easy to pray. They include requests for not only practical, material needs, but for deeper spiritual needs as well. Because they are written from Scripture, they express God's will. And when we pray His will, He promises to answer! (1 John 5:14-15)

Easy Ways to Use These Prayers

- Read them just as they appear:

“May they lead our church with the heart of David.” (Acts 13:22)

- Use them as an outline for your personal prayer.

Pray a sentence or two, just enough to present a complete thought. Then add your own personal prayer, before moving on to the next thought:

“May they lead our church with the heart of David.” (Acts 13:22)

You might add something like— *“Help them to be as close to You as David was, to love You as much as he did, to be as broken over their sins...”*

Table of Contents

Prayers

Live in Intimacy with God	2
Be Conformed to Christ	3
Submit to God	4
Resist the Devil	5
Speak God's Truth Boldly	6
Give Wise Counsel	7
Follow God's Direction	8
Be Strong Leaders	9
Be Supported by Prayer	10
Pray in Faith	11
Be Set Free by the Truth	12
Set Boundaries	13
Enjoy Good Health	14
Live with Abounding Grace	15
As You Pray These Prayers...	16-17
Are You a Child of God?	18

Live in Intimacy with God

Father, I pray for our pastor and (name any others)...

Help them to choose to live in the shelter of Your presence, constantly turning their minds toward You, praying their way through each day. May they abide in Christ, living in His love and drawing close to You.

(Psalm 91:1-2; Colossians 3:1-2; John 15:7-9; James 4:8)

May they be committed to spend time alone with You every day, to cultivate an intimate personal relationship with You. Keep them faithful to nurture that relationship without fail. Don't let busyness and responsibility keep them from making You their first priority. (Matthew 6:6;

John 17:3; 1 John 1:3; Luke 11:38-41; Acts 6:3-4)

May they often draw aside to be alone with You, so that You can explain things to them. May their desire to be with You be like a deer panting for water; may their very souls thirst for You. May knowing You be the most important, the most delightful, part of their lives.

May their hearts rest in Your presence. (Mark 6:31; 4:34;

Psalm 42:1-2; 37:4; 1 John 3:19)

Gather them in and hold them close. In Jesus' name, amen.

Be Conformed to Christ

Father, I pray for our pastor and (name any others)...

May they be led by the Spirit and filled with the Spirit. Help them to neither grieve Him nor quench His presence, but to live in such a way as to keep Him stirred up within them. (Romans 8:14; Ephesians 5:18; 4:30; 1 Thessalonians 5:19; 2 Timothy 1:6)

May the fruit of the Spirit be evident in their lives, flowing from them as the character of Christ—rivers of His love, joy, peace, patience, His kindness, goodness, faithfulness, His gentleness and self-control. May those You bring across their paths see Christ in them, the hope of glory. (Galatians 5:22-23; John 7:38; Colossians 1:27)

Make them more like Christ every day, changed from within by a new way of thinking, by having the mind of Christ. May it be clear to everyone that they have been given new life in Christ and are being conformed to His image. Help them to always speak as those who live in Christ, and may everything they do be done to strengthen the people they serve. (Romans 8:29; 12:2; Philippians 2:5; 2 Corinthians 5:17; 12:19)

May Christ live through them. In Jesus' name, amen.

Submit to God

Father, I pray for our pastor and (name any others)...

As they are being conformed to Christ, help them to have His spirit of submission, to live as He lived, only to do Your will. Jesus said He could do nothing by Himself, but only what He saw You doing—and His greatest desire was to do Your will and finish Your work. May it be so for them. (Hebrews 5:7; John 5:19; 4:34)

May they, like Jesus, surrender their lives to You so completely that they say only what You give them to say. May they live as Jesus lived, desiring not to please themselves, but only to please You. As He did, may they humble themselves through obedience, and may their prayers be heard because of their submission. (John 12:49-50; 5:30; Hebrews 5:7-8)

Help them to give themselves to You completely, denying self to live for Christ. May they daily pray for Your kingdom to come, not only in the world, but in their lives personally—for You to rule and reign in their lives. May their constant prayer be “not my will, but Yours.”

(Romans 12:1-2; Luke 9:23; Matthew 6:10; 26:39, 42, 44)

May submission to You be their way of life. In Jesus' name, amen.

Resist the Devil

Father, I pray for our pastor and (name any others)...

