
PRAY FOR YOUR



PASTOR

A 40-DAY INTERCESSORY
PRAYER GUIDE

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P R A Y F O R Y O U R

PASTOR

A 40-day Intercessory Prayer

Guide

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“But we request of you, brethren,
that you appreciate those who
diligently labor among you, and have
charge over you in the Lord and give
you instruction, and that you esteem
them very highly in love because
of their work. Live in peace with
one another . . . pray without ceasing”
(1 Thess. 5:12-13, 17)

“Brethren, pray for us”
(1 Thess. 5:25).

Praying for pastors and ministerial staff is one of the most effective endeavors in which believers can participate. Paul's letters are full of requests for prayer for himself and other leaders of the early church (see Col. 4:2; 1 Thess. 5:25). This booklet is intended to encourage believers to pray daily for spiritual leaders in local congregations. Specific and intentional prayer for pastors and other staff is one of the greatest gifts we can give to them.

Use this guide as part of your daily quiet time alone, with your spouse, or with small groups at church. May the daily Scriptures and biblical prayer suggestions help as you pray daily for your pastor and grow closer to your heavenly Father.

Begin your prayer time with praise. Along with your praise of the Father and Son, begin to praise God for the positive characteristics of your pastor, using Philippians 4:8 as a

guide, “Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.” Thank God for your pastor and ask God to let you see your pastor through the eyes of Jesus. Continue your prayer time with a time of confession. Psalm 51:2 says “Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin.” Allow the Spirit to cleanse you of all unrighteousness and receive His forgiveness (read 1 John 1:8-9). Conclude your prayer time with intercession for personal needs and for specific needs of others including the lost. As you pray specifically for others, relax and enjoy your conversation with your Father who loves you. “The prayer of the upright is His delight” (Prov. 15:8).

“Pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel” (Eph. 6:19).

- Pray for your pastor to be more interested in pleasing his heavenly Father than men.
- Pray for boldness in speaking what God puts on his heart for your church.
- Pray that he may experience the anointing of the Holy Spirit in his preaching.

“Give Your servant an understanding heart to judge your people to discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours” (1 Kings 3:9)?

- Pray for him to lead his staff with the direction and sensitivity that only the Holy Spirit can offer.
- Pray that he may offer guidance to church leadership that may bring unity and shared vision.
- Pray for wisdom to be given to your pastor in building a strong ministry team.

“Then I will give you shepherds after My own heart, who will feed you on knowledge and understanding”
(Jer. 3:15).

- Pray that the Holy Spirit may be the Comforter of souls through His servant as he counsels the troubled, visits the sick in homes and hospitals, and exhibits the love of Christ in his daily acts of ministry.
- Pray that, as pastor to his staff, he may model the strength and compassion of the Good Shepherd.

“I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom; preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction” (2 Tim. 4:1-2).

- Pray for your pastor as he prepares his sermons that only the Word of the Lord may be revealed.
- Pray that the emerging vision God has for His people may be revealed and clearly interpreted through His servant.

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth”
(2 Tim. 2:15).

- Pray for your pastor to spend much time in the Word, gaining wisdom and approval from God.
- Pray for his discernment to grow as he diligently applies himself to accurately handle the Word.
- Pray for him to be a teacher that church members will follow in also studying the Word of God.

“How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news of good things” (Rom. 10:15)!

- Pray for your pastor as he leads souls to Christ and as he teaches others to lead souls to Christ.
- Pray that doors of opportunity for witness may be continually opened to him.
- Pray for yours to be a church that focuses on bringing the lost to a saving knowledge of Jesus.

“Retain the standard of sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. Guard, through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, the treasure which has been entrusted to you”
(2 Tim. 1:13-14).

- Pray for your pastor to stay focused on the gospel of Jesus Christ and not be distracted by issues of the day.
- Pray that he will be able to keep the unchanging message relevant through fresh insights from current events through the eyes and heart of Jesus Christ.

“Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person” (Col. 4:6).

- Pray for your pastor to have grace to know how to respond to complaints from church members.
- Pray for him to be found blameless and innocent and to have favor with those he serves.
- Pray for him to be a peacemaker and one who brings reconciliation.

“And let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near”
(Heb. 10:24-25).

- Pray for your pastor to be an encouragement to the body of believers to be faithful in love and good deeds in the community, that your church will be a lighthouse to the lost.
- Pray for Sunday corporate worship to be the highlight of the members' week, as the pastor brings a fresh word from the Lord.

“Where there is no guidance the people fall, But in abundance of counselors there is victory”

(Prov. 11:14).

- Pray for your pastor and the other spiritual leaders of the congregation to pray and seek wise counsel before making decisions.
- Pray for clear guidance from your pastor through biblical insight for church policy.
- Pray for him to be trusted and followed as the shepherd of your congregation.

“But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him” (Jas. 1:5).

