

TEAMNESS

PRAYING FOR YOUR PASTOR



9 DAY READING PLAN

TEAMNESS.US

INTRODUCTION

Greetings!

Thank you for downloading our nine-day reading plan, Praying for Your Pastor.

At Teamness, we're called to support and encourage pastors, their spouses and teams. We've created this reading plan to help you pray for your pastor, or a pastor down the street, or every pastor serving in a local church!

Whatever your focus - one pastor or all of them - we thank you for joining us in prayer.

Thank you to Rose Herrera, one of our amazing Teamness champions who said "yes" when asked, "Would you consider writing a daily devotional to encourage people to pray for pastors?" Thanks also to Freddy Herrera for his help editing.

You probably have several books in progress and lots of options for daily Bible reading. Thank you for including this nine-day reading plan in your time with God.

Evan McBroom,
Executive Director
Teamness



DAY 1



WHO IS OUR PASTOR?



A pastor is recognized as a shepherd of God’s church, with proven godly character, who teaches the sound doctrine according to God’s word, and refutes false teachings. They lead and protect God’s people. These are recognized leaders of the church who serve under the authority of the Chief Shepherd, Jesus. In Titus 1:5, Titus was to appoint elders in the church at Crete. Paul continuously referred to specific leaders of particular churches, such as when he called the leaders of the church in Ephesus to meet him in Miletus (Acts 20:17), and when he addressed the book of Philippians to other overseers and deacons of the church (Philippians 1:1). In I Peter 5:2, Peter told the church leaders to “shepherd the flock among you,” implying a connection of guidance and support between pastor and congregates. Similarly, in Hebrews 13:7, the church was told to submit to their leaders. It’s obvious they knew who their leaders were. It demonstrates that churches have recognized leaders, and the members of those churches know and follow them.³

A pastor is a man or woman of Godly character.

Titus 1:5-9 and Timothy 3:1-7 make clear that godly character is not negotiable. Paul told Timothy that a church leader could not be a new convert; (1 Tim 3:6) and that the pastor must have proven character in all areas of their life, including family life, to be qualified. In I Timothy 5:21-25, Paul warned Timothy not to be hasty in appointing leaders in the church to ensure that unqualified leaders were not elected to such an important office.³

The author of Hebrews asked the Church to imitate their leaders (13:7), something Paul often encouraged as exemplified in I Cor 11:1. The Pastor should be someone the church can look to as a pattern of godly living. Certainly, they are not perfect as Paul says, “For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate, I do” (Rom 7:15-19). However, they will be above reproach and their manner of living will have no substantial accusation of ungodliness that would disqualify them from office.³

A pastor teaches sound doctrine and refutes false teaching.

The list of qualifications in Titus chapter 1 and I Timothy chapter 3 focus on character and godly living, but the main requirement is for a pastor to effectively teach the Bible. Paul told Titus that the church leader must be able to “give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it “ (Titus 1:9). Paul emphasized that the church leaders needed to be able to educate the flock (1 Timothy 3:16, 2 Tim 2:24). In essence, the pastor must be able to use the scriptures for their intended purposes—for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness (II Timothy 3:16). A pastor must know the scriptures and be able to use them for their intended purpose, to encourage with sound teaching and refute false teaching; both to encourage godly living and call out immorality.

A pastor leads and protects God’s people.

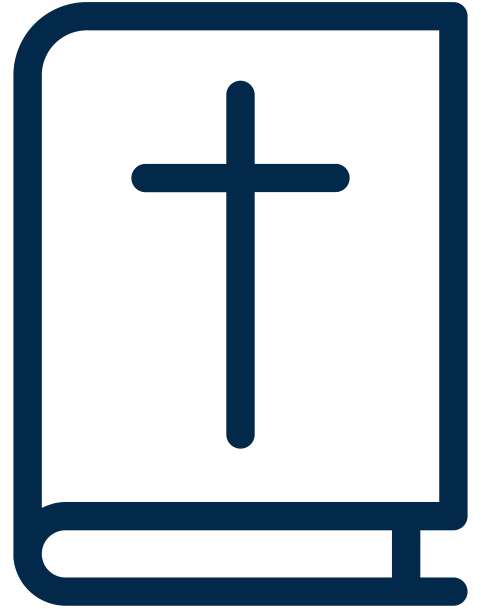
In leading and protecting God’s people, a pastor is actually teaching God’s word and protecting the flock from false teachers. The author of Hebrews told the church to obey your leaders and to submit to them (13:17). While many scholars debate what this means, the office of pastor is an office of leadership. The pastor is not a dictator, but should lead by example. First Peter 5:3 instructs that they must lead and the church is called to follow. Just as Jesus, the good shepherd, says, his sheep know his voice and follow him (John 10:4), and he protects his sheep by laying down his life for them. In the same way, a pastor as a shepherd and must be willing to lead and protect their sheep that God has entrusted to their care.

