

“Pray For Us”

Hebrews 13:18

October 6, 2019

INTRO: *What is your part to play in the family of God?*

- What is your critical contribution to make?
- How can you personally & powerfully impact...

BIG IDEA: *Nothing strengthens, unites, & unifies a family more than God’s Spirit... thru God’s truth, love, mission, passion, &*

PRAYER.

VIDEO: *What Is Prayer?*

CONTEXT: Hebrews series: *“Hold On!”*

- **Exalt & Exhort**
- **5 Warnings** from leadership...
- **5 expressions of love FOR leadership**

PREVIEW: **A. Pray** **B. For** **C. Us**

TEXT: **Hebrews 13:18**
Pray for us...

1. Pray

Prayer will lead to a greater communion with God and a greater understanding of His will.

Luke 5:16... *Jesus “would often slip away to pray...”*

7 Barriers to prayer

- a. Motives
- b. Sin
- c. Idols
- d. Hard hearts
- e. Unforgiveness
- f. Relationships (marital) & g. Unbelief!

7 Reasons for prayer

- a. Obedience
- b. Christ-like
- c. Biblical
- d. To Receive
- e. To “Get Ready”
- f. To Fight (spiritual warfare) & g. To WIN (spiritual warfare)

VIDEO: Don Carson – *What Is Biblical Prayer...*

2. For

This is one part of the duty which people owe to their ministers. Ministers need the prayers of the people; and the more earnestly the people pray for their ministers the more benefit they may expect to reap from the minister's ministry. They should pray that God would teach those who are to teach them, that he would make them vigilant, and wise, and zealous, and successful - that He would assist them in all their labors, support them under all their burdens, and strengthen them under all their temptations.

- Matthew Henry

A spirit of faultfinding stifles the breath of intercession; on the other hand, a spirit of prayer will curb complaining and gossiping lips.

VIDEO: *"Praying for Others"*

3. Us

(Who? Why? How?)

A. Who?

- a. Who is praying? **Followers**
- b. Who is being prayed for? **Leaders**

VIDEO: *“What Is Our Role In Prayer?”*

B. Why?

- a. Pray for leaders because of WHO we are:
 - i. **WORLD-dwellers**
 - ii. **FLESHLY-sinners**
 - iii. **DEVIL-fighters**

We leaders desperately need your love & prayers!

VIDEO: *“Humble Leaders Needed”*

(see Paul in **Romans 7**... “the Odd Couple”)

- b. Pray for leaders because of WHAT we do:

- i. Lead
- ii. Feed
- iii. Protect
- iv. Prepare
- v. Engage the Lost
- vi. Explain to the Lovers
- vii. Equip the Learners
- viii. Empower the Leaders
- ix. Exemplify the Lord's "Lifers"
- x. Inform
- xi. Inspect
- xii. Inspire
- xiii. Go as apostles
- xiv. Proclaim as prophets
- xv. Live as evangelists
- xvi. Love like shepherds
- xvii. Teach like Christ... God's truth in love
- xviii. Overseers
- xix. Overflowers
- xx. Overcomers!
- xxi. Cast vision...
- xxii. Carry authority...
- xxiii. Charge the gates of hell!
- xxiv. We're SALT...
- xxv. We're LIGHT...
- xxvi. We're MISSIONARIES!
- xxvii. We're WORSHIPPERS...
- xxviii. We're WORKERS...
- xxix. We're WITNESSES!
- xxx. We're AMBASSADORS...

- xxxi. We're an AROMA...
- xxxii. We're an ARMY...
- xxxiii. Run the race set before us
- xxxiv. Fight the good fight
- xxxv. Live lives worthy of the gospel!

c. How?

Thom Reiner Group:

Pray for our WISDOM

Pray for our PROTECTION

Pray for our FAMILY

Pray for our PERSEVERENCE (vs. critics & attacks)

- Critics & Attacks
- Discouragement
 - Comparisons
 - Members behaviors
 - Decline in size

Pray for our DISCERNMENT over “yes” & “no” answers

“A leader who never says ‘no’ devalues his/her ‘yes.’ It is a mask of kindness to cover up a lack of courage & conviction.”

- Dr. David Prince (SBTS)

“If YOU don't make your schedule... someone else will.”

- C.J. Mahaney

Pray for our FINANCIAL PRESSURES

Pray for our GOSPEL-SHARING OPPORTUNITIES

CROSS-Walk:

10 requests we should be asking of the Father for our pastors:

1. A strong sense of God's calling on the pastor's life.

...we pray that He may always have a clear sense of where his allegiance begins and ends.