- Pray for your pastor to have a spirit of humility and to willingly ask God for wisdom in leading your church body.
- Pray for your pastor to regularly teach by example, a total dependence upon God.

“Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven” (Matt. 5:16).

- Pray for your pastor to point people to Jesus and not seek undue recognition for himself.
- Pray for people to see Jesus in your pastor and be drawn to Him.
- Pray for members of your church to also seek to point people to Jesus and give God the glory.

Read Matthew 6:25-33. Verse 33 says, “But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”

- Pray that your pastor, and your family, will be free from anxiety over things of this world such as what to wear or what to eat.
- Pray for your pastor, and your family, to realize and depend upon God’s provision.
- Pray most of all that your pastor, and you, will seek God’s kingdom first.

“The apostles gathered together with Jesus; and they reported to Him all that they had done and taught. And He said to them, ‘Come away by yourselves to a secluded place and rest a while’” (Mark 6:30-31).

- Pray for your pastor and your church to recognize his need for rest weekly, and also for a yearly break away from church responsibilities.
- Pray for seasons of refreshing for your pastor as he takes time to hear others preach at conferences.
- Pray for your church to be financially able to send him on a retreat occasionally.

“Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose heart” (Luke 18:1).

- Pray for your pastor to be a man of prayer and one who teaches others how to pray.
- Pray for a steadfast spirit within your pastor that he will not “lose heart.”
- Pray that your pastor will lead your congregation to be known as a praying church.

“He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him”
(John 14:21).

- Pray for your pastor to be an obedient servant of Jesus and one who leads the church to obey.
- Pray for your pastor to enjoy full fellowship with Christ Jesus, loved by His heavenly Father.
- Pray for a spirit of obedience to Christ to permeate your pastor and congregation.

“Like apples of gold in settings of silver
Is a word spoken in right circumstances”
(Prov. 25:11).

- Pray for your pastor to be blessed with the right words in the variety of situations he faces with his congregation, in their births, marriages, deaths, family problems, and more.
- Pray for him as he prepares to preach at weddings and funerals to know what to say.
- Pray for him to rely on the Holy Spirit for wisdom in speaking publicly and privately.

“An excellent wife, who can find? For her worth is far above jewels. The heart of her husband trusts in her, And he will have no lack of gain” (Prov. 31:10-11).

- Pray for your pastor's wife to be the helpmate God intended for her to be and to continue to grow in her own walk with the Lord.
- Pray for your pastor's marriage to remain solid and to be a priority in his life above the church.
- Pray for your pastor and his wife to take time to nurture their relationship with each other.

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up” (Deut. 6:5-7).

- Pray for your pastor to lead by godly example as he leads his own family and teaches them to love the Lord their God.
- Pray for godly parents in your church who love and teach their children to obey God.

“For the vision is yet for the appointed time; It hastens toward the goal and it will not fail. Though it tarries, wait for it; For it will certainly come, it will not delay” (Hab. 2:3).

- Pray for your pastor and your church to be patient in receiving the vision for what God wants to do in and through them.
- Pray for strength to remain steadfast when answers do not seem to come quickly.

“But the Lord is in His holy temple. Let all the earth be silent before Him” (Hab. 2:20). “Guard your steps as you go to the house of God and draw near to listen . . . do not be hasty in word or impulsive in thought to bring up a matter in the presence of God. For God is in heaven and you are on the earth” (Eccl. 5:1-2). “Cease striving and know that I am God” (Ps. 46:10).

- Pray for your pastor to set a tone for worship, to lead the people to be in “awe” of our holy God.
- Pray for a new awareness of the majesty of God our King to fill your church services.

“Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity
And cleanse me from my sin . . .
Purify me with hyssop, and I shall be
clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter
than snow . . . Create in me a clean
heart, O God, And renew a steadfast
spirit within me” (Ps. 51:2, 7, 10).

- Pray for a spirit of revival to break out in your church, and for your pastor to encourage individuals to repent from personal sins.
- Pray for reconciliation between any members who are at odds with each other.

“For it is not you who speak, but it is the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you” (Matt. 10:20).

- Pray for your pastor to have confidence to stand and speak in any situation trusting in God to provide the words.
- Pray for boldness for your pastor to step out on faith to speak when the Holy Spirit prompts him.

“We pray for you always, that our God will count you worthy of your calling, and fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power, so that the name of our Lord Jesus will be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ”
(2 Thess. 1:11-12).

- Pray for your pastor to fulfill his desires for goodness and for him to be empowered by God to be counted worthy of his calling.
- Pray for him to bring glory to the name of Jesus Christ according to His grace.

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 4:6-7).

- Pray for your pastor to be a man of prayer who is able to turn every care over to his Father.
- Pray for him to enjoy the peace of mind that passes all understanding.
- Pray for your church to practice taking every concern and decision to God in prayer.

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord” (1 Cor. 15:58).

