

*The Gift of
Prayer*

Give Your Pastor The Gift of Prayer
Christmas 2017

GIVE YOUR PASTOR THE GIFT OF PRAYER THIS CHRISTMAS

We consider it an honor to share with you this Gift of Prayer, to equip you and your church to pray for your pastor(s). No other profession has such a difficult and demanding job, or higher calling, than do pastors.

Your pastor will be as successful in ministry as the church is committed to praying for him, so use this Gift of Prayer or simply use the idea and develop your own. Only pray!

God's blessing on you and your church as you pray together for His anointed.

Compliments of:

Isaiah 55 Pray-ers, i55pray.org, and
Grace Christian Fellowship, gracecfonline.org

Scripture used in The Gift of Prayer is from the New International Version unless otherwise noted

**“PRAYER DOES NOT FIT US FOR THE GREATER WORKS;
PRAYER IS THE GREATER WORK.”**

~ Oswald Chambers

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1

Acts 13:2-5

While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.

The two of them, sent on their way by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia and sailed from there to Cyprus.

When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the Jewish synagogues.

John was with them as their helper.

Prayer for confidence in and freedom to preach God's Word:

Oh Father, Who called our pastor, [insert name], and Jesus, Who saved him, and the Spirit, Who empowers him, may he confidently and with authority, preach the Word. Call, send, and empower helpers, every man needed to come alongside him, that he might be free to preach the Word and to do the work You have called him to do. May those tasks that would hinder or distract him from his calling instead rightly bless the helpers You have appointed for these responsibilities. In Jesus Name, Amen.

WEEKEND PRAYER, DECEMBER 2-3

I want to know... the power of his resurrection... Philippians 3:10

That power is like the working of his mighty strength... when he raised [Jesus] from the dead... Ephesians 1:19

His power... is at work within us... Ephesians 3:20-21

Scripture prayer using Ephesians 3:16-19 – for strength and for the power of God's love:

Father, I pray that out of Your glorious riches, You may strengthen my pastor, [insert name], with power through Your Spirit in his inner being, so that Jesus may dwell in his heart through faith. And I pray that he, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that he may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of Jesus. In that sweet name I pray, Amen

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4

Scripture prayer for knowledge of the truth, enabled to teach, using Psalm 119:89; I Timothy 1:17,18; Jeremiah 33:3:

Your Word, O Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens. You alone are the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only True God. To You alone belongs honor and glory forever and ever.

I thank You today for my pastor that stands firm on the truths of holy Scripture. May he call on You, and may Your Word be revealed to him – that which is deep and hidden, great and unsearchable – not for the sake of knowledge but that he may hold on to faith, keep a good conscience, and train the saints of this Body of Christ in these truths. In Jesus Name, Amen.

“We hope to understand the truth better, but we shall never discover better truth.” ~**Charles Spurgeon**

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5

Joshua 1:9 *Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.*

Scripture prayer using selections from II Chronicles 20:

You, O LORD, are God. Are You not the God Who is in Heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. Power and might are in Your hand, and no one can withstand You.

When my pastor, [insert name], does not know what to do, may he fix his eyes upon You, the Ruler of Nations. When he is afraid or discouraged, may he take up his place before You and pray, stand firm, and witness your deliverance.

Fill him with wonder for the splendor of Your holiness, with gratitude and thanksgiving, and may his heart marvel at Your love that endures forever. Encourage my pastor, I Pray. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

“Heaven is full of answers for which nobody ever bothered to ask.” ~**Billy Graham**

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6

Deuteronomy 33:11 *Bless all his skills, LORD, and be pleased with the work of his hands.*

Scripture prayer for physical health, strength, and times of rest, renewal, and refreshing, based on selections from Psalm 91:

Father, in You there is rest and refuge. Refresh my pastor, [insert name], and his family. Renew their strength daily.

- [Health] Save them from every snare and from contagious or infectious pestilence;
- [Rest] Cover them with Your feathers, and under your wings, give them peaceful refuge;
- [Protection] Be with them in trouble; deliver them and honor them.

