

30-Day Challenge - Praying for Your Pastor

WHITE ROCK BAPTIST CHURCH 18TH ANNUAL SPIRITUAL RETREAT

“Brothers and sisters, pray for us.” 1 Thessalonians 5:25

“Let the thought sink deep into the heart of every church that their minister will be such a minister as their prayers make him. How perilous is the condition of that minister whose heart is not encouraged, whose hands are not strengthened, and who is not upheld by the prayers of his people! There is no greater gift you can give your pastor and the spiritual leaders of your church than to pray for them.” ~Gardiner Spring (1785–1873)

There is no greater gift you can give your pastor and the spiritual leaders of your church than to pray for them. Pastors cannot win the battle alone; they need committed intercessors to lift them up in fervent, specific prayer. Imagine how the power of God might be released in our churches if we were to pray faithfully for our pastors. They need the encouragement and support of those they lead. Prayer for your pastor is crucial to the spiritual health of your pastor, his family, and your church. God will reward your efforts to cover him in prayer. Use the following prayer guide with accompanying scriptures that suggest practical ways to pray for those who provide spiritual leadership for the flock. A key scripture is provided for each prayer, but also look up the additional scriptures and pray these scriptures for your pastor.

DAY	TOPIC	KEY SCRIPTURE	OTHER SCRIPTURES	COMMENTARY
1	The Greatest Commandment	You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. - Deuteronomy 6:5	Matthew 6:33	Pray that your pastor will love God with all his heart, soul, mind, and strength. Pray that God’s Spirit will work in his heart in power and that he will value and follow biblical priorities.
2	Strong Character and Integrity	The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. —1 Timothy 1:5	1 Timothy 3:7; Ephesians 6:10–12	Pray that your pastor will cultivate strong character and uncompromising integrity. Pray that his testimony will be genuine and that he will never do anything that he would need to hide from others.
3	Pursuing Jesus	Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth. — 2 Timothy 2:15	Mark 1:35; 2 Timothy 2:15–16	Pray for his personal walk with God—that his soul and spirit will be nourished and strengthened in his quiet time with God, beyond his sermon preparation. Pray that he will spend more time in the Word of God than reading Christian books and articles.
4	Growing in Discernment	If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. —James 1:5	Malachi 2:7; James 1:5–6; John 17:15	Pray that your pastor will counsel and teach with discernment through the wise use of Scripture and faith in God’s power to work. Pray that he will be protected from the effects of sinful or negative attitudes that he encounters as he counsels.

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5	A Strong Marriage	Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her. Ephesians 5:25	Ephesians 5:23–33	Ask God to protect your pastor’s marriage and keep it strong as a model of Christ’s relationship with the Church. Pray that your pastor will tenderly cherish and lead his wife and that she will respect and encourage her husband, submitting to his leadership. (If your pastor is not married, pray for his relationships with loved ones and those who are close to him.)
6	Healing and Joy	To grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit. —Isaiah 61:3		Ask God to heal any hurts that your pastor has suffered in the ministry. Pray that he will serve the Lord with gladness and encourage the congregation to worship God with a joyful, surrendered spirit.
7	A Strong Family	Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. —Ephesians 6:4	Colossians 3:20–21	Pray for your pastor’s children and especially that the pressures of the ministry will not discourage or embitter them. Pray that your pastor will provide godly leadership in the home, not based on fear of what others will think, but according to scriptural truth. (If your pastor does not have children, pray that God will give him many “spiritual children” as he shares the gospel.)
8	Protection from Evil	Because you have made the Lord your dwelling place—the Most High, who is my refuge—no evil shall be allowed to befall you, no plague come near your tent. —Psalm 91:9–10	John 17:15; Isaiah 54:17; 2 Corinthians 2:11; 1 Peter 3:12; Psalm 9:9–10, 91:9–11	Ask God to protect your pastor from the evil plots of Satan. Pray that he will not be corrupted as he rubs shoulders with the world in the course of ministry.
9	Tending the Prayer Hedges	So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate. —Matthew 19:6	Ezekiel 22:30; 2 Corinthians 10:4–5	Pray that God will build a hedge of protection around your pastor’s marriage and that he and his wife will be aware of the potential for any improper relationships. Pray that their family time will be protected. (If your pastor is not married, pray for his relationships with loved ones and those who are close to him.)