- Pray for your pastor to be encouraged that his toil on behalf of your congregation is not in vain.
- Pray for his joy in the work God has called him to do, that he would thrive on serving Jesus.
- Pray for him to produce fruit that will remain for God’s glory.

“Brethren, my heart’s desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation. For I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge” (Rom. 10:1-2).

- Pray for your pastor to have a heart for the lost and to have opportunity to share with those who may be members of the church but do not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- Pray for your pastor to convey to your congregation the importance of praying for the lost.

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“Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect” (Rom. 12:1-2).

- Pray for your pastor, and for you, to keep your bodies in good shape without harmful habits as a service to God and to bring Him honor.
- Pray for your pastor, and for you, to spend much time in God’s Word to renew your minds.

“Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus, so that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Rom. 15:5-6).

- Pray for your pastor and your congregation to enjoy a spirit of unity as you desire to please God.
- Pray for there to be times of refreshing for the pastor and congregation as they pray in one accord, glorifying God.

“Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love”
(1 Cor. 16:13-14).

- Pray for your pastor to be alert to the wiles of the devil and to stand firm in his faith.
- Pray for protection for your pastor from those who would try to cause him to stumble.
- Pray for a spirit of love to be evident in all that your pastor does.

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God” (2 Cor. 1:3-4).

- Pray for your pastor to have compassion for those who need comforting in the congregation.
- Pray for church members to also reach out and share with others the comfort that God has given to them in a similar situation.

“For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ” (2 Cor. 10:4-5).

- Pray for your pastor to recognize and use the powerful weapons at his disposal, through the power of Jesus Christ.
- Pray for your pastor's mind to be protected and for his thoughts to be in keeping with the obedience of Christ.

“But let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things,’ declares the Lord” (Jer. 9:24).

- Pray for your pastor to be humble about his accomplishments and to boast about what God has done.
- Pray for him to be commended by the Lord, and approved in His sight.
- Pray for him to be protected from a spirit of pride.

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

- Pray for your pastor to lead your church to be on mission with Jesus outside your church walls.
- Pray for opportunities to reach out to your community with the kindness and gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Pray that your church, led by your pastor, will pray for and support missions and missionaries.

“Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved” (Acts 2:46-47).

- Pray for your pastor and your church to have the sweet aroma of Christ that will draw the lost to come to know Jesus.
- Pray for a community spirit of love, sincerity of heart, and praise for God to define your church.

“Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith” (Gal. 6:9-10).

- Pray for your pastor to be encouraged to continue doing good and not grow weary.
- Pray for your church to show hospitality and God’s love to all people.
- Pray for your church to demonstrate their appreciation for your pastor by good deeds to him and his family.

Personalize and pray Ephesians 1:15-19 for your pastor today.

“I . . . do not cease giving thanks for (your pastor’s name), while making mention of (your pastor’s name) in my prayers; that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to (your pastor’s name) a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him. I pray that the eyes of (his) heart may be enlightened, so that (he) will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe.”

“Speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love” (Eph. 4:15-16).

- Pray for your pastor as he helps members understand their unique roles as part of the body.
- Pray for members to exercise their spiritual gifts for the good of the whole church.
- Seek God’s wisdom to understand your own spiritual gifts and what He would have you do.

“Prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world” (Phil. 2:15).

- Pray for your pastor to be above reproach in all of his dealings with those inside and outside of the church.
- Pray for your pastor to live a life of holiness, be broken of personal sin, able to repent, and willing to be transparent with his flock concerning his desire to live a life pleasing to God.
- Pray for the light of Jesus to shine brightly through your pastor, the church, and its members.

“Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve” (Col. 3:23-24).

- Pray for your pastor to seek to please the Lord and recognize that men may not always appreciate him.
- Pray for him to take joy in pleasing his heavenly Father as he ministers to your congregation.

This prayer guide is one way to support your pastor in prayer. You may want to create a card called Seven Days with Our Pastor and tailor it to your pastor's personal schedule. Visit www.namb.net/prayer for a sample copy, or call (770) 410-6333. You can create an acrostic using the letters of your pastor's first name with prayer prompts, too. The idea is to encourage people in the church to pray for their pastors.

This booklet is part of a three-part comprehensive prayer ministry in your church. These goals can be adapted to create an overall prayer plan or strategy.

1. Personal Prayer Goal. Renew a personal passion for Jesus through praying unceasingly (see Ps. 51:10; 1 Thess. 5:17). Encourage believers to improve their personal time with God through Bible study and prayer.

2. Corporate Prayer Goal. Reclaim the church as a house of prayer with a passion for lost people (see Mark 11:17; Luke 19:10).

3. Kingdom Prayer Goal. Respond to God's call to unite believers in focused prayer for global evangelization and awakening (see 2 Chron. 7:14; John 17:20-21).

As the prayer leader, ask yourself about each prayer opportunity, "Will this help develop personal prayer, corporate prayer, or expand a kingdom vision for prayer?" For more information about developing a prayer ministry, visit www.namb.net/prayer.

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