

*The Gift of
Prayer*

Give Your Pastor the Gift of Prayer

Christmas 2015

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

PRAYER DOES NOT FIT US FOR THE GREATER WORKS;

PRAYER IS THE GREATER WORK.

~ Oswald Chambers

Scripture references taken from the *New American Standard Bible: 1995 update.*
(1995). LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1

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

“it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace” Hebrews 13:9

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.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2

Scripture prayer using I Corinthians 1:2-9:

Father, I join with my brothers and sisters, sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy, who call on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ – we join to give thanks for our pastor and to ask that the grace and peace that come from You and from Jesus Christ would abound to him. Enrich him in speech, in knowledge, and in the testimony of Jesus Christ. As he eagerly awaits our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed, keep him strong until the end, blameless until the day of our Lord, and sustained with the fellowship of Jesus Christ. May he remain faithful, just as the One Who has called him remains faithful. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3

Scripture prayer using selections from Isaiah 49:

Father, I pray that you would put Your words into my pastor’s mouth, that all might know that You are LORD, Savior, Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob, and that those who hope in You will not be disappointed. Make my pastor’s mouth be like a sharpened sword; make him into a polished arrow concealed in Your quiver; feed him in Your pastures; with Your compassion, guide him; lead him beside Your springs of water; turn the mountains into roads, and let the highways be raised up; and gather to him, O Lord, the spiritual territories appointed unto him. Yes Lord, place them under his feet; crush the head of the enemy; and raise up Your banner there. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4

Scripture prayer includes Revelation 1:9:

“Write in a book what you see, and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.” ~ Jesus (Revelation 1:11)

Father, I am struck by the knowledge that Jesus calls His churches by name, each one endearing to Him, each one thriving or lacking in spiritual luster, each one counseled or commended by His strong and enduring words, by Jesus, Who likewise knows *us* by name and sees us as we are or are not. Who on earth sees us as we are or are not more than the steward you placed over Grace, and so I pray for my pastor, my brother and companion in the suffering, in the kingdom, and in the patient endurance that belongs to us in Jesus. I pray that the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus would dwell richly in him and in turn richly in this body of Christ. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

WEEKEND PRAYER, DECEMBER 5-6

Scripture prayer using Psalm 73:23-26; I Kings 19:7:

“The angel of the LORD came again a second time and touched him and said, ‘Arise, eat, because the journey is too great for you.’” I Kings 19:7

Father, whether awake or asleep, You are always with my pastor. You hold him by Your right hand. You guide him with Your counsel and afterward will take him into glory. When his flesh and his heart fail in life's journey, be the strength of his heart and his portion, as You will be forever. In Your strength, the journey will never be too much. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 7

Scripture prayer using Colossians 3:12-17:

Father, I pray for my pastor, Your chosen servant and holy and dearly loved messenger. May he clothe himself with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. May he bear with others, forgiving whatever grievances he may have against others, forgiving as he has been forgiven in Christ. Over all these virtues may he put on love, which binds all things together in perfect unity. May the peace of Christ rule in his heart, as a member of the church of Jesus

Christ, who is called to peace and to gratitude. Let the word of Christ dwell in him richly as he teaches and admonishes the saints of this body of Christ with all wisdom, and in the singing of psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in his heart to his Heavenly Father. Whatever he does, whether in word or deed, may he do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to You, the Father, through Jesus Christ, in whose Name I pray, Amen.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8

Scripture prayer using selections from Psalm 27:

“The name of the LORD is a strong tower; The righteous runs into it and is safe.”

Proverbs 18:10

“Wait for the LORD; Be strong and let your heart take courage; Yes, wait for the LORD.” Psalm 27:14

“I love You, O LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, My God, my rock, in whom I take refuge; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.” Psalm 18:1-2

Father, be to my pastor his Light and Salvation, the Stronghold of his life, that he would fear no man. When evil men advance, let them stumble and fall. Should the army of the enemy besiege him, should war break out against him, keep his heart from fear and steady his confidence. May he dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of his life; gaze upon Your beauty; seek You in Your temple; remain strong; take heart; wait patiently on his God; hold fast to the confidence that he will see Your goodness in the land of the living. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9

Scripture prayer based on I Peter 1:3-8:

Father, praise be to You, the God and Father of my Lord Jesus Christ! Let my pastor delight in Your great mercy, in the living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, in his inheritance that can never perish, spoil, or fade – kept in Heaven for him. Shield his faith. Let him greatly rejoice, even when trials and grief come. May his faith, of greater worth than gold, be proved genuine and result in the praise, glory, and honor of Jesus Christ. May my pastor’s love for Jesus flourish, filling him with inexpressible and glorious joy. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10

Scripture prayer using Psalm 37:3-8; Matthew 11:28-30:

