

## **I Am A Church Member Chapter 4—I Will Pray For My Church Leaders**

This lesson focuses on praying for our church leadership. This means that we will pray for the pastor, officers, and other leaders in the church on a regular basis.

I have been a pastor for 10 years and I must say that unless someone is a pastor, they will never understand the demands that are placed on us. We have to manage the church and church members concerns, as well as managing the concerns of our own lives and families. Pastors have high divorce rates, suffer from high rates of burnout and drop out, and even have many instances where their children, once adults, desire to have no affiliation with the church. Needless to say, pastors and leaders go through a lot, so we need prayer. Pray For The Pastor And Other Church Leaders All church leaders need prayer, especially the pastor.

The role of a pastor is that of an administrator, counselor, mentor, encourager, friend, and most of all spiritual leader. In addition to the role as pastor, many pastors are also spouse, parent, child, sibling, and everything else to their biological family. To put it plainly, we need prayer! The pastor is praised by some and destroyed by other, we need your prayers, pray that the pastor would be a good person, working to please God.

Romans 10:12-15: 12For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, 13for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” 14How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? 15And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring Good News!”

Pray For Her Protection 1 Tim. 3:1-3: 1 This is a trustworthy saying: “If someone aspires to be an elder, he desires an honorable position.” 2So an elder must be a man whose life is above reproach. He must be faithful to his wife. He must exercise self-control, live wisely, and have a good reputation. He must enjoy having guests in his home, and he must be able to teach. 3He must not be a heavy drinker or be violent. He must be gentle, not quarrelsome, and not love money.

Can you imagine the qualifications of a pastor, and the difficulty of maintaining those qualifications in front of the entire world? We need your prayers! Pastors, like the all of us, are not expected to be perfect. We too deal with failure, but we must strive to do the absolute best we can, and your prayers are imperative.

When people in the community speak about the pastor, the thoughts and words should be encouraging, because our reputations are of the utmost value to us.

1 Timothy 3:7: 7Also, people outside the church must speak well of him so that he will not be disgraced and fall into the devil’s trap. As you pray for the pastor, it is also up to the pastor to work towards maintaining self-control.

Pray For Her Physical And Mental Health Serving people expends all of the pastor's energy. We are on call every day and every hour—and the demands can be so strenuous that sometimes we neglect our own health and well-being. Pray for both physical and mental health. We need prayers for the health to have the wisdom to preach and teach God's Word; to deal with members effectively; and how to effectively manage our time as to meet all of the needs of demands placed upon us. We cannot leave our jobs when the day ends, our jobs follow us everywhere, please pray for our physical and mental health.

The Fourth Pledge Will you pray at least five minutes every day for the leaders of the church?

#### Questions for Study

1. Using Scriptural backing, explain why the pastor's family is such an important factor in his ministry.
2. What is meant by "above reproach" in 1 Timothy 3: 2? Is that standard even possible for the pastor?
3. Explain the implications of the devil's trap in 1 Timothy 3: 7.
4. What is the meaning of "outsiders" in 1 Timothy 3: 7? Why should they be a concern to church members or pastors?
5. Find some key passages in the Bible where intercessory prayer takes place (someone praying for someone else).

Relate those passages to praying for your pastor.