

HOW TO PRAY FOR YOUR PASTOR

*Dear brothers and sisters,
honor those who are your leaders in the Lord's work.
They work hard among you and give you spiritual guidance.
Show them great respect and wholehearted love because of their work.
And live peacefully with each other. (1 Thessalonians 5:12-13)*

What better way to honor, respect, and wholeheartedly love our pastors than to faithfully lift them up in prayer! Pastors are constantly under attack and dealing with the pressures of not only their own personal and family lives, but also the pressures of families in the church. Satan knows that if he can take out a pastor, he has the potential of taking out the entire congregation.

As members of the body of Christ, we can be proactive in the fight, and support our pastors in the best possible way through prayer. The following list will give you ideas on how you can pray for your pastor and help maintain the health of your church. Ask the Holy Spirit to direct you as you pray, and place on your heart any areas of specific need.

Ask God to give your pastor (and family):

- a spirit of wisdom, knowledge, discernment and understanding
- a spirit of humility
- a seeking and receiving heart
- a serving heart
- peace and rest
- healthy boundaries in personal, family and ministry life
- protection from the enemy
- blessings and encouragement
- a spirit of unity with church leadership
- a spirit of truth
- a spirit of love and joy

HOW TO CARE FOR YOUR PASTOR

- **Pray regularly for your pastor and family.**
- **Avoid having expectations for your pastor's spouse and children.**
- **Avoid going through the spouse if your pastor isn't available.**
- **Guard against viewing your pastor as the paid professional who does the ministry.** The pastor's job is to equip the body to do the work of the ministry. (Ephesians 4:11-12)
- **Recognize your pastor is human, just like you and has similar challenges in life.**
- **Allow your pastor to struggle, be vulnerable, and to admit weakness.**
- **Allow your pastor to make mistakes and to learn from them.**
- **Bring criticism to your pastor only in a sensitive and constructive way.** Be mindful of the timing - not right before preaching on a Sunday
- **Guard your pastor's reputation.** Don't entertain an accusation against your pastor unless it's confirmed by two or three witnesses. (1 Timothy 5:19)

Church members can work in conjunction with church leadership to:

- **Encourage your pastor to take a true day off.**
This should be a day when all ministry duties are set aside and others are available in case emergency needs arise. It should be known and honored by members of the congregation.
- **Pay your pastor a living wage.**
"The workman is worthy of his hire." (1 Timothy 5:18) "Those who labor in word and doctrine are worthy of double honor." (1 Timothy 5:17)
- **Encourage your pastor to take appropriate paid vacations.**
- **Encourage your pastor to be part of a local John 17:23 pastors support group.** See www.john1723.net
- **Provide your pastor with ongoing educational opportunities.** A budget providing books, seminars, webinars, conferences and travel expenses