“But he who trusts in the LORD will be exalted.” Proverbs 29:25

Father, I pray that my pastor would trust in You, Lord, and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy the gentle pastures of Jesus. Fill him with delight in You and with the desires of Your own heart, then grant him the desires of his heart. May all his ways be committed to You, entrusted to You, knowing that You will do this: make Your righteousness shine through him like the dawn; the justice of Your cause stream through him like the noonday sun. Grant that he might be still before You, wait patiently on You. When others appear to succeed in wicked ways, keep him from fretting, from anger, from wrath, that leads not to the glory of God. Grant him rest, spiritual rest, strength, spiritual strength, refreshment, spiritual refreshment. When my pastor is weary, may he come to Jesus, find rest, take on His yoke, and learn from Him: the Gentle Shepherd, humble in heart, Who says, *“My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”* Yes, grant my pastor rest for his soul. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11

Scripture prayer using Isaiah 11:2-3 and selections from John 14:12-21:

“delight in the fear of the LORD.” Isaiah 11:3

Father, I pray that I might be led in prayer by Your Spirit of prayer: the Comforter; the Spirit of truth; the One Who is not only *with* the saints of the body of Christ but *in* us forever; the One Whom Jesus spoke of when He said, *“I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you... I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.”* I pray that through Your Spirit’s presence in my pastor’s life, that You might bring glory to the Son, that the Son might bring glory to You. I pray that You would fill my pastor with Your Spirit and with the seven-fold ministry of the Spirit: a Spirit of Lordship; the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding; the Spirit of counsel and of power; the Spirit of knowledge; and the Spirit of the fear of the Lord. Yes Father, fill him with such a sense of Your glory, splendor, holiness, and majesty that his soul is overwhelmed with delight in the fear of the Lord. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

WEEKEND PRAYER, DECEMBER 12-13

Scripture prayer using II Corinthians 1:3-6; 5:6-21:

Praise be to You, my God, the Father of my Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion, and God of all comfort. Thank You that even in sufferings and in distress, the comfort of Christ overflows. I pray that in all circumstances, whether sufferings or distress, that my pastor might always be of good courage. I pray also that he would walk by faith and not by sight, his ambition being always to please You, Lord, that when he appears before the Judgment Seat of Christ, Jesus might be pleased. May the love of Christ constrain him; may he live no longer for himself but for Jesus, Who died and rose again; may all that is new, being *in* Christ, bloom and all that is old wither and pass away. In patient endurance, let him carry out the ministry of reconciliation to which he has been called, an ambassador making appeals to all to be reconciled to Christ. For Jesus, Who knew no sin, became sin on behalf of all, that all might be made righteous through Christ, in Whose Name I pray. Amen.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14

Scripture prayer using Psalm 34:1-14:

Father, I bring my pastor before You, asking that he would extol You at all times; that Your praise would always be on his lips. Let his soul boast in You and rejoice, and may we, the saints of this body of Christ, glorify You with Him and exalt Your name together. May my pastor seek you and be delivered from all his fears; look to you and be radiant; never be covered with shame; be saved out of all his troubles and delivered; taste and see that You are good; take refuge in You; fear You and lack nothing; seek You and lack no good thing; have spirit ears to listen; be a student of the fear of the Lord; love life and see many good days; have a tongue guarded from evil and lips restrained from speaking lies; turn from evil always and do good; seek peace and pursue it. Yes Lord, do all these things for my pastor, Your servant, I pray. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15

Scripture prayer using selections from Psalm 19:

Father, the heavens declare Your glory; the skies proclaim the work of Your hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. Their voice goes out into all the earth, theirs words to the ends of the world. May my pastor be a student of their words, of their language, of their speech, of their knowledge. Revive his soul; make him wise; give joy to his heart; give light to his eyes. May the fear of the Lord endure forever in his heart. May Your ordinances be to him altogether righteous; more precious than gold, than much pure gold; sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb. Let my pastor be warned by them, for in keeping them is great reward. Forgive his hidden faults. Keep him also from willful sins; may they not rule over him. May the words of his mouth and the meditation of his heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my Rock, and my Redeemer. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16

Scripture prayer using Romans 11:33-12:2:

Oh, the depth of the riches of Your wisdom and knowledge, my Father. How unsearchable are Your judgments, and Your paths beyond tracing out! Who has known the mind of my Lord? Who, Father, has been Your counselor? Who has ever given to You, that You should repay him? For from You and through You and to You are all things. To You be glory forever! Therefore, with urgency of heart and in view of Your great mercy, may my pastor offer up his body as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to You – for this is his spiritual act of worship. I pray that he would conform *not* to the pattern of this world but instead be transformed by the renewing of his mind, that he would be able to test and approve what is your will – Your good, pleasing, and perfect will. Yes Lord, may he know, with a discerning heart and clarity of spirit, what is Your will! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17

Scripture prayer using selections from Psalm 145:

Father, I will exalt You, my God, the King; I will praise Your name for ever and ever. Every day I will praise you and extol Your name for ever and ever. Great are You Lord and most worthy of praise; Your greatness no one can fathom. Let my pastor commend Your works to this body of Christ and to this generation, telling of Your mighty acts. Let him speak of the glorious splendor of Your majesty, and may he meditate on Your wonderful works. Give him words to tell of the power of Your awesome works and to proclaim Your great deeds. May he lead us to celebrate Your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of Your righteousness. O gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger, rich in love, let his mouth speak in praise of You Lord. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18