May You, the Most High, be their refuge and dwelling. Sustain them during the busiest of times in body, mind and spirit. As a family unit, give them joy, laughter, and satisfaction. Prosper the work of their hands, and show them Your salvation. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7

John 14:1,13-14; 15:7,16; 16:23-26:

Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me...

*I will do whatever you **ask** in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father...*

*You may **ask** me for anything in my name, and I will do it...*

*If you remain in me and my words remain in you, **ask** whatever you wish ...*

*Then the Father will give you whatever you **ask** in my name...*

*I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you **ask** in my name...*

***Ask** and you will receive... **ask** in my name...*

Father, I pray that my pastor would be a man of prayer. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Prayer...is the means by which we get everything in our lives out in the open before God. ~**Eugene Peterson**

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

Proverbs 27:17

As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.

Philippians 2:22

Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel.

Prayer for deep friendships and a balanced life:

Father, surround my pastor, [insert name], with men of integrity and grace, who love Jesus and serve You with a clear conscience and pure heart, who love Your Word and seek You in prayer – godly men, true friends, who will be consistent encouragers and, with him, shoulder the work of the church. Grant him the strength afforded by deep and meaningful friendships. Grant him times of rest, because men serve with him, protect his time, and ensure he remains balanced, consistently, in every aspect of his life: family, pastoral, and work. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

WEEKEND PRAYER, DECEMBER 9-10

Ephesians 6:18 *And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.*

Scripture prayer for prayer itself, led by the Spirit, based on Ephesians 6:18:

Father, I pray that my pastor, [insert name], would give room for prayer and be led by the Spirit of prayer. I pray that in quietness, Your Spirit would give wisdom and counsel and direction. Even when life seems quiet and the need for prayer does not press in, may he pray still. On *all* occasions, may he pray – prayers and requests of *all* kinds, considering no thing insignificant. May he be alert and tuned into the Spirit, and with his mind, pray. May we, the Body of Christ, along with [insert name], do this continually: pray for *all* the saints in this Body. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

“I live in the spirit of prayer. I pray as I walk about, when I lie down and when I rise up. And the answers are always coming. Thousands and tens of thousands of times have my prayers been answered. When once I am persuaded that a thing is right and for the glory of God, I go on praying for

it until the answer comes. George Muller never gave up!" ~**George Muller** (The Battle Plan for Prayer, By: Stephen & Alex Kendrick, Pg. 121)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Prayer for a Galatians 2:20 life:

Father, I pray that my pastor, [insert name], would be a Jesus-loving, Great-Commission-minded, Gospel-carrying, crucified-with-Christ-nevertheless-I-live, this-world-is-not-my-home servant. I pray that You would fill him with a contagious boldness, as he preaches with insight, clarity, and effectiveness, as Your Spirit uses him to fuel the hearts of our Elders and all the church. Leave us not without such a heart also – Jesus-loving, Great-Commission-minded, Gospel-carrying, crucified-with-Christ-nevertheless-I-live, this-world-is-not-my-home servants of The Most High God. Open up opportunities today, this week for each one of us, individually, to proclaim Jesus. Let us together with our pastor, lay our lives and agendas down for the sake of the Gospel. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Colossians 1:28 [Jesus] is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12

Psalm 86:8-10

Among the gods there is none like you, Lord;

no deeds can compare with yours.

All the nations you have made

will come and worship before you, Lord;

they will bring glory to your name.

For you are great and do marvelous deeds;

you alone are God.

