

How to Pray for Your Pastor

Hebrews 13:18

*“Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a good conscience, desiring to conduct ourselves honorably in all things. **And I urge you all the more to do this [pray], so that I may be restored to you the sooner.**”*

On one of his visits to the Continent, Charles Spurgeon met an American minister who said, “I have long wished to see you, Mr. Spurgeon, and to put one or two simple questions to you. In our country there are many opinions as to the secret of your great influence. Would you be good enough to give me your own point of view?” After a moment’s pause, Spurgeon replied, “My people pray for me.” (Ian Murray).

How can you pray for me and your other pastors?

I. Pray that my message is as clear as my conscience.

Notice, the author of Hebrews, the spiritual leader and guide for the Hebrew people, does not pray or ask for prayer that he might have a clear conscience. His conscience is good. It is clear before God. The conscience has been described as the *“rudder of the soul”* or the Christian’s *“principle within.”* **“We are sure** we have a good conscience” (NIV, NAS). **“We are confident** that we have ... (KJV, ASV). A GOOD CONSCIENCE IS ONLY OBTAINED BY THE SPRINKLING OF CHRIST’S BLOOD IN OUR SOULS. *Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience* (Heb. 10:19-22). This must be my message.

II. Pray that my conduct is as honorable as my hope.

Since my conscience is clear because of my message of the blood of Jesus Christ, then you can pray that the way I live my life is as honorable as my hope (in the blood of Jesus Christ). In other words,

A. The token of a cleansed conscience is the desire to live a life of honor.

When the death of Jesus means something to you, you honor the name and character of Christ.

B. The task for the spiritual leader is to live a life honorable *in all things*.

The *all things* include what he sees and hears, reads and watches, thinks and does— all of it.

C. The trouble for spiritual leaders is they become the targets of the enemy.

As Paul exclaimed about the ministry, **“Who is adequate for these things?”** (2 Cor. 2:16). He exhorts the Hebrews to “pray for us” (v. 18), but that is literally “keep on praying for us.” It is instructive to see how many times in the NT the Apostle Paul encourages people to pray for him.

III. Pray that my ministry is as powerful as my preaching.

“And I urge you all the more to do this [pray], so that I may be restored to you the sooner” (v. 19). This verse demonstrates the inspired writer’s faith in **the power of prayer** to hasten matters where, humanly speaking, the circumstances may seem to prevent the possibility. We all believe in the sovereignty of God, but if there were no other verse on prayer than this one, then we should pray.

A. Only when things occur that cannot be explained by human exertion is a ministry powerful.

This is why we pray. We pray for the movement of the Holy Spirit in my life and in our midst.

B. The urgent request is that people pray for specific, practical events in their pastor’s daily life.

The very word “pray” means to seek the face of God and speak a request as a child to a Father.

C. The success of every ministry is found in the prayers of God’s people for their pastors.