2. An increasingly deeper love for the Lord Jesus Christ.

3. A hunger for & devotion to the Scriptures.

4. A sincere love for people of all kinds.

“Shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood” (Acts 20:28).

5. A great relationship with his spouse.

“...are heirs together of the grace of life” (1 Peter 3:7).

6. Good health.

7. Wisdom in decision-making.

*A pastor's job is 24/7/365...
and he lives in a world of unfinished business.*

8. That he may be protected from pride/unrestrained ego.

“Shepherd the flock of God which is among you... (not) as lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples

to the flock... Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God that He may exalt you..." (1 Peter 5).

9. That he will have a sweet servant spirit.

The ideal pastor is gentle and kind in person and strong and forceful when declaring God's Word.

10. That God will give the pastor great advisors/mentors.

Ligonier Ministries

THAT HE WOULD DELIGHT IN PREACHING

If your minister is not being blessed and instructed by the Word, it is highly unlikely that you will be either.

If the preacher is not diligently seeking the Lord, you won't find the Lord in his preaching...

THAT HE WOULD ENJOY THE LORD'S DAY

Robert Murray M'Cheyne says: *"A well-spent sabbath we feel to be a day of heaven upon earth. ... We love to rise early... that we may have a long day with God."*

THAT HE WOULD LEAD HIS FAMILY WELL

THAT HE HAVE A HEART FOR THE LOST

If a man loves the Lord, he will love telling others the gospel.

We need our pastors to have a zeal for the lost.

THAT THE LORD WOULD PROTECT HIM

THAT HE WOULD PREACH THE GOSPEL

Pray for your pastor, pray as if your very life and those you love depended upon it.

GuidePosts:

Being a pastor is among the most demanding, most stressful jobs in our modern world. A recent Forbes Magazine article listed “pastor” and “minister” in the top five toughest leadership roles... Pastors are on the front lines. ...few things will accomplish as much as praying for your pastor.

1) Pray for your pastor’s marriage and family

Ask God to make his home a place of beauty and joy that sets a good example for the flock of God.

2) Pray for your pastor’s spiritual life

No one can draw water from an empty well.

3) Pray for your pastor's physical health

4) Pray for wisdom and vision

Seasons of growth, stagnation, and decline in the church all demand much from a pastor. So pray for God to grant wisdom and vision to your pastor... Pray for vision to lead the church as it needs to be led and where it needs to go.

5) Pray for your pastor's friendships

Being a pastor can be a dangerously lonely job. Few understand the pressures they face and many criticize the decisions they make. Pray for your pastor to make and maintain healthy, strong friendships that will build him up,

6) Pray for your pastor's finances

7) Pray for your pastor's rest

8) Pray for ministry effectiveness

...pray for your pastor to feel useful and effective in his efforts, to see the fruit of his labors, and to experience the blessing of making a real and lasting difference in people's lives.

The Gospel Coalition (TGC)

(8X)

That the gospel would be the focal point of my life and identity

That I would not fear man by desiring the admiration of people

That the Lord would not allow me to go long between repentances; that I would keep short accounts with Him and be sensitive to and ruthless with my sin.

That I would continue to grow in the character qualities of a man of God (1 Tim. 3:1-7; 2 Tim. 2:22-26; Titus 1:5-9).

That I would have a consistent, powerful, diligent life of private prayer; that I would grow in my dependence on the Holy Spirit.

That the Lord would give me great diligence in study and sermon preparation, making the most of my time.

That I would boldly, faithfully, humbly, joyfully & intentionally share the gospel with the non-Christians in my social orbit.

That I would see Jesus as supremely valuable and my greatest treasure

CLOSE:

**Good enough for Paul...
Good enough for your pastor!**

Romans 15:30

I appeal to you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God on my behalf,

Colossians 4:3

At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison—

1 Thessalonians 5:25

Brothers, pray for us.

2 Thessalonians 3:1

Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you,

Philemon 1:22

At the same time, prepare a guest room for me, for I am hoping that through your prayers I will be graciously given to you.

Ephesians 6:19

“Pray for me, that the message may be given to me when I open my mouth to make known with boldness the mystery of the Gospel”

Remember Jesus in **John 17:20...**

Illustration:

“The Power of Praying for Others”

- 2 ship-wrecked...
- 2 sides of the island...
- Both actively praying...
- First is struggling.... Second is thriving...
 - Food... Water...
 - Woman... Wife...
 - Rescued...
 - Rebuked!
- Account of their prayers & Amens...

*Nothing strengthens, unites, & unifies
a family more than God’s Spirit... thru
God’s truth, love, mission, passion, &
PRAYER.*

Let’s Pray!