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10	A Guarded Heart	Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. Ephesians 6:10–11	Romans 13:14; 1 Peter 1:16; Ephesians 6:10–18; 2 Corinthians 10:4	Pray that your pastor will use discernment in use of email, the Internet, and other media. Ask God to guard his heart concerning the use of free time. Pray that he will be morally pure and that he will wear the armor of God so that he will not fall into sexual temptation.
11	Deep Friendships	But you know Timothy’s proven worth, how as a son with a father he has served with me in the gospel. —Philippians 2:22	Philippians 2:19–25	Pray that God will bring godly friends and encouragers to your pastor and his family to strengthen them for the ministry and provide meaningful fellowship and times of rest.
12	Growing in Humility	He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?	Galatians 6:14; John 7:17–18; 1 Corinthians 10:1–13	Pray that your pastor will be humble and authentic in his faith, not given to pride or hypocrisy. Pray that he will have pure motives and give God glory for every gain or victory.
13	Keeping a Balanced Life	But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified. 1 Corinthians 9:27.	Romans 12:1–2; 1 Corinthians 6:19–20	Pray that your pastor will make wise lifestyle choices in order to protect his health, especially in the areas of exercise, eating moderately, and getting sufficient rest. Pray for times of relaxation and renewal to balance the stress of ministry.
14	Fearing God	Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth. —2 Timothy 2:15	Acts 6:4, Proverbs 19:23; 2 Timothy 4:1–2; Hebrews 11:6	Pray that your pastor will focus on the Word of God and walk in the fear of the Lord—rather than fear of man—as he prepares his messages. Pray that he will seek to please God rather than men and pursue holiness rather than the praise of men.
15	Leading as a Shepherd	Shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly. —1 Peter 5:2	1 Kings 3:9; Romans 12:6–8; Jeremiah 3:15	Praise God for your pastor’s leadership and pray that he will make godly decisions. Pray that he will lead with a shepherd’s heart and that he will always speak the truth in love.

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16	Courageous Preaching	Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. —Colossians 1:28	Colossians 4:3; Ephesians 6:19	Pray that your pastor will be courageous in the pulpit in proclaiming Christ and confident in his use of the Word of God. Ask God to help him preach with insight, transparency, and humility.
17	The Great Commission	And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!' —Romans 10:15	Mathew 28:19–20; Luke 19:10	Pray that your pastor will be a “Great Commission man”—committed to personal evangelism and the equipping of the saints to seek the lost. Pray that he will have a heart to develop a thriving missions program in his church.
18	Prayer and Worship	And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed. —Mark 1:35	1 Thessalonians 5:17; Acts 1:14	Pray that your pastor will be a man of prayer and worship and that he will lead by example—teaching the congregation how to walk in a close relationship with the Father.
19	Using Time Wisely	Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Ephesians 5:15–16	Colossians 4:5; Psalm 90:12; John 9:4	Pray that your pastor will use wise time management and that he will seek God’s perspective for his schedule, guarding his time against unnecessary interruptions.
20	A Fresh Anointing	For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me. —Romans 15:18	1 Corinthians 9:27; 2 Timothy 1:7; Romans 15:18–19	Pray for a fresh divine anointing on your pastor’s ministry. Pray that God’s working will be powerfully evident both in his personal life and the spiritual life of the congregation.
21	Trusting God in Conflict	When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. —1 Peter 2:23		Pray that your pastor will not give in to discouragement, but will deal with inevitable criticism and conflict by committing himself into the hands of God, who judges righteously.
22	A Servant’s Heart	But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. —Mark 10:43–44	Galatians 5:13; Ephesians 6:7; Mark 10:43–45; John 13:5–9; Philippians 2:3–4	Pray that your pastor will practice servant leadership, edifying the congregation with wisdom and serving with God’s <i>agape</i> love.

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23	Ministry Team Unity	So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding. —Romans 14:19	Romans 12:18; 1 Corinthians 1:10–31	Pray for spiritual unity in the church staff and among the spiritual leadership of the church (elders, deacons, etc.). Pray that the enemy will not be allowed to create divisions, strife, or misunderstanding among the church leaders.
24	Clear, Biblical Vision	Where there is no prophetic vision the people cast off restraint, but blessed is he who keeps the law. —Proverbs 29:18	John 15:16, 17:17	Pray that God will give your pastor a clear, biblical vision of what your church can be and should be for His glory and that he will communicate that vision clearly and confidently to the church.
25	A Heart for Revival	You who seek God, let your hearts revive. —Psalm 69:32	2 Chronicles 7:14	Pray that your pastor will seek God for personal revival and revival in your church and community.
26	The Mind of Christ	Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. —Colossians 2:6–7	1 Corinthians 2:16; Colossians 2:6–8; Ephesians 4:17	Pray that your pastor will think biblically, with the mind of Christ.
27	Seeking God’s Will	If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. Luke 9:23–24	2 Corinthians 10:3–5	Pray that he will earnestly seek God’s will and be committed to instant and complete obedience—ready for God to work powerfully in and through his ministry.
28	Work Wholeheartedly	Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. —Colossians 3:23–24	2 Peter 1:3	Pray that he will strive for personal excellence and will believe God for all He wants to do in the congregation.
29	A Growing Faith	Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. Proverbs 3:5	1 John 4:18; Proverbs 3:5–6	Pray that your pastor will be a man of faith and have a passionate love for God, not giving in to worries, fears, or an uptight and anxious spirit.

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30	Financial Provision and Wisdom	And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19	Hebrews 13:5; 1 Timothy 6:6–11; Psalm 37:25	Ask God to provide for the financial needs of your pastor and his family. Pray that he will be a wise steward of both personal finances and church funds.