

40 Ways Over 40 Days

*Your Prayer Guide to Praying for
Your Pastor and His Family*



Week One

First of all, then, I urge that petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all those who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. This is good, and it pleases God our Savior, who wants everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. (*1 Timothy 2:1-4 HCSB*)

Day 1

Strengthen your pastor's ability to:

- Reflect Godly wisdom...
- Share a pure heart...
- Show grace and forgiveness...

Day 2

Strengthen your pastor's ability to:

- Work hard, but more importantly - work smart...
- Be wise about his time management
- Balance his priorities...

Day 3

Strengthen your pastor's wife to:

- Help her feel more secure...
- Help her feel more loved...
- Help her feel more respect...

Day 4

Provide your pastor with a church that:

- Respects the position, authority and accountability of the pastor...
- Knows how to love, encourage, & support their pastor and family...
- Shows understanding, forgiveness and grace as appropriate...

Day 5

Strengthen your pastor's children to:

- Feel blessed to be the child of a pastor...
- Grow in wisdom and understanding...
- Share their love with their family...

Day 6

Strengthen the marital relationship of your pastor and his wife:

- Make time for quality conversations...
- Refresh their romance - continue to court...
- Protect the purity of the relationship...

Day 7

Strengthen your pastor to be:

- Authentic to the core
 - Enthusiastic about his calling
 - Consistently positive in his attitude...
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Reflections:

Spend a few moments and develop a list of other specific items you would like to pray about for your pastor and his family:

Why Pastors Need Our Prayers:

The following is a list of facts about pastors and their family:

- 90% of pastors say they were not adequately trained to cope with ministry demands.
- 50% say they feel unable to meet the demands of the job.
- 80% of pastors and 83% of their spouses feel unqualified and discouraged in their roles.
- 80% of adult children of pastors have had to seek professional help for depression.
- 45% of pastors' wives say their greatest challenge is physical, emotional, mental and spiritual burnout.
- Churchgoers expect their pastor to juggle an average of 16 major tasks.
- Pastors who work fewer than 50 hours a week are 35% more likely to be terminated.
- 70% of pastors constantly fight depression.
- 53% of pastors' wives say they have difficulties raising children.
- The clergy has the second highest divorce rate among all professionals.

Your Prayers Are Very Important!

“The Bible says, **‘If you strike the shepherd, the sheep will scatter.’** This is why we believe the devil has aimed all of the artillery of hell at our pastors.” Adrian Rogers

“Prayer does not fit us for greater works; prayer is the greater work.” Oswald Chambers

“The weak condition of God’s people in the churches today can be attributed to our neglect of intercession for them. This need for serious intercession from God’s people is crucial in every generation, but especially ours, for there are now well over six billion living souls in our world, with their destiny at stake.” By Henry and Norman Blackaby in ***Experiencing Prayer with Jesus***

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Week Two

“As for me, I vow that I will not sin against the Lord by ceasing to pray for you. I will teach you the good and right way.” (*1 Samuel 12:23 HCSB*)

“Therefore, I tell you, all the things you pray and ask for—believe that you have received them, and you will have them.” (*Mark 11:24 HCSB*)

Day 8

Strengthen your pastor's ability to:

- Avoid being overbearing...
- Resist any temptation to be angry ...
- Demonstrate discipline in all aspects of his life...

Day 9

Strengthen your pastor's children:

- Salvation for each and every one of the children...
- Parental love would be constantly felt and accepted by the children...
- Rebellious emotions & behavior would be removed...

Day 10

Strengthen your pastor's ability to:

- Show humility...
- Demonstrate servanthood...
- Be upright and holy

Day 11

Provide your pastor with:

- Quality time for sermon preparation...
- God's anointing during sermon delivery...
- Increased ability to be a more visionary and strategic pastor...

Day 12

Strengthen your pastor's ability to:

- Effectively lead boards, committees and staff...
- Train his leadership team in Biblical leadership principles...
- Manage the “business” side of ministry...

Day 13

Remove the negative traits and temptations from your pastor such as:

- Greed...
- Envy...
- Bitterness...

Day 14

Strengthen your pastor's family devotional time to:

- Be a family priority...
 - Have a life-long impact...
 - Be a cherished family time...
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Prayer Guide to Praying for Your Pastor and His Family

Reflections:

Spend a few moments and develop a list of other specific items you would like to pray about for your pastor and his family:

“Our world is in turmoil, and the America we once knew is fast receding over the horizon. Is there any **HOPE**? Yes, there is! That **HOPE** is a **moral and spiritual awakening**.

