

## Pray for our Pastors

"Will you pray for me?" is a question pastors hear every day. But when have you heard a pastor ask that question for themselves? Frankly, it's rare. So, we're asking you to pray for the pastors of our church. It is a tremendous gift to them, our church, and the whole community of faith.

As you commit to praying for our pastors, consider these three components to make your gift of prayer more meaningful.

- 1. A stated written commitment to pray.** Write your commitment to one or all the pastors. If you simply verbalize it, the commitment will likely wane at best and be forgotten at worst. So, get ready to write that email. Even better, give your pastors a handwritten letter and commitment. That takes a bit more effort, and the act of writing it will serve as a reminder in your mind.
- 2. A commitment for a specified number of days.** Of course, you might desire to pray for your pastors every day, but commitment really does work better if it has a defined time. Open-ended commitments to pray for every day tend to wane and then disappear over time. I recommend you try a 30-day commitment. You can always do it again if you are led and motivated to do so.
- 3. Asking other church members to join you.** Think about four or five other church members you would feel comfortable asking to join you in a 30-day commitment to pray for your pastors. If five of you pray for your pastors for 30 days, you have offered 150 days of prayer! Your pastors will be incredibly encouraged to hear about this commitment!

We don't presume to know how to write this letter any better than you do, but in case you need a template, here is something to consider:

Pastor,

I have a gift for you. It is a gift of prayer. In fact, five of us in the church have committed to pray for you for 30 consecutive days. In one month, we will have offered 150 prayers for you (and your family).

Please know that we love you. Though we might take your sacrifices for granted at times, we

desire to be more intentional in supporting you, particularly by praying for you.

We will let you know how our prayer time went at the end of 30 days. I do hope you sense this committed time of prayer as the Holy Spirit works in your life.

By the way, we hope that this 30-day commitment to pray will be the first of many.

Blessings!

## Topics for Prayer

Please feel free to pray in any way and for any topic as it relates to our pastors. If you would like specific ideas, there are thirty topics on the following pages that give you a glimpse into the life of pastors. These are areas all our pastors would greatly appreciate prayer. Thank you again for your commitment to prayer!

### Topics for Prayer

- **God**—Will continue to seek a vibrant relationship with God, Christ, and Holy Spirit.
- **Wisdom**—Wise in decisions, use of time, and challenging situations.
- **Family**—Care for family, meaningful relationships, time to enjoy each other.
- **Preparation**—Clarity and time necessary to be prepared for the tasks of ministry.
- **Preaching**—Would share the Good News in ways that connects people to the love and grace of God.
- **Criticism**—Would not be hindered by negative criticism.
- **Conflict**—Would listen and speak with love and reconciliation.
- **Prayer**—Would allow prayer to guide and sustain their life.
- **Word**—The word of God would be active and alive in all aspects of their life.
- **Counselor**—Holy Spirit would guide their life particularly when they are called to offer counsel to others.
- **Caregiver**—Would provide the love and care others need especially in moments of needing healing and grief.
- **Expectations**—Would not be overwhelmed with the countless and often unreal expectations placed on them.
- **Weddings**—Would unite couples with a spirit of love and centered on Jesus.

- **Funerals**—Would offer the assurance of God’s eternal love and perfectly honor the life of those who have died.
- **Weariness**—Would rely on God’s strength when exhausted and ask for help when needed.
- **Leading**—Would lead with integrity, boldness, humility, and clarity of God’s call.
- **Others**—Would be ever mindful of the needs of others, and inclusive in all matters of life.
- **Encouragement**—Would be encouraged by the Holy Spirit, the people of faith, and the work of God being done through the church.
- **Courage**—Would be courageous in speaking the truth, loving unconditionally, and following after the heart of God.
- **Hope**—Would live with the expectation of the fulfillment of God’s promises at the heart of life and ministry.
- **Loss**—Would take time to grieve losses and find support from family and friends.
- **Failure**—Would learn from failure and recognize failures do not define them. We are all forgiven children of God.
- **Anger**—Would be quick to listen, slow to speak, and always act out of love for others.
- **Temptation**—Would turn from temptation and seek a way out of anything that is not God-honoring.
- **Comparisons**—Would recognize their unique gifts, live into their best self, and not compare themselves to others.
- **Joy**—Would be filled with the joy only Christ can offer. Would find pleasure in see the work of Christ being fulfilled in their life.
- **Clarity**—Would see life through the “eyes of God,” and have the assurance to know they are moving forward in the right direction.
- **Friends**—Would have meaningful friendships that offer a safe place for them to be themselves.
- **Equipping**—Would have the knowledge, resources, and support to equip the church for the work of ministry so God is glorified.
- **Love**—Would fall more and more in love with Jesus and allow the love of Christ to overflow in every aspect of their life.

Thanks for praying for your pastors!