Scripture prayer for a life of personal, private worship, using Psalm 86:11-12:

Father, teach our pastor, [insert name], Your ways, that he may rely on Your faithfulness. Give him an undivided heart, that he may fear Your name. May he worship You, the Lord, his God, with all his heart and glorify Your name forever. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13

Galatians 6:4 *Each one should test their own actions ... without comparing themselves to someone else.*

Scripture prayer for serving in uniqueness and for open doors for the Gospel, based on Galatians 6:4,9:

Father, I pray that my pastor, [insert name], would be content serving and ministering in the unique ways You have gifted him, without comparing himself to others. As he serves in uniqueness, may he, along with the Body of Christ, not grow weary in doing good, for at the proper time You will bring a harvest if we do not give up. So we pray for open doors for the Gospel. May this church be as a midwife, receiving newborn spiritual babes with loving care and then sheltering and mentoring them in discipleship. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Proverbs 11:30 (KJV) *The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.*

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14

I Thessalonians 5:12-13 *Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to 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.*

Scripture prayer of gratitude for our pastor and for his spiritual health using selections from I Thessalonians 5:12-24:

Father, we give thanks for our pastor, [insert name], and acknowledge his hard work, as he cares for us and admonishes us. We hold him in the highest regard in love, because of his work.

As we seek to live in peace with each other, may he warn any who are idle or disruptive. May our pastor encourage the disheartened, help the weak, and be patient with everyone.

Give [insert name] a heart to rejoice always, to pray continually, and to give thanks in all circumstances, for this is Your will for him in Christ Jesus. O God of peace and faithfulness, sanctify him through and through – his whole spirit, soul, and body, kept blameless until the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15

“It is at a fearful expense that ministers are ever allowed to enter the pulpit without being preceded, accompanied, and followed by the earnest prayers of the churches. It is no marvel that the pulpit is so powerless, and ministers so often disheartened when there are so few to hold up their hands... When the churches cease to pray for ministers, ministers will no longer be a blessing to the churches.” ~ **Gardiner Spring**

Scripture prayer for protection from the enemy and from a sinful heart, based on I Peter 5:8-9 and James 1:14-15:

Father, we circle up around our pastor, [insert name], with our prayers, seeking His protection. We ask that You would heighten his spiritual awareness with an alertness and sober-mindedness, that the evil one may not trip him up, that roaring lion seeking to devour him. May [insert name], who belongs to the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, resist that toothless lion, Satan, and stand firm in the faith. Guard his heart also in the height of temptation that he may not be dragged away by his own evil, fleshly desire and enticed – the desire that, once conceived, gives birth to sin, and sin gives birth to death. Like candles of prayer surrounding him, we keep watch and stand guard over his life that the enemy of darkness would flee from the light of prayer. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

WEEKEND PRAYER, DECEMBER 16-17

Psalm 20:5b *May the LORD grant all your requests.*

Scripture prayer for help, protection, and victory, using Psalm 20:1-5a:

Father, for our pastor, [insert name], we pray, asking that You would ...

- Answer him when he is in distress, and protect him by Your name.
- Send him help from Your sanctuary, and grant him support from Zion.

- Remember that he has given the sacrifice of his life for the sake of Your Kingdom.
- Grant him the desire of his heart, and make all his plans succeed.

And we will shout for joy over every victory granted and lift up our banners in the name of our God. In the Name of Jesus, Amen.

Psalm 20:6 *Now this I know: The LORD gives victory to his anointed.*

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18

Hebrews 10:35-36

So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.

For,

*“In just a little while,
he who is coming will come
and will not delay.”*

And,

*“But my righteous one will live by faith.
And I take no pleasure
in the one who shrinks back.”*

But we do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved.

Prayer to surrender to God’s will in every role – as pastor, husband, father, businessman, and leader:

Father, thank you for my pastor, [insert name]. I pray your blessing on him in his every role – as a pastor, husband, father, businessman, and leader. Each role You have called him to is deeply and eternally meaningful and is significant and important to You. By the power of Your Spirit, he is able and capable of persevering in every role. Fortify his confidence in Your love and sovereign purposes as he seeks you daily, submits to Your will, maintains his confidence, and gives thanks in all circumstances. May Your good purposes be accomplished, unhindered by any lack of faith. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

“The key to thankfulness is not to view God through the lens of our circumstances, but to view our circumstances through the lens of God’s love and sovereign purpose.” ~**Anne Graham Lotz**

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19

Philippians 1:18 *The important thing is that ... Christ is preached.*

Scripture prayer that Christ be preached, using II Thessalonians 2:16-3:5:

