



PRAYER **SHIELD**

HANDBOOK FOR INTERCESSORS

THE BACKBONE OF PRAYER IS AGREEMENT WITH GOD'S WORD AND GOD'S CHARACTER.

What is an Intercessor?

An intercessor is simply a person who prays earnestly for another. Someone who is devoted to prayer and stands on behalf of others, bringing them before God for His intervention and blessing.

Mediators in prayer are seen all throughout the Old Testament. In the New Testament Christ Himself comes as the mediator between God and humans (1 Timothy 2:5). The Holy Spirit also prays on our behalf (Romans 8:26 & 27) and Christ Himself prays for us (Hebrews 7:25).

We are called to pray for one another (James 5:16). It is our privilege and our responsibility (Ephesians 6:18).

“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.”
Colossians 4:2

“Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”
1 Thessalonians 5:16 & 17

This PRAYER SHIELD has a particular focus on spiritual leaders. Those who hold the umbrella of authority over a specific ministry area or assignment. They are the individuals on the front lines of advancing the Kingdom of God, bringing God's presence, peace and power to those under their sphere of influence.

They need our prayers to stand firm in their faith, to have divine wisdom to guide themselves and others, to be disciplined in their own lives of prayer and hearing the voice of the Holy Spirit and to be strengthened in their walk with God.

In this hour on the Earth, our spiritual leaders need the shielding of prayer and the power of the Holy Spirit as they navigate the issues of the day with godly courage and wisdom.

As you participate in this PRAYER SHIELD for those in your circle who hold spiritual influence under a specific banner, please also pray for one another as intercessors that we may all be filled with the fullness of God as we turn our eyes upward and tune our ears to His whispers on behalf of others.

Everyone who puts their hope in the name of Jesus is encased in the Powerhouse of the Trinity: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.



Those who pray stand in this place. Those for whom they pray are brought into this shielded place where the well of the Truth of all God is bubbles up with the promises of His word. These blessings from Scripture are poured over our spiritual leaders as we pray for them in their pursuit of their walk with God.

“

**PRAYER IS NOT A BUTTON TO PUSH
IT IS A RELATIONSHIP TO PURSUE**

Carey Nieuwhof

”

Invited by God Himself into His presence, His peace and His power, we pray for one another as we pray for our spiritual leaders, that our own individual walks with God would be full and rich as we lean in with listening ears and willing hearts to understand how God wants to shape us and those for whom we pray.

At times, in a believer's life, the presence of God can feel distant. This lament weaves its way through the Scripture.

The ebb and flow of our nearness to God is not unfamiliar and is similar to the ebb and flow of our earthly relationships as well. The connection to, and alignment with God is the deepest desire of the human heart. It is often where the enemy of our soul creeps in to discourage.

As we pray for our spiritual leaders, and for one another, it is important to pray blessing over our connectedness to God. When we feel a disconnect with God we tend to draw away.

His word calls us to draw near to Him and, as we do, He will draw near to us. (James 4:8)

This is where the community of believers comes in. When we don't feel like praying or seeking God, we can align ourselves with others who are in that place. We need one another. We carry one another through the ebb and flow.

When the consolation of God feels distant, and desolation is creeping in, we need to be aware of the temptation toward isolation.

Sitting with God and with other believers, through the question marks in our lives, is one of the great anchors of our faith. Pouring out the blessings of His word over one another refreshes, replenishes and recharges us in our waiting.

This is what believers in The Jesus Way do for one another and for their spiritual leaders. They pray for one another.

“And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

Colossians 1:9-12

The Framework for the Prayer Shield Meeting

1

Gather

Small groups of inter-generational prayer partners gather to pray for a specific individual.

2

Practice His Presence and Praise

Worshiping together they come in confident expectation to meet with the LORD on behalf of the one for whom they pray.

3

Focus on Scripture

God's word, the Holy Scripture, is the centerpiece of these times of prayer. Let Scripture guide the way. Here prayers change from "*please, please*" to "*thank you, thank you*" for all God is in and for us as our own best solutions fall by the wayside.

4

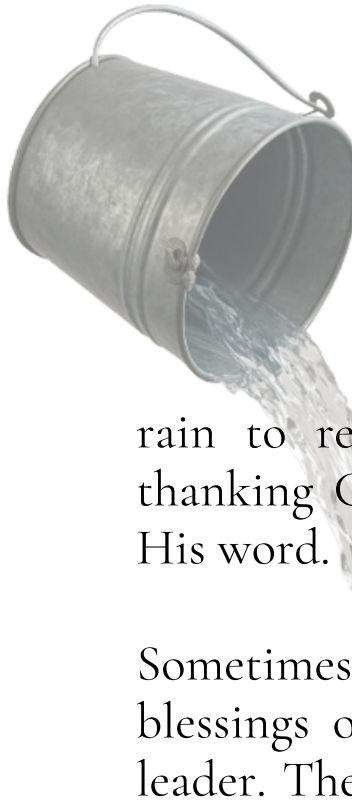
Listen and Lean Into The Spirit

Invite the Holy Spirit to speak unity, wisdom, encouragement and blessing from the Word.