I have thought about this and have concluded:

The **HOPE** of the world is the West.

The **HOPE** of the West is America.

The **HOPE** of America is the Christian faith.

The **HOPE** of the Christian faith is evangelical churches. And...

The **HOPE** of Evangelical churches is God-anointed and God-appointed pastors.”

- *Adrian Rogers 2005*

“Intercessory prayer is our most powerful and strategic corporate weapon in spiritual warfare.” Chip Ingram

“Every great movement of God can be traced to a kneeling figure.” Dwight L. Moody

God’s Word instructs us to support our clergy. “The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching.” (1 Timothy 5:17) Note... we are instructed to give them not just some honor, but double honor.

Week Three

Obey your leaders or rulers and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account, so that they can do this with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you. Pray for us; for we are convinced that we have a clear conscience, wanting to conduct ourselves honorably in everything. And I especially urge you to pray that I may be restored to you very soon. (*Hebrews 13:17-19 HCSB*)

Day 15

Strengthen your pastor's ability to be:

- Patient...
- Temperate...
- Hospitable...

Day 16

Strengthen your pastor's family through:

- Regularly scheduled quality family time...
- Good management of family finances...
- Wisdom in dealing with family problems...

Day 17

Strengthen your pastor's ability to:

- Make wise decisions...
- Encourage the timid...
- Display integrity – to live above approach

Day 18

Strengthen your pastor's ability to:

- Be respected...
- Be joyful...
- Be not quarrelsome...

Day 19

Strengthen your pastor's children:

- To develop Godly positive self-images...
- To stay true to their upbringing...
- To bring honor to their parents...

Day 20

Provide your pastor with a church where influential laity are:

- Committed to being an impactful New Testament church...
- Excited about evangelism & discipleship...
- Inspired to use their spiritual gifts...

Day 21

Strengthen the marital relationship of your pastor and his wife:

- Fortify their faith...
 - Cultivate connectivity...
 - Prioritize their marriage, family & ministry...
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Reflections:

Spend a few moments and develop a list of other specific items you would like to pray about for your pastor and his family:

Figure out what you can do personally to recognize and show appreciation for your pastor and his family. A simple card, an invitation to lunch, washing a car, getting an oil change or mowing a lawn make wonderful statements of appreciation.

Also encourage others to download this prayer guide and pray for their pastors.

“If you do not feel like praying, it is probably a good indication that you should start praying immediately.” Billy Graham

“When I am dealing with an all-powerful, all-knowing God, I, as a mere mortal, must offer my petitions not only with persistence, but also with patience.” Ruth Bell Graham

“When we rely upon organization, we get what organization can do; when we rely upon education, we get what education can do; when we rely upon eloquence, we get what eloquence can do, and so on. Nor am I disposed to undervalue any of these things in their proper place, but when we rely upon prayer, we get what God can do.” *Source: A.C. Dixon, Evangelism, A Biblical Approach, M. Cocoris, Moody, 1984, p. 108.*

Week Four

Lord, hear my prayer. In Your faithfulness listen to my plea, and in Your righteousness answer me. Do not bring Your servant into judgment for no one alive is righteous in Your sight.
(*Psalm 143:1-2 HCSB*)

Day 22

Strengthen your pastor's home environment:

- Remove stress, tension & conflict...
- Provide quality health - spiritual, mental & physical...
- Protect from evil and harm...

Day 23

Strengthen your pastor's ability to:

- Communicate his God-given vision...
- Be "salt and light" in the community...
- Focus on his strengths...

Day 24

Strengthen your pastor's ability to:

- Deal with conflict...
- Deal with pain...
- Deal with temper...

Day 25

Strengthen your pastor's children by:

- Removing destructive influences...
- Providing healthy friendships...
- Establishing nourishing influences...

Day 26

Strengthen your pastor's ability to:

- Live in peace...
- Be thankful...
- Demonstrate kindness...

Day 27

Protect your pastor's:

- Character...
- Reputation...
- Integrity...

