

Pastors' Prayer Shield

(An NECF Prayer Commission campaign for 2001)

NO CHRISTIAN IS GREATER THAN HIS PRAYER LIFE

The church has many organizers, but few agonizers; many who pay, but few who pray; many resters, but few wrestlers; many who are enterprising, but few who are interceding. People who are not praying are playing.

Two prerequisites of dynamic Christian living are vision and passion, and both of these are generated in the prayer closet. The ministry of preaching is open to a few. The ministry of prayer is open to every child of God.

Don't mistake action for unction, commotion for creation, and rattles for revivals. When we pray, God listens to our heartbeat. Hannah's lips moved, but her voice was not heard (1 Sam. 1:12, 13). When we pray in the Spirit, there are groanings which cannot be uttered (Romans. 8:26).

Tithes may build a church, but tears will give it life. That is the difference between the modern church and the early church. Our emphasis is on paying, theirs was on praying. When we have paid, the place is taken. When they had prayed, the place was shaken (Acts 4:31).

In the matter of effective praying, never have so many left so much to so few. Brethren, let us pray.

- Leonard Ravenhill in "Why Revival Tarries"

Why Pastors Need Intercession

Pastors have greater responsibility and accountability. Pastors are more targeted by spiritual warfare. Pastors are more subject to temptation. Pastors have more influence on others. Intercession improves ministry.

" Pastors need prayer, too. No matter how well you pay your pastor, praise him or work for him, it is through earnest, strategic prayer that you can ever really help him be an effective minister in the Hands of Almighty God" - Will Bruce

How / What to Pray for Pastors

Satan works against those on the front lines of spiritual activity. He delights in presenting hindrances to your pastor and family. The following scriptural guidelines will aid your intercession.

1) Hedge In Your Pastor



Meditate on the greatness of God on behalf of your pastor (Romans 8:23,31,37; 1 Peter 3:12) Believe the promises for his overall protection (Isaiah 54:14-17; Psalm 34:7; Luke 10:19; 2 Corinthians 10:3,4) Petition the Father to grant him a discerning spirit (2 Corinthians 11:14; 1 John 4:1)

2) Your Pastor's Personal Life



Request that your pastor's glory be solely in the cross (Galatians 6:14) Pray for his continual renewal (Isaiah 40:27-31) and for holiness (1 Peter 1:16) Seek for him a clear vision of the merits of Christ (Philippians 3:7-10); for godly contentment (1 Timothy 6:6); and for the love of God to be shed abroad in his heart (Romans 5:5)

3) Your Pastor's Family Life



Intercede for his spouse, children and extended family (Psalms 37:25; 91:9-12) Cancel; in Jesus' name all assignments against them (Matthew 16:19) Remove by faith all obstacles to health and prosperity (Mark 11:23; Philippians 4:19)

4) Your Pastor's Prayer Life



Quench by the Holy Spirit darts of unbelief and doubt against your pastor (Mark 6:5,6) Rebuke all distractions from his devotional time (Mark 1:35) Ask the Father to give your pastor a strong life of worship (Matthew 4:10)

5) Your Pastor's Preaching Life



Ask that God bless your pastor with rich study time (Acts 6:4; 2 Timothy 2:15) Pray for boldness for your pastor (Colossians 1:28; 4:3,4)

6) Your Pastor's Persevering Life



Honor your pastor with lasting fruit (Malachi 3:11; John 15:16) Give thanks for your pastor's call and gifts of ministry (Colossians 1:3-5)

FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT
Expect all that you have prayed. Yield to the Spirit for ideas in interceding.

7) When / Where to Pray for Pastors?



In your daily prayers and family devotions. During Sunday Services, Prayer Meetings, Children's Church Class sessions, Youth Meetings, etc. In times and seasons when you are made aware of certain specific needs of your Pastor. In committing yourself to be enlisted prayer partner for your pastor

Be committed to pray for your pastor + family
Include Elders, Christian leaders and full time workers.

PASTORS' PRAYER SHIELD

Day by Day Prayer Guide for Your Pastor & Family

Day	Prayer Emphasis
Sunday	Favour with God • Spiritual revelation / anointing / holiness - <i>Psalm 30:5; Psalm 56:11; Romans 8:31-39</i>
Monday	Favour with man • Ministry / government authorities / others - <i>Luke:2:52; Daniel 6:5; Psalm 1</i>
Tuesday	Increased vision • Wisdom , enlightenment , motives, guidance - <i>Ephesians 1:17-23; Colossians 1:9</i>
Wednesday	Spirit/soul/body • health, appearance, attitudes, spiritual & physical wholeness - <i>3 John 2; Colossians 1:10,11</i>
Thursday	Protection • temptation, deception, enemies- <i>James 1:12-15,19-26; Psalm 91</i>
Friday	Finances • priorities, blessings - <i>Deuteronomy 28:1-14; Luke 6:38; 2 Corinthians 9:6-15</i>
Saturday	Family • general, spouses, children - <i>Psalm 127,128 ; Ephesians 5 22-33; 6:1-4</i>