Help them to stand their ground in Christ, clothed with Him as their armor of light. May they know Him as their belt of truth: the way, the truth and the life. Lead them to proclaim the truth that defeats the devil. May Christ, the righteous One, be their breastplate of righteousness—so that Satan cannot harm them. (Ephesians 6:10-14;

2 Corinthians 1:21; Romans 13:12, 14; John 14:6; Matthew 4:1-11; 1 John 2:1; 5:18)

May Christ, the Prince of Peace, give them firm footing to share the gospel of peace. May they take Him up as the anointed One, their shield, the author and finisher of their faith. May their shield of faith extinguish all of Satan's flaming arrows. (Isaiah 9:6; Ephesians 6:15-16; Psalm 84:9; Hebrews 12:2)

As they take up their helmet of salvation, Jesus the only name by which they are saved. May they capture every thought to obey Him. Lead them to wield the sword of the Spirit, the spoken Word, in prayer to defeat the forces of darkness. (Ephesians 6:17; Acts 4:12; 2 Corinthians 10:4-5; Luke 4:1-13)

May they stand strong and gain victory over the evil one. In Jesus' name, amen.

Speak God's Truth Boldly

Father, I pray for our pastor and (name any others)...

Help them to be enriched in Christ in every way—in everything they learn, and all that they say. May they not lack any spiritual gift for any kingdom work that You set before them. (1 Corinthians 1:5, 7)

May Christ live in and through them as Your wisdom and power. May their teaching be simple and straightforward, and anointed with the power of the Spirit, so that others put their faith in You, not in them. (1 Corinthians 1:24; 2:4-5; 1 John 2:20)

Keep them devoted to preaching and teaching, and to the public reading of Scripture. Help them watch their lives and doctrine closely. May they always handle the Word of truth correctly, so that they'll teach nothing untrue, and always teach in agreement with what Jesus taught. (1 Timothy 4:13, 16; 2 Timothy 2:15; 1 Timothy 6:3)

Give them Your words of wisdom, and cover them with the shadow of Your hand. (Isaiah 50:4; 51:16)

Help them to speak Your truth with clarity and boldness. In Jesus' name, amen.

Give Wise Counsel

Father, I pray for our pastor and (name any others)...

When they're called on to counsel others, may they first seek counsel from You. Help them to base the counsel they give on the truth of Your Scripture. (1 Kings 22:5; Luke 20:21)

May they help the people they serve to see Your Word as the living and active double-edged sword that it is, able to judge the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. (Hebrews 4:12)

Help them to use the Scripture to teach and train, and when necessary to correct or rebuke those they counsel. May they not give people what they want to hear, but speak only Your truth in love. Help them to always apply the truth correctly in counseling situations; give them discernment. (2 Timothy 3:16; 4:3; 2:15; Psalm 119:125)

When counseling those who have wandered away from the truth, help them to show our leaders the error of their ways and bring them back. (James 5:19-20)

May they look on those they serve with compassion. In Jesus' name, amen.

Follow God's Direction

Father, I pray for our pastor and (name any others)...

May they always follow Your guidance and direction, daily seek Your wisdom, deny themselves and follow Christ. Help them to trust Him to build His church through them. May they listen to Him, recognize His voice, and never follow the voice of a stranger. (Psalm 31:3; 119:133; James 1:5-6; Luke 9:23; Matthew 16:18; 17:5; John 10:4-5)

Instruct them and teach them in the way they should go. Counsel them and watch over them. May they hear You as clearly as Noah and Moses, Joshua and Paul—and be as quick to obey. Help them to have vision and courage, to be on guard and to always stand firm in their faith. (Psalm 32:8; Genesis 6:13-22; Exodus 3:3-4; Joshua 3:7-9; Acts 26:15-18; 1 Corinthians 16:13)

May they complete the work they've received in the Lord, the good works You prepared in advance for them to do—the works that come from their faith. May Christ be glorified in them. (Colossians 4:17; Exodus 40:33; Ephesians 2:10; 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12)

Help them in life and ministry to finish strong. In Jesus' name, amen.

Be Strong Leaders

Father, I pray for our pastor and (name any others)...

May they lead our church with—

the heart of David (Acts 13:22),
the wisdom of Solomon (2 Chronicles 1:10-12),
the faith of Abraham (Romans 4:12),
the purity of Joseph (Genesis 39:10-12),
the steadfastness of Daniel (Daniel 6:10),
the vision of Nehemiah (Nehemiah 2:17; 4:9; 6:15),
the courage of Joshua (Joshua 1:6; 11:23),
the strength of Caleb (Joshua 14:10-12),
the obedience of Noah (Genesis 6:22),
the meekness of Moses (Numbers 12:3),
the determination of Paul (2 Corinthians 4:8-9),
and the servant heart of Christ (John 13:14-15).