5

Release and Rest

As you prepare to meet for prayer, ask the LORD to highlight the areas that He wants to pour His blessing out over the one you are praying for.

A metal bucket with a handle is tilted, pouring a stream of water. The water is depicted as a continuous, flowing line that extends downwards, passing through the text of the subsequent paragraphs.

Intercessors simply BLESS their spiritual leaders through Scripture and through the leading of the Holy Spirit.

This can look different at different times. Sometimes the blessing prayers are like gently falling rain to refresh the individual in the various areas of life, thanking God for His vast provision through the promises of His word.

Sometimes the prayers are battle prayers to pour out the blessings of authority and victory in the life of the spiritual leader. The truths of who our God is in power and victory can bless and move barriers to open and close doors as God establishes His Kingdom purposes in the life and ministry of this dear one.

Always we pray for his/her connectedness to God and for refreshing in that relationship.

Using the word B.L.E.S.S. as a guide, Scriptural blessing is poured out over the individual. On the next page are a few guiding scriptures and prayers to get started.

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| B | - | BODY |
| L | - | LABOUR |
| E | - | EMOTIONS |
| S | - | SOCIAL |
| S | - | SPIRITUAL |

BODY - Guiding Scriptures

Ask the LORD for guiding scriptures to pray His blessings over your Pastor's physical well-being. As you seek out God's promises and lean into His character the list of Scripture blessings will grow.

- **Having earnest prayer support:**
1 Timothy 2:1& 2, James 5:16
- **Having Moral Integrity/kept from Satan's attacks/resisting temptation:**
Proverbs 21:3, Proverbs 11:3, 2 Peter 3:17, 2 Timothy 1:2
- **Safety from harm in a fallen world. Protection from sickness:**
Psalm 103:1-5, Psalm 91:11, James 1:26, Jeremiah 17:14
- **Healthy choices. Sleep:**
Proverbs 3:24, 1 Corinthians 6:19/20, Psalm 4:8, Numbers 6:24-26

“And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.”

2 Corinthians 9:8

Almighty God,

We come to You today with thanksgiving for our Pastor and for the blessings of Your promises and character as we pour these truths over him in prayer today. Thank you for Your grace, Your mercy and Your peace that flows to him and through him today.

Thank you for blessing him with strong prayer support from those who love You and who desire Your very best for him. Thank you for Your sustaining power over him today, providing him with all things, at all times so that he will have everything he needs to fulfill Your purposes for him and through him.

Bless him with encouragement from those around him. Thank you for Your protection. Shield him from disunity and disrespect from those who do not bridle their tongues.

LORD, wherever he is experiencing physical discomfort, pain, concern over his health, pour the blessing of Your healing power, and Your enabling strength, over him.

Thank you that when he lies down to sleep You promise him rest. May his sleep be refreshing. Bless him with peace as he makes time to take the rest his body needs.

LORD, bless him and keep him; shine Your face upon him and be gracious to him. Thank you for Your kindness and Your presence to him and with him. In the strong name of Jesus we pray, amen.

LABOUR – Guiding Scriptures

Ask the LORD for guiding scripture to pray His blessings over your pastor's various areas of work.

- **Advancement of God's Kingdom:**
Matthew 6:10 Ephesians 2:10, Ephesians 6:14 & 15
- **To speak what the LORD gives courageously and boldly:**
Ephesians 6:19 & 20. 2 Timothy 1:7
- **Saying and doing all things in the name of Jesus:**
Colossians 3:17
- **Doing the work with all his/her strength and not half-heartedly:**
Ecclesiastes 9:10
- **Making wise use of the day:**
Ephesians 5:15-17
- **Managing peak energy times. Working with all Christ's energy:**
Colossians 1:29, Hebrews 13:20 & 21
- **Financial provision. Wisdom in managing finances:**
Proverbs 3:9 & 19
- **Finding rest and refreshment:**
Psalm 23, Proverbs 11:25

“And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

Colossians 3:17

Holy God,

Thank you that You have promised to equip our Pastor with every good thing for doing Your will. Bless her today with an awareness of Your provision as You work in and through her labour today.

Thank you that You have promised wisdom and even revelation in managing her day and her energy as she works whole-heartedly.

Thank you that You bring rest from the labour and light on the way.

Thank you that You give the perseverance and discipline to her to both say and do everything with a conscious awareness and choice of doing it in Your name.

Bless our Pastor now with the synergy of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit as she seeks Your presence and arises from her prayer times with You.