SCRIPTURE READING: (NIV)

Jeremiah 3:15 Then I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will lead you with knowledge and understanding.

Romans 13:1-4 Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there²is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.

Romans 10:15 And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”



THOUGHTFUL QUESTIONS:



Have you ever considered how difficult a job it is to be a pastor?

After reading the above description of accountability, have you considered that only a person appointed by God could do such a job?

As you consider today's reading, in what ways might you encourage your pastor, or a pastor you know?



DAY 2



HOW DOES A PASTOR IMPACT THE CHURCH?



The pastor exists to ensure that the Church is spiritually mature, healthy, and whole. Without that focus the Church would be full of broken, wounded, vulnerable people, and would be ineffective in its mission. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, not only laid down his life for his sheep but brought them into the family of God. He showed concern for his people and was moved with compassion. Mercy and kindness were the hallmarks of his life. The pastor will partner with an apostle to remind them their people are not only a part of the mission, but they are, in fact, the priority of the mission. A Pastor partners with prophets to help stay attuned to the flock and peoples' sensitivities. This helps the church grasp and lean into the prophetic promises and revelation so they can access and use them practically.

A pastor partners with evangelists to champion discipleship. Discipleship is the goal of evangelism and not just a conversation. A pastor partners with teachers by communicating the needs of the sheep, connecting them and helping them apply scripture to their lives.²

SCRIPTURE READING: (NIV)

Romans 12:4-5: For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

THOUGHTFUL QUESTIONS:



Have you considered that you are part of the body of the church, and we belong to each other?

Have you considered that we are all on the same team and need to help one another?

Have you evaluated where your spiritual strengths and weaknesses are?

How can you serve your pastor and leaders?

DAY 3



PEACE AND UNITY IN THE CHURCH



Are you a glass half full or glass half empty type of person? Do you look at things with positivity or negativity? Are you bringing peace and unity to your church and pastor? God provides you blessing to pass on to others. Look at your circumstance and ask how you can be a blessing for the church and pastor. Pray for wisdom and peace, giving thanks to God for your pastor. God has appointed your pastor for you! If your pastor and his family are well, you will be well.

If someone is causing a division in your church, pray for that person and, in love, let him know that your pastor and the leaders are appointed by God and that division is from Satan, not from God. In Matt 12:25 Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, “Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand.”

SCRIPTURE READING: (NIV)



Ephesians 4:11 So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers.

I Tim 2:1-4 I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

I Peter 3:8 Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.

II Tim 2:14-15 Keep reminding God's people of these things. Warn them before God against quarreling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen. Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

THOUGHTFUL QUESTIONS:



Are you a blessing to your pastor or are you critical?

Are you giving thanks to God for your pastor or do you take them for granted?

Are you of the mind of Christ, studying to show yourself approved unto God, rightly dividing the word of Truth (II Tim 2:14-15) so that you are able to discern when the enemy is attacking and dividing the congregation?

How are you able to bring unity to the church rather than division?



DAY 4



PRIORITIES



Is your pastor or leader doing multiple additional tasks because no one else is? Are you helping to serve so your pastor has time to devote to their preparations? Help serve and support them so they do not become ineffective, frustrated, and have less joy and in effect, bear less fruit. Pray for their endurance and focus, and for those church members who are needed to take the next step to serve. The single most decisive factor in your pastor's life and ministry is their personal time with Jesus, just as the epicenter of Jesus' ministry was His daily time with His Father.