May they clearly instruct us in the way we should live to please You. May they shepherd the flock You have given them with integrity of heart, and lead us with skillful hands. (1 Thessalonians 4:1; Psalm 78:72)

May they be all that You desire them to be. In Jesus' name, amen.

Be Supported by Prayer

Father, I pray for our pastor and (name any others)...

Surround them with intercessors who are willing to pray for them. Give them an Aaron and Hur willing to stand with them when they're too tired to go on. (Exodus 17:10-13)

May we in the body of Christ be obedient to pray for and submit to these in authority over us. Help us to be willing to come before Your throne of grace on their behalf, asking that You give them mercy and grace in every time of need. (1 Timothy 2:1-4; Hebrews 4:16)

Help us to live as children of light, that in Christ we may stand our ground on their behalf against the spiritual powers of darkness. May we lift high the spoken Word, praying verses of Scripture inspired by the Spirit. (Ephesians 5:8; Ezekiel 22:30; Ephesians 6:11-16)

May they lead us to be constantly in prayer, and may they teach us to pray as Jesus taught His disciples. Make them powerful intercessors who lead by example. (Acts 1:14; Matthew 6:5-13; Luke 11:1-13; 22:32; James 5:16-18)

Strengthen them through our prayers! In Jesus' name, amen.

Pray in Faith

Father, I pray for our pastor and (name any others)...

May they choose to pray without ceasing, always praying in faith, believing—without doubt or wrong motives.

May they have the faith to move mountains, to believe they have received because they've prayed according to Your will. (1 Thessalonians 5:17; Mark 11:23; James 4:2-3; 1 John 5:14-15)

Help them to pray with persistence and boldness, to always pray without giving up. May they live in such a way that their prayers are never hindered. When they ask, may they receive; when they seek, may they find; when they knock, may the door be opened. (Luke 11:5-8; 18:2-5, 1; 1 Peter 3:7; Isaiah 59:2; Psalm 66:18; James 4:2-3; Matthew 7:7-8)

May they pray in the name and authority of the Lord Jesus, according to His nature, character and will. May they be guided by the Spirit of prayer. When they don't know what to ask, may He pray through them. May He perfect their prayers according to Your will, Your plan and purpose, always for Your glory. (John 14:14; Zechariah 12:10; Romans 8:26; John 14:13)

May they never be too busy to pray. In Jesus' name, amen.

Be Set Free by the Truth

Father, I pray for our pastor and (name any others)...

May Your truth set them free of every worry or concern. (John 8:31-32)

When they feel inadequate—help them to do all things through Christ. (Philippians 4:13)

When they're upset—give them peace at all times and in every way. (2 Thessalonians 3:16)

When they feel alone—reveal that You are with them. (Matthew 28:20)

When plans are disrupted—show them that what You plan, You bring about. (Isaiah 46:11)

When they're exhausted—give them Your strength. (Isaiah 40:29)

When they're stressed—help them to be still and know that You are God. (Psalm 46:10)

When they're overwhelmed—may Your grace be sufficient. (2 Corinthians 12:9)

When things seem impossible—remind them that nothing is too hard for You! (Jeremiah 32:17)

May Your truth set them free in every way. In Jesus' name, amen.

Set Boundaries

Father, I pray for our pastor and (name any others)...

Help them—and all of us in the church—to realize that their workload is too heavy for them to carry alone. Keep them from trying to be everything to everyone, and keep us from expecting them to! (Exodus 18:17-23)

Help them to be willing to let go of some of their responsibilities, to be able to prioritize and focus on those things that they must do personally. Give them capable lay people, and help them to be willing to delegate things to them. Lead them to members of the church who are Spirit-filled and eager to serve, those who are willing and eager to minister according to their spiritual gifts. (Exodus 18:24-26; Acts 6:1-3; Romans 12:5-8)

Help them to set boundaries over time and schedule, so that they are not rising early or staying up late, trying to stretch their days—for You always grant sleep to those You love. Refresh them when they're weary. (Psalm 127:2; Jeremiah 31:25)

Help them to know what to let go of, and how. In Jesus' name, amen.

Enjoy Good Health

Father, I pray for our pastor and (name any others)...