Day 28

Strengthen your pastor's ability to:

- Maximize the use of his gifts...
 - Wisely use his talents...
 - Know his limitations...
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Reflections:

Spend a few moments and develop a list of other specific items you would like to pray about for your pastor and his family:

From some 8000 laymen and ministers with whom we have conferred, five principal problems emerge: a loss of nerve, a loss of direction, erosion from culture, confusion of thought, exhaustion...They have become shaken reeds, smoking lamps, earthen vessels...spent arrows. They have lost heart. But they can be revived!" *Source: Carlyle Marney, who conducts the "Interpreter's House" for discouraged pastors at Lake Junaluska, quoted in K. Menninger, Whatever Became of Sin?, p. 224.*

"If you are willing to honor a person out of respect for God, you can be assured that God will honor you." Beth Moore

"Tragically, many of our prayers are so vague that if God were to answer them, we wouldn't know it." Adrian Rogers

"Prayer is the first thing, the second thing, the third thing necessary to a minister. Pray, then, my dear brother; pray, pray, pray." *Source: Edward Payson, Preacher and Prayer, E.M. Bounds, 1907, p. 32.*

Week Five

A word spoken at the right time is like golden apples on a silver tray. Or like apples of gold in settings of silver. (Proverbs 25:11 HCSB)

Day 29

Strengthen the marital relationship of your pastor and his wife:

- For the pastor to truly love his wife as Christ loves the Church...
- For the wife to show respect to her husband
- For their marriage to be a Godly example to their family, church and community...

Day 30

Strengthen your pastor's:

- Spiritual health...
- Mental health...
- Physical health...

Day 31

Provide your pastor with a church where influential laity are:

- Committed Christians with purpose to minister...
- Committed to actively pray for their pastor...
- Committed to actions that reflect their faith and love of Jesus...

Day 32

Strengthen your pastor's ability to:

- Rest...
- Reflect...
- Retreat...

Day 33

Strengthen your pastor's wife to:

- Feel more valuable...
- Feel more blessed...
- Help her prioritize and balance the unique demands on her life...

Day 34

Strengthen your pastor's ability to:

- Keep the passion of ministry...
- Build strong relationships with church leadership...
- Disciple an effective ministry team...

Day 35

Provide your pastor with:

- Flexibility...
 - Growth opportunities...
 - Realistic expectations...
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Reflections:

Spend a few moments and develop a list of other specific items you would like to pray about for your pastor and his family:

Everyone needs recognition for his accomplishments, but few people make the need known quite as clearly as the little boy who said to his father: "Let's play darts. I'll throw and you say 'Wonderful!'" *Source: Bits & Pieces, December 9, 1993, p. 24.*

"My impression is that many Christians, maybe most, regard prayer as the weakest link in their spiritual journey." Larry Crabb

Do Americans pray? A recent poll by *USA Today* found that 31% said they pray once a day, 24% more than once a day, 16% several times a week, 10% several times a month, 9% several times a year, and 1% are not sure how often they pray.

Week Six

The one who is taught the message must share his goods with the teacher. Don't be deceived: God is not mocked. For whatever a man sows he will also reap, because the one who sows to his flesh will reap corruption from the flesh, but the one who sows to the Spirit will reap eternal life from the Spirit. So we must not get tired of doing good, for we will reap at the proper time if we don't give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, we must work for the good of all, especially for those who belong to the household of faith. (*Galatians 6: 6-10 HCSB*)

Day 36

Strengthen your pastor's ability to:

- Fortify his personal prayer time...
- Be blessed in his private worship time...
- Increase his individual Bible study time...

Day 37

Strengthen your pastor's ability to build relationships with:

- A Godly accountability partner – a safe confidant...
- An older and wiser mentor – “a Barnabas” to learn from...
- A younger person in ministry – “a Timothy” to pour his life into...

Day 38

Provide your pastor with:

- The right message for the right time...
- Sermon illustrations that communicate...
- Opportunities to lead spiritual revival...

Day 39

Provide your pastor with:

- Career stability...
- Adequate financial resources...
- Abundant encouragement...

Day 40

Strengthen your pastor's resolve to:

- Use wisdom in making hard decisions...
 - Make honest self-evaluations...
 - Be unreservedly committed to avoid sexual sins...
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Reflections:

Spend a few moments and develop a list of other specific items you would like to pray about for your pastor and his family:

“Give me 100 preachers who fear nothing but sin and desire nothing but God, and I care not a straw whether they be clergy or laymen, such alone will shake the gates of hell and set up the kingdom of Heaven on earth. God does nothing but in answer to prayer.” John Wesley

“God does amazing works through prayers that seek to extend His grace to others.”
Shirley Dobson

“The purpose of prayer is not to inform God of our needs, but to invite Him to rule our lives.” Clarence Bauman

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from the website <http://www.pastorsline.com/>