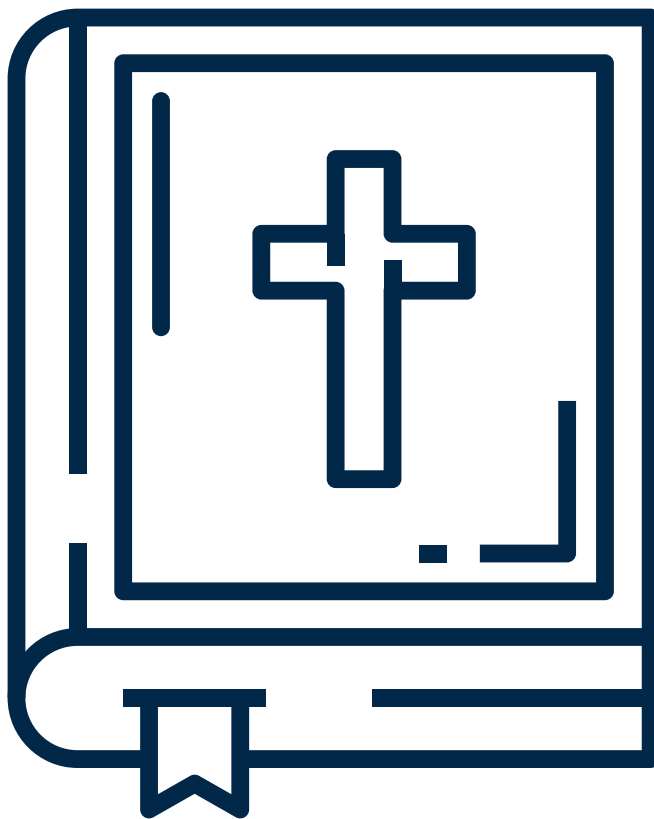
A pastor faces two dangers when their time and efforts are misplaced. First, time in the Word will become more head than heart, more informational than transformational. Second, Bible study can drift from being about his soul to being about his sermon, and devotions can become more about being with a book than being with a person. When you have so much work to do for Jesus, it's hard not to become like Martha—so busy serving Jesus, that you miss Jesus. Pray that, like Mary, your pastor will anchor their life to “sitting at Jesus' feet, listening to what He says” ([Luke 10:39](#)).¹

SCRIPTURE : (NIV)

Galatians 6:9-10. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

Hebrews 13:17-18. Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you. Pray for us to be sure that we have a clear conscience and desire to live honorably in every way.

Isaiah 40:31 but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.



THOUGHTFUL QUESTIONS:



Can you find ways to help serve in the church and help your leaders with their burdens?

Pray for your pastor and leaders, that they have time and energy to be devoted and focused on hearing from God.

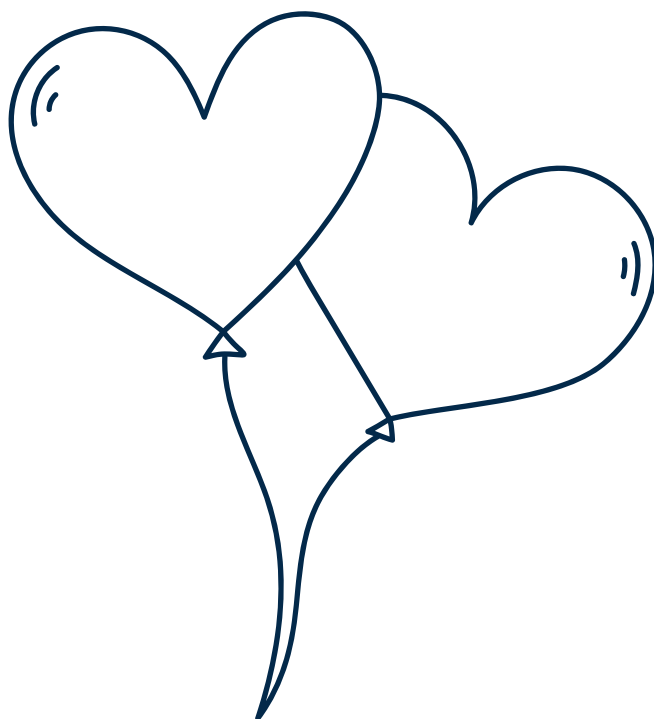
Pray the Lord gives them strength so they don't grow weary.



DAY 5



PURPOSE AND ANOINTING



Are you judgmental? Matthew 7:1 declares “Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way, you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?” Don’t let your pastor believe they are failing. Pray for purpose and anointing in their life. Pray they do not lose heart and that God grants them favor and blessings.

