



The pastor's role is not easy, and it isn't one that comes without opposition. As a pastor seeks to feed his flock God's Word, comfort them when afflicted, protect them from danger, and minister the gospel to their souls, he has a target on his back. The enemy knows that "striking the shepherd will scatter the sheep" (Mark 14:27). Pastors need to be on their guards against the world, the flesh, and the devil which can subtly—or not so subtly—lure them away from serving the God they

love.

To stand firm in the ministry and fulfil God's calling, pastors need to be men of prayer and need the prayers of believers in their congregation. The Apostle Paul asked for prayer several times in his letters, for rescue from unbelievers (Romans 15:30-33), for a bold gospel proclamation (Ephesians 6:19-20), and that the word of the Lord would speed ahead and be honoured (2 Thessalonians 3:1-2). If Paul needed prayer, your pastor does too!

Praying for your pastor is joining him in ministry. Paul says in his letters, "...strive together with me in your prayers to God on my behalf..." (Romans 15:30) and "You also must help us by prayer, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers of many" (2 Corinthians 1:11).

Your prayers for your pastor and your church will strengthen the work being done and be a service to him.

If you're wondering how to pray for your pastor, below are several suggestions from Scripture for the pastor's personal life, family life, and ministry life. The corresponding Bible verses listed provide a command or additional support on how to pray for pastors.

Pray for Your Pastor's Personal Life

For him to seek first the Kingdom of God (Matthew 6:33)

To have a deep delight in the Word of God (Psalm 1:1-3)

For deep satisfaction in Christ (Psalm 63:5-7)

For a deep and vibrant prayer life (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

To model the character God mandates for leaders (1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9)

That he wouldn't be greedy, but content and managing money well (Titus 1:7; 1 Timothy 6:6-10)

That he would watch his life and doctrine closely (1 Timothy 4:16)

To be growing in holiness and in hatred for sin and evil (1 Thessalonians 4:3; Proverbs 8:13)

To constantly walk by the Spirit and display fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:16, 22-23)

For him to find his identity first in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17)

For a transformed and a continually renewed mind (Romans 12:2)

To display a spirit of wisdom, understanding, counsel might, knowledge, and fear of the Lord (Isaiah 11:2-3)

For him to abide in Christ and receive spiritual vitality from Christ (John 15:5)

That his life would constantly be increasing in faith, virtue, knowledge, self-control, steadfastness, godliness, brotherly affection, and love (2 Peter 1:5-9)

To be constantly growing in faith and the obedience of faith (Romans 1:4)

To do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God (Micah 6:8)

Model a life of faith and true religion that is unpolluted by the world (James 1:27)

To enjoy adequate and nourishing rest (Matthew 11:28-30)

Deep relationships with other believers who can hold him accountable (Proverbs 27:17)

Protection against Satan and his schemes (Ephesians 6:11)

That he would walk in a manner worthy of the calling he received (Philippians 1:27)

Pray for Your Pastor's Family Life

Pray that he would love his wife and cultivate a strong marriage (Ephesians 5:25)

For him to lead his wife to be respectable, sober-minded, and faithful in all things (1 Timothy 3:11)

To be a godly, dedicated, and loving father (1 Timothy 3:4-5)

For his children to grow up in the fear of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4)

That God would protect their marriage from inside and outside attacks (Ephesians 5:28-33; Ephesians 4:27)

That his family would be united in ministry and pursuit of the Lord (Deuteronomy 6:20-25)

Pray for Your Pastor's Ministry Life

For his mouth to be filled with the Spirit's words in conversation and from the pulpit (1 Corinthians 2:13)

Faithfulness in preaching the Word and applying it to the congregation (2 Timothy 4:1-2)

That he would preach Jesus Christ crucified (1 Corinthians 1:23, 2:2)

That his leadership, vision, and service would be in accord with God's will (Philippians 2:13; 1 Corinthians 12:11)

To be respected and well thought of by outsiders (1 Timothy 3:2, 7)

That he would be a pray-er for the congregation (Ephesians 1:16, 3:14-19)

To offer wise counsel and comfort to his flock (Colossians 1:28; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Galatians 6:1)

To teach sound doctrine and rebuke those who oppose it (Titus 1:9, 2:1)

To be wise in practicing discernment and carrying out church discipline (1 John 4:1; Philippians 1:9-10)

To diligently work to rightly handle the Word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15)

To be a disciple and a disciple maker who equips other disciple makers

That he will persevere in ministry and through trials (2 Thessalonians 1:4-5; Galatians 6:9; Romans 5:25)

That he would be disciplined and a hard worker (Titus 1:8; Col 3:23)

To protect and shepherd the flock while following the True Shepherd (Ezekiel 34; John 10:11-16)

To have patience and grace with difficult people (Philippians 2:3-4; Romans 12:3)

For him to strengthen the weak, comfort the sick, bring the back the stray, seek the lost (Ezekiel 34:16)

That your pastor and the church's governing body would be united with their focus on Christ (1 Corinthians 1:10; John 17:23)

To be hospitable and create a welcoming atmosphere in the church (Romans 12:13)

To be a wise administrator and steward (1 Corinthians 12:27-28; Titus 1:8-11)

For protection from the fear of man (Proverbs 29:25)

For the church's protection from Satan (Ephesians 6:12)

To proclaim the Gospel boldly and clearly (Ephesians 6:19)

For God to open a door for the gospel (Colossians 4:3)

For his words to be carefully chosen, gracious, and seasoned with salt (James 3:8; Colossians 4:6)

A proper alignment of priorities (Matthew 22:37-40)

That he would avoid gossip, dissention, and unprofitable speech and lead others away from it as well (Ephesians 4:29)