Father, grant my pastor, [insert name], eternal encouragement and good hope. Encourage his heart and strengthen him in every good deed and word. I pray that the message of the Lord Jesus may spread rapidly and be honored as he preaches. Deliver him from wicked and evil people. Strengthen him and protect him and his family from the evil one. We trust that you will continue to accomplish the desires of Your heart through his work. Direct his heart in Your love and in Christ's perseverance. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Philippians 3:14 *I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.*

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20

I John 3:1 *See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!*

I John 5:12 *Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.*

I John 5:18 *We know that we are children of God.*

Scripture prayer to know and experience the love of Christ, based on I John 5:19-20:

Father, I pray that my pastor, [insert name], would live out of his heritage as a child of God, that he would understand, know, and fully experience the depth of the love of Jesus, Who alone is true and the Giver of Eternal Life. Fill each moment and time and space with the length and breadth and height and depth of Your love. Fill him to the measure of all Your fullness in every way. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21

I Thessalonians 5:18 *In everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*

Prayer of thanksgiving for pastor and family:

Father, we give thanks for our pastor, [insert name], who is committed to speaking the truth, who is captive to the Word of God. We give thanks for his family, who stands with unwavering support behind and beside him. We give thanks for the love expressed by them, for they love not with words or speech alone but in actions and in truth. We pray your blessings of love, joy, and peace in their home; for a healthy marriage and relationships with their children; and for hilarious laughter, good times, and countless sweet memories for this family. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

I John 3:18 *Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.*

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22

Psalm 68:3 *But may the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; may they be happy and joyful.*

Scripture prayer for the canopy of God's blessing over the home and family, using Psalm 115:12-15:

May You, Lord, remember my pastor, [insert name], and bless him. May You bless him and his family, all the people of his house. Even so, bless all of our church, all who fear Your name – small and great alike. May You cause my pastor to flourish, both him and his children. May he and his family be happy today, his home filled with laughter – a blessing from You, the Maker of Heaven and earth. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

WEEKEND PRAYER, DECEMBER 23-24

Psalm 144:1 *Blessed be the LORD, my rock, Who trains my hands for war, And my fingers for battle.*

Prayer for holistic spiritual wellbeing:

Father, as we grow together with our pastor, I pray that our expectations will not exceed Yours but that we will, with grace and gratitude, grow with him and his family. We trust You to train his hands for war and his fingers for battle – meticulously refined for the spiritual warfare and battles ahead. May he...

- love and communicate love;
- be full of grace, humility, gratitude, integrity, and generosity;
- be rich in faith and faithfulness, surrendered to Your will;
- have a servant's heart and be filled with Your Spirit;
- bring blessings and not curses with his tongue;
- have strong health, enabled to serve;
- be a Jesus-loving, Great-Commission minded disciple and discipler of men;
- be a man of the Word and of private prayer;
- be a man of worship, bringing glory to You;
- be confident in his God and fearless, having the mind of Christ.

And may we, along with his wife and family, communicate how he is truly loved, cherished, and respected. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

"To make intercession for men is the most powerful and practical way in which we can express our love for them." ~**John Calvin**

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25

Colossians 2:8 See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.

Scripture prayer to hold fast to the core doctrine of our faith, Jesus Christ, using selections from Colossians 2:6-15 and I Corinthians 2:2:

Father, on this Christmas Day, we affirm that Christ Jesus is Lord, the fullness of the Deity in bodily form, the head over every power and authority, the One Who made us alive in Him, through Whom all our sins are forgiven, and Who disarmed the powers and authorities in the heavenly realm, making a public spectacle of them, when He triumphed over them by the cross. May our pastor, [insert name], by the power of Your Spirit, preach most effectively this one thing: Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. In His Name I pray, Amen.