They carry the weighty responsibility of being God’s appointed messenger to deliver His heart to His people. They pay the price of being scrutinized and criticized, with each person measuring them by their personal pastoral expectations. And they love their people, warts and all. They are often the difference-maker in some of life’s loneliest, most painful moments.¹

They are the go-to person for everything from someone’s personal crisis to a broken heart, to a plumbing problem at the church. Pray for “Fresh Manna” to feed God’s people, not recycled sermons or passionless preaching. Pray that each time your pastor teaches or preaches, they will have something that has come from God’s heart, through your pastor’s heart—and straight to the hearts of the people. Something they can be excited about! God’s Word is “alive and active” (Hebrews 4:12). The preaching of it should be also!

SCRIPTURE : (NIV)

Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Ecclesiastes 5:1-2 Guard your steps when you go to the house of God. Go near to listen rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools, who do not know that they do wrong. Do not be quick with your mouth, do not be hasty in your heart to utter anything before God.

Exodus 9:16 But I have raised you up for this very purpose, that I might show you my power and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.



THOUGHTFUL QUESTIONS:

How can you become a better listener in church? Are you distracted? Are you distracting others around you? Try to focus on the message and think deeply about the words before you are quick to dismiss them, for perhaps you are not seeking Gods word, but only going through the motions.

Have you found the “purpose” in God’s word? Be intentional in hearing how the word of God can be used in your life. Find something new every time scripture is read.



DAY 6



FRIENDSHIP



Does your pastor have support/friendships to help encourage, listen, and give thoughts? Pray for love, compassion, and protection for them and their family. Pray for the life-changing combination of courage and compassion. Courage, to clearly proclaim what God says as the final word on any subject. With so many believers being increasingly shaped by their culture more than their Christianity, it takes pastoral courage to stand firmly on God's Word, especially at a time when it's getting more and more lonely to do so.

Consider old man Moses on the hill. His young “intern,” Joshua, was leading the Israelites into battle against the brutal Amalekites. It was Joshua's first command. With the help of two assistants, Moses slowly made his way up a hill overlooking the battle. Moses lifted up his hands and began to pray—until his arms gave out. The Bible reveals that “as long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning, but whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites were winning.”¹

Upon seeing this, Moses' helpers "held his hands up." The outcome: "So Joshua overcame the Amalekite army." Later Moses explained, "hands were lifted up to the throne of the Lord" (Exodus 17:10-16). It's more than a Bible story. It's a behind-the-scenes look at the difference between victory and defeat in the life of a leader. That difference is the prayer warrior on the hill! That's what you can be for your pastor. For it is the prayer warrior who, more than any other person, determines the outcome of the battle. As S. D. Gordon said, "Prayer strikes the winning blow. Service is simply picking up the results." ¹

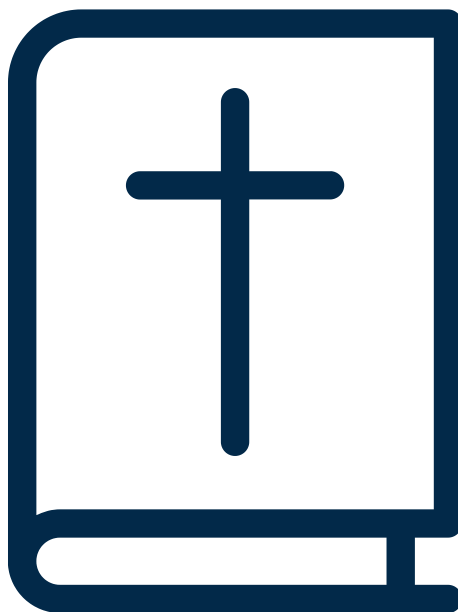
SCRIPTURE : (NIV)

Proverbs 17:17 A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity.

Philippians 4:14 Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles.

Ephesians 4:32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-11 Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.



THOUGHTFUL QUESTIONS:



Could you be a friend to your pastor or to someone on the leadership team?

If you were asked for your help by someone on the leadership team would you be willing to assist or would you make excuses?

If God asked you to help would you say no? But how often do we say no to something we know God is asking us to do or help our leaders with.