Scripture prayer using selections from Psalm 112, Deuteronomy 33:23:

“He feared man so little, because he feared God so much.” ~A memorial to Lord Lawrence in Westminster Abbey

I praise You, my Lord. I praise You, my King. I praise You, my Heavenly Father. I thank You, my Jesus. I welcome You, O Spirit of God. My Father, my Redeemer, my Counselor, I bless Your holy name. I thank You today for the Lord Jesus Christ, the head of Your church, and I thank You for Your anointing of our pastor. I pray that he would walk under the umbrella of Your blessings: fearing You and fearing no man; finding great delight in Your commands; full of grace and compassion; generous, lending freely, and scattering abroad gifts to the poor; conducting affairs with justice; having a heart steadfastly trusting in You, a secure heart having no fear of bad news. May he trample the head of the enemy and look on in triumph; let the wicked see and be vexed, gnash their teeth, waste away with longings that come to nothing; but may he never be shaken. Even in darkness, let his light dawn. May he be a righteous man remembered forever in Your Kingdom and his children also be mighty in Your Kingdom, upright, and blessed of You. May wealth and riches that this world knows nothing of be in his house, and may he abound with Your favor and be full of Your blessing. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

WEEKEND PRAYER, DECEMBER 19-20

Scripture prayer using II Thessalonians 1:2-4,11-12:

Heavenly Father, thank You for the grace and peace extended to us by You through the Lord Jesus Christ. Thank you also for my brothers and sisters in this body of Christ, my co-laborers in Christ. I ought always to thank You also for my pastor, for the faith growing in him more and more, and for the love he has for us. I trust You for his perseverance and faith in persecutions and endurance in trials. Stir us up to be constantly in prayer for our pastor: that he would be counted worthy of Your calling; that by Your power, he might fulfill every good purpose of Yours; and that every act would be prompted by faith. No glory to my pastor; no glory to us; let the marvelous name of the Lord Jesus be glorified through him and through us. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 21

Scripture prayer using I Peter 5:6-11:

Father, O God of all grace, Who has called my pastor to eternal glory in Christ, to You belongs all power for ever and ever, and I bless Your name. I pause to thank You for the pastor You have placed over us and for his love for Your Word. I pray now that You would grant him the sweet, fragrant, and humble heart of my Lord Jesus, that he might be lifted up and used by You in due time, in season, and at precise and critical moments. Free him from all anxiety; teach him to cast all of his cares on You; train him to take all anxious thoughts captive to Jesus Christ. Standing as candles of prayer around our pastor, we ask that Your power would equip him to be self-controlled and alert. Surrounded by our prayers, we ask that You protect him from the devil prowling around like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour. By the power of Your Spirit, may he resist the enemy and stand firm in the faith, remembering that our brothers around the world are undergoing and overcoming the same kinds of sufferings. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22

Scripture prayer using Isaiah 40:26-31, 52:7:

Praise be to You, my Father; to You, the Everlasting God; to You, the Creator of the ends of the earth; to You, Who never grows tired or weary; to You, Whose understanding no one can fathom. Lift my pastor's eyes to the heavens, to see the starry host and remember the One who created them; Who calls each by name; by Whose great power and strength, not one is missing. Yet on this speck of a planet called earth, You treasure Your Gospel-carrying saints more than all of these. As Your Word says, *"How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news."* Today, on the tired weary feet of my pastor, put on the shoes of the Gospel of Grace. Exchange his weariness for Your strength, and let not his spirit heart grow weary of carrying the Gospel. When in weariness, should the enemy cause him to stumble and fall, open the floodgates of Heaven's hope, and renew his strength. Encamp about him with Your protection. Pick him up by the wind of Your Spirit to soar on wings like eagles, like those who run and do not grow weary, like those who walk and do not faint. May he, through the power of Your Spirit, press on in expectation, in patience, and in hope. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23

Scripture prayer using selections from Romans 8:

Father, I pray for the Spirit to bore holy holes of confident assurance in the heart of my pastor. I pray that he would live according to the Spirit; keep his mind set on what the Spirit desires; be governed by the Spirit of life and peace; put to death the misdeeds of the body; always be willing to share in the sufferings of Christ; eagerly and patiently await the adoption of sonship, the redemption of his body. May eagerness and patience live in fruitful tension. In Jesus Name, Amen.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24

Scripture prayer using Acts 4:11-12,25-26,29:

As the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain, as the kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against You Lord, and against the Anointed One, fill my pastor with Your Holy Spirit, that he might speak the name of Jesus with great boldness during these turbulent times. Let the name of Jesus be proclaimed at Grace. Salvation is found in no one else but Jesus, for there is no other name under Heaven given to men by which we must be saved. Jesus, the stone the builders rejected, has become the capstone. In Jesus Name, Amen.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25

*“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.’” Luke 23:4-5*

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.