May they at every age have good health, strength and stamina to meet the physical demands of their ministry. May they be as obedient as Moses was, and as humble. Help them to grow old the way Moses did—he lived to be 120, and his eyes weren't weak and he was still physically strong. (Exodus 40:16; Numbers 12:3; Deuteronomy 34:7)

May they follow You as wholeheartedly as Caleb. Keep them as strong and vigorous as he was—ready to take on the giants at age 85! (Joshua 14:7-14)

Help them to take care of themselves, eating as wisely as Daniel, and keeping fit like Paul. May they live like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in season and have leaves that do not wither. May they live in Your presence, and be satisfied with long life, still bearing fruit in old age. Help them to serve in Your strength. (Daniel 1:8; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27; Psalm 1:3; 91:1, 9, 16; 92:14; 1 Timothy 1:12)

Protect their health for the sake of the work You have given them to do. In Jesus' name, amen.

Live with Abounding Grace

Father, I pray for our pastor and (name any others)...

Help them to sow and reap generously in ministry. Give them Your abundant grace—Your favor and blessing. In all things at all times, provide for them all that they need, so that they will have more than enough for every good work. (2 Corinthians 9:6, 8)

Just as You give seed to the farmer who sows and then provide bread to feed the hungry, give them the resources they need. Help them to see a great harvest from the good things they do for Your kingdom. Bless them in every way so that they can keep on being generous, and may their generosity result in thanksgiving to You.

(2 Corinthians 9:10-11)

May their lives produce good fruit. May they be like the land that is blessed with rain and produces a good crop. Please remember their work and the love they've shown You as they have helped Your people. May they never grow tired of doing good. (Luke 6:43; Hebrews 6:7, 10; Galatians 6:9)

Bless all that they do; keep Your hand upon them. In Jesus' name, amen.

As You Pray These Prayers...

You Are Praying God's Will

Think what it will mean to you and others in your church as God hears and answers these prayers for your pastor and staff ministers. You're praying His will into their lives—You're praying what's on His heart. If you've prayed one prayer a day, you've realized it takes only a minute or two. Keep praying through them, adding your own prayers to make them even more personal.

Consider that Prayer Is More than Asking

The main purpose of prayer is to help us know God. To do this, we have to spend time with Him, just as we must with any person if we want to know that person well.

(John 17:3; 1 John 1:3)

1. Begin Each Day with God

Jesus taught us that it is important to have some quiet time with our Father every day. Early morning is usually the best time, before we're caught up in busyness. If this isn't a part of your daily life now, ask God to help you begin with just a few minutes, and He will.

(Matthew 6:6; 9-13)

2. Come with clean hands and a pure heart.

The Bible promises that we can draw close to God if we have clean hands and a pure heart, and He will come close to us (James 4:8). That simply means we must confess our sins. When we do, God forgives us and makes us clean (1 John 1:9), and we may come to Him.

3. Have a listening ear.

God usually speaks to us (John 10:4-5) as we read the Bible. You don't have to spend a long time in the Word, but for you to hear His voice clearly, it is important to spend at least a few minutes in the Bible every day. Pray as you read. Ask God to speak to your heart: *What do you want me to know today? What do I need to learn?*

Knowing God Personally

Jesus said that eternal life is *knowing God* (John 17:3). We have that life the moment we trust Jesus for salvation. We can then live every day in a real, vital, personal relationship with God. What a privilege, available to all of God's children! (See page 18.)

Are You a Child of God?

This is a question that is easy to answer—if you aren't sure—by verses from the Bible that reveal this truth:

- Have you believed in Christ, trusting Him, relying on Him for everything? Have you received Christ into your heart and life? (John 1:12)
- Have you “believed in Your heart” that God raised Jesus from the dead, and “spoken with your mouth” that Jesus is Lord? (Romans 10:9)
- Do you sense that you are a new creation in Christ evidenced by a desire to spend time in God's Word? (2 Corinthians 5:17)
- Are you experiencing God's call to live as “a child of light,” including the conviction and power to turn away from sin? (Ephesians 5:8-9; Luke 13:3, 5)
- Is the “fruit of the Holy Spirit” influencing your life and relationships in increasing measure? (Galatians 5:22-23)

If these things don't seem real in your life and you want them to be, speak to a pastor or godly friend, or pray like this:

“God, I believe Jesus is Your Son. I now receive Him as the Lord, who is the Savior of my life. I believe that Jesus died for my sins, that He was buried and raised again from the dead. I confess that I have sinned against You and I am sorry. Thank You for forgiving me! Thank You for the gift of salvation!”

“Please strengthen me to love You, to serve You and to turn away from the temptations and sins of this world. Thank You for the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal and forever Savior! I pray in His name, amen.”

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Standing My Ground

Prayers for the Overwhelmed

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