

BEN WASHINGTON BAPTIST CHURCH

BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study Series – Part 4

“I am a Church Member”

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I AM A CHURCH MEMBER



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I WILL PRAY FOR MY CHURCH LEADERS

Biblical Principle

The spiritual battles pastors and church leaders face are very difficult.

Biblical Passage(s) in Focus

1 Thessalonians 5:12; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Timothy 2:1-2

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1 Thessalonians 5:12

And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you;

Hebrews 13:17

Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

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1 Timothy 2:1-2

I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

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Life Impact and Lesson Goals

This lesson is designed to help us understand that we must pray for our Pastor and church leaders.

Central Truth.

Healthy church members do more than expect their leaders to pray for them—they intentionally and consistently pray for their leaders.

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Reasons For Pastoral (Church Leaders) Prayer

- Unrealistic expectations and demands
 - Physical, emotional, and spiritual “burn out”
 - Depression, addiction, suicide and moral lapse
 - Divorce rates are soaring among clergy (50%)
- Ministerial flight (1,500 pastors leave the ministry every month)
- Ministerial Overload (90% of Christian Pastors work more than 60 hours a week)
- Ministry Stagnation (Members failure to move in the same direction that God is leading the Pastor)
 - Feeling Alone (70% of Pastors don't have any close friends.)

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Lesson Outline

Pray for the **SHEPHERD** and other Church Leaders (I Timothy 2:1-2)

Pray for the **SUCCESS** of your Church Leaders (2 Thessalonians 3:1)

Pray for the **SAFETY** of your Church Leaders (2 Thessalonians 3:2)

Pray for the **SPIRITUALITY** of your Church Leaders (I Timothy 4:12-16)

Pray for the **HOMES** of your Church Leaders (Joshua 24:15)

Pray for the **HEALTH** for your Church Leaders (III John 1:2)

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Lesson Historical Setting

In this third lesson, we will examine several passages of Scriptures that will highlight several biblical principles of a selfless servant culminating with the ultimate example of a selfless servant, Jesus Christ. Let's explore...

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“What do we normally expect from our church leaders?”

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We expect pastors and leaders to

preach, teach, counsel, visit, pray, lead, attend meetings, handle conflict, cast vision, encourage members, respond to emergencies, perform weddings and funerals, develop ministries, manage crises, and remain spiritually strong.

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If we expect so much from our leaders, how much should we be praying for them?

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Leaders Watch for Souls

Pastoral leadership is more than organizational leadership.

A pastor is not merely:

an administrator,

a motivational speaker,

a CEO,

an event coordinator,

or a religious personality.

Pastors are called to watch for souls.

That means spiritual leadership carries an **eternal dimension.**

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Pray for the **SHEPHERD** and other Church Leaders (I Timothy 2:1-2)

- All church leaders need prayer.
- Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. I Timothy 2:1-2 (NKJV)

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Pray for the **SUCCESS** of your Church Leaders (2 Thessalonians 3:1)

Pray that the Lord's message will spread rapidly and be honored wherever it goes, just as when it came to you. 2 Thessalonians 3:1 (NLT)

1. Pray for the Success of your Church Leaders **MINISTRY**
2. Pray for the Success of your Church Leaders **MESSAGE**

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Pray for Their Preaching and Teaching

Ephesians 6:19

Paul makes an interesting request:

“And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly...”

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- Paul was an apostle.
- Paul was a theologian.
- Paul was a missionary.
- Paul wrote significant portions of the New Testament.

Yet Paul still said

Pray for me.

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Specifically, he wanted believers to pray for his proclamation of the gospel.

Colossians 4:3–4

Paul similarly asks believers to pray:

“...that God would open unto us a door of utterance...”

This teaches us that preaching is not merely a preacher's responsibility.

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The congregation participates in the preaching ministry through prayer.

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Pray for the **SAFETY** of your Church Leaders (2 Thessalonians 3:2)

The devil has devised a plan to bring the pastor down. **He has set a trap**

"...Pray, too, that we will be rescued from wicked and evil people, for not everyone is a believer." 2 Thessalonians 3:2 (NLT)

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Pray for the **SPIRITUALITY** of your Church Leaders (I Timothy 4:12-16)

Can you imagine the feeling of support, encouragement and strength that's infused into a leader when he knows his people are praying for him?

Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you. I Timothy 4:12-16 (NKJV)

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Pray for Your Leader's Spiritual Life.

Before pastors can lead God's people, they must maintain their own relationship with God.

Acts 20:28

Paul tells the Ephesian elders:

“Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock...”

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Notice the order.

First: yourselves.

Then: the flock.

Leaders cannot continually pour spiritually into others without being replenished themselves.

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Pray that your leaders will

Maintain a strong prayer life.

Hunger for God's Word.

Walk closely with Christ.

Remain sensitive to the Holy Spirit.

Maintain personal integrity.

Resist temptation.

Grow spiritually rather than merely professionally.

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Pray for the **HOMES** of your Church Leaders (Joshua 24:15)

52% of pastors say they and their spouses believe that being in pastoral ministry is hazardous to their family's well-being and health.

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Pray for Your Leader's Family

1 Timothy 3:4–5

Paul includes family leadership among the qualifications for spiritual leadership.

Pastoral ministry doesn't affect only the pastor.

It affects the entire family.

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A pastor's spouse may experience expectations they never agreed to.

A pastor's children may live under a microscope.

People sometimes expect the pastor's family to:

- attend everything,
- participate in everything,
 - behave perfectly,
- always be available,

and meet standards they don't apply to other families.

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Pray for the pastor's marriage.

Pray for
love,
communication,
protection,
intimacy,
patience,
and time together.

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Pray for the pastor's children.

Pray that they

- develop their own relationship with Christ,
- are protected from resentment toward the church,
 - receive grace when they make mistakes,
- understand their identity is not simply “the pastor's child,”
 - and experience a healthy home environment.

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Key Principle

When you pray for your pastor, don't forget the people your pastor goes home to.

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Pray for the **HEALTH** for your Church Leaders (III John 1:2)

Doctors, lawyers and clergy have the most problems with drug abuse, alcoholism and suicide.

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Questions?