DAY 7



PRAY FOR A PASTOR'S MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN



If the enemy can't get to the pastor, he'll work on dividing, detouring, and destroying his family. There's nothing like conflicted or collapsing family relationships to rob a pastor of his strength, his credibility, even his ministry. Your prayer helps build a wall of protection around your pastor's marriage, their children's choices, and everyone's personal walk with God.

Pray for your pastor to keep their wedding promises to their spouse and to always put them first. Pray that their spouse will love what their partner does and will give them the affirmation that is the "wind beneath their wings." Pray that Jesus will seem so real in their home that their children will love Him, too. Ask God to help your pastor be the spiritual leader, not just at church, but at home.

SCRIPTURE:

Ecclesiastes 4:12 Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves.
A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

THOUGHTFUL QUESTIONS:



Have you thought about your pastors family? What can you do to be a friend or positive influence, or a mentor for the pastor's children and family members. Pray that they are shielded from division, for encouragement, for protection, for purpose together, and for friendship.



DAY 8



PRAY FOR YOUR PASTOR'S PROTECTION FROM ENEMY ATTACK



Jesus told Peter that Satan desired to sift him as wheat. He could say that to any shepherd of God's people. In a passage Peter wrote to the elders that he warned, "The devil prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour" ([1 Peter 5:8](#)). Of course, if you bring down the shepherd, it's open season on the sheep. In His great prayer in the countdown to the cross, Jesus prayed for those who would be His leaders: "Protect them by the power of Your name...protect them from the evil one" ([John 17:11](#), [John 17:15](#)).

Oh, how your pastor needs a prayer warrior praying that for him! Pray against the attack of pride; of discouragement; of lust; of self-reliance; of controlling. Boldly place your prayer between your pastor and the prince of darkness. ¹

SCRIPTURE:

Ephesians 6:10-18 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

THOUGHTFUL QUESTIONS:



Can you pray daily for God's protection over your pastor and family as well as yours?

What temptations have you left exposed?

DAY 9



ENCOURAGEMENT



Don't let your pastor be discouraged. Let your pastor know when you enjoyed their sermon or when you were blessed by them. Most people don't regularly talk with their pastor. Next time you see them, make an effort to say hello and tell them what you liked or how you were impacted by the sermon. Perhaps you can write your pastor and their family a note of encouragement during pastor appreciation month.

Let your pastor know how your faith has been encouraged and how you put into the scriptures into action. While pastors are, in God's words, "shepherds of God's flock" ([1 Peter 5:2](#)), they are also subject to the same insecurities, passions, and discouragement we all have. Like us, they struggle with fear and self-worth; with temptation and loneliness. Pray for your pastor to get the encouragement they need.

Those who work regularly with pastors consistently report the pastor in crisis; suffering feelings of discouragement, constant criticism, failure, disappointed dreams, lack of visible results, and a lack of appreciation and gratitude.

In many ways, you can be part of the answer to your own prayer. Pray with your pastor, not just for them, and follow Paul's direction: "Acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work" (1 Thessalonians 5:12-13). Your pastor is, like Joshua, in the thick of the battle. When they are prayed for, they win. When they are not prayed for, they start to lose.

SCRIPTURE READING: (NIV)

Galatians 6:6 Nevertheless, the one who receives instruction in the word should share all good things with their instructor.

Ephesians 4:29 Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

Proverbs 23:12 Apply your heart to instruction and your ears to words of knowledge.

Hebrews 3:13 But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called "Today," so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.



THOUGHTFUL QUESTIONS:



Are you praying for your pastor to be faithful and full of courage to deliver Gods word as it is?

Are you negatively talking about your pastor to criticize him?

Do you have an open heart and ears to hear what the message from God is, even if you don't like it? Or do you pick and choose what you will believe?

Can you find any words of encouragement to tell your pastor today?



SUMMARY

In summary, all of the above should be used to honor your pastor and their family. Take time during pastor appreciation month to help your pastor feel loved by the congregation.

By: Rose Herrera; October 1, 2023

Editors: Freddy Herrera, Evan McBroom

Footnotes/References

1: Ron Hutchcraft, “7 Powerful Prayers for Pastor Appreciation Month”, Crosswalk.com, October 4, 2022.

2: Anthony Hilder, “ What is a Pastor in the Bible?”, anthonyhilder.com, October 9, 2019.

3: Charlie Ray, “Part

4: A Biblical Definition of a Pastor”, Theology, What is a Pastor? Faithfulpastor.com, no date.