"The idea that any kind of philosophy, any kind of human tradition, could enhance Christianity is nonsense." ~**John Phillips**

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26

James 1:5 *If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.*

I Kings 4:29 *God gave Solomon wisdom and very great insight, and a breadth of understanding as measureless as the sand on the seashore.*

Proverbs 2:6 *For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.*

Scripture pray for wisdom, based on Romans 11:33-36:

Father, knowing our pastor, [insert name], will be called upon to minister in circumstances that are not so black and white, we ask that You would give him measureless wisdom, understanding, knowledge, and insight. For we know the wisdom of this world is but foolishness and You alone are the source of wisdom.

Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!

How unsearchable his judgments,
and his paths beyond tracing out!

“Who has known the mind of the Lord?

Or who has been his counselor?”

“Who has ever given to God,
that God should repay them?”

For from him and through him and for him are all things.

To him be the glory forever! Amen.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27

Isaiah 30:15 *In quietness and confidence is your strength.*

Scripture prayer for the rest that God provides to those who follow him, using Psalm 131:

Father, keep my pastor’s heart from pride and his eyes from haughtiness. May he not concern himself with matters too great and wonderful to understand but rather calm and quiet himself before You, like a weaned child with its mother, content. And may he put his hope in You, Lord, both now and forevermore. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” ~Jesus (Matthew 11:28)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28

Hebrews 13:9 *It is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace.*

Scripture prayer for strength using Hebrews 13:9,15,20-21:

Father, strengthen my pastor with grace; strengthen my pastor with peace; strengthen my pastor with the continual offering of praise – the fruit of lips that confess Your name. May You, the God of peace, Who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip my pastor with everything good for doing Your will. Work in my pastor all that pleases You, through Jesus Christ, to Whom be glory for ever and ever, Amen.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29

Matthew 26:41 *“Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”*

Galatians 3:3 *Are you so foolish? After beginning by means of the Spirit, are you now trying to finish by means of the flesh?*

Prayer to finish the work God has appointed to this church in His strength:

Father, we, the Body of Christ, humble ourselves before You, as little children, asking for and depending on Your strength – empower us by Your Spirit; fill us with the heart and compassion of Christ; and add to us Your blessing. You promised to show yourself faithful to the faithful (Psalm 18:25), to use the weak and the lowly to humble the proud and the strong (I Corinthians 1:26-31), and to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to You (II Chronicles 16:9). Accomplish now, through the church, the desires of Your heart. Father, we, nor our pastor, [insert name], want to finish life’s race in the flesh or to live out of the weakness of the flesh. With clarity and vision, lead our pastor, [insert name], to lead the flock of this church – align his heart with Your heart, and accomplish all the desires of Your heart. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

II Chronicles 16:9 *For the eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him.*

WEEKEND PRAYER, DECEMBER 30-31

Ephesians 2:10 *For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

Scripture prayer for God's appointed work to be completed, using Ephesians 2:10 and Isaiah 55:11:

Father, may all that You have in Your heart to accomplish through my pastor, [insert name], be completed – every good work prepared in advance for him to do. As he preaches, teaches, and shares, both corporately and privately one-on-one, may Your Word that comes from Holy Scriptures, that does not return empty, accomplish all that You desire and achieve every purpose for which You sent it. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Isaiah 55:11 *So is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.*

PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR – JANUARY 1, 2018

Luke 23:4-5 *“Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, ‘I find no guilt in this man.’ But they kept on insisting, saying, ‘He stirs up the people, teaching all over Judea, starting from Galilee even as far as this place.’”*

Scripture prayer based on Colossians 1:28-29; I Peter 4:11, 5:4, Ephesians 1:6:

Father, I pray that my pastor might stir up this body of believers, a stirring that extends well beyond her borders. I pray that he would admonish and teach everyone with all wisdom, laboring in the strength and energy of Your Spirit that so powerfully works in him. May he speak as one speaking the very words of God and serve in the strength You provide, so that in all things You might be praised through Jesus Christ. And may he serve as a humble Shepherd example to all, knowing that when the Chief Shepherd appears, he will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. Amen, so be it, to the praise of the glory of Your grace, which You so freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

**“It is absolutely necessary for the preacher to pray.
And it is an absolute necessity that the preacher be prayed for.”
~E.M. Bounds**