We ask this in the name of Jesus' with thanksgiving, amen.

EMOTIONS – Guiding Scriptures

Ask the LORD for guiding scriptures to having a heart of praise. Psalm 40:3, Psalm 149:1, Ephesians 5:19.

- **Being a Godly Example:**
1 Thessalonians 5:22 & 23
- **Controlling the tongue:**
1 Peter 3:10
- **Thanksgiving for who God is:**
Gratitude. John 16:24, Psalm 118:21
- **For boldness and doors of opportunity:**
Ephesians 6:19 & 20
- **Guarding the heart:**
Proverbs 4:23, James 1:19, Galatians 5:22, 23, Philippians 4:6 & 7, Psalm 91

*“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”
Matthew 6:21*

O God,

Thank you for the blessing of spiritual protection You have provided for Your children. Thank you that You offer Your protection over our Pastor's heart and life. Thank you that You seek to guard him from all the things that can distract him in his walk with You. Bless him with spiritual courage as he silences the voice of the enemy of his soul.

May Your peace guard his heart and mind as he commits his ways to you.

Pour your blessing over his mind that he would have a pure mind and a guarded tongue as he interacts with those around him.

As he navigates his days thank you that You offer him a willing spirit to be filled with the fruit of Your Spirit.

Pour a courageous boldness over our pastor that he would seize the doors of opportunity that You open for him. Bless him with the discernment to see them.

Fill his heart with gratitude for all You are as he focuses his gaze on you and not on what is around him.

Bless him today with the abundance of Your presence, peace and power in the strong name of Jesus we pray, amen.

SOCIAL – Guiding Scriptures

Ask the LORD for guiding scriptures as you bring your spiritual leader's personal, relational and social interactions to Him for blessing.

- **Family Relationships:**

Proverbs 5:18, 1 Peter 3:7, Psalm 127:3, Matthew 18:10, 1 Timothy 5:8, Deuteronomy 6:6-7, Prov 22:6, Exodus 20:12, Ephesians 6:2-3, Prov 23:25

- **Church community. Board and staff relationships. Unity:**

1 Corinthians 1:10, Galatians 3:28, John 13:35, Philippians 2:2 & 3, Romans 14:19

- **Confidence:**

1 John 4:14 & 15

- **Friendships:**

Psalm 1, Colossians 3:16, John 13:34, 35 13

- **Godly Wisdom:**

James 3:17 & 18, Proverbs 19:8, Proverbs 9:10

- **Accountability:**

Proverbs 27:17, Psalm 51:10

“Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.”

1 Peter 4:8

Father in Heaven,

Thank you that You have created us for community and connection with You and with one another. Bless our Pastor today with encouragement to both give and receive as she interacts with those around her.

Pour the blessing of the fruit of Your Spirit over her as she nurtures her family and her spiritual community. Thank you that Your Spirit empowers her with all she needs as she seeks You.

Bless her with determination to shelter her quiet times with You as You dwell in her richly, giving her wisdom and joy as You help thanksgiving to flow through her.

Give our spiritual leader the blessing of Your resurrection power and strength as she navigates how to love those who might oppose her.

Thank you that Your love, flowing from her, will show that she is Your disciple. Bless her with an overflow of love today for everyone whose eyes meet hers this day.

In the powerful name of Jesus we pray, amen.

SPIRITUAL – Guiding Scriptures

Ask the LORD for guiding scriptures to inform your prayers for the spiritual life and spiritual protection of your pastor.

- **Growth in wisdom and in favor with God and man.
Studying to show thyself approved unto God:**
Luke 2:52, 2 Timothy 2:15, Colossians 4:12, Hebrews 13:17, Psalm 92:2
- **For understanding and employment of Spiritual Authority in both the physical and spiritual realms:**
2 Thessalonians 3:1, Psalm 91, Isaiah 54:17, Luke 10:19, Colossians 2:15
- **When desolation seeks to overtake the heart:**
Psalm 145:18, Acts 17:27, Psalm 34:18, Psalm 16:8, Psalm 119:151

“Grace and peace be multiplied to you through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through the knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness. Through these He has given us His precious and magnificent promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, now that you have escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires....”

2 Peter 1:2-4

Holy God,

We praise You that You have disarmed the principalities and powers at the cross of Jesus Christ. We thank you for the blessing of Your authority and the power of Your name over our pastor today. Lord, pour Your clarity into his mind to discern when and how to take a stand in spiritual authority.

Give him the blessing of courage and confidence in the victory. You have won the battle over sin and death. Bless our pastor with courage, discipline, and victory over all the tactics of the enemy of his soul. Thank you that You have warned us of the roaring lion who seeks to devour. Bless him with the knowledge of when he is being eaten up, consumed by things that have their base in fear.

When desolation temps him away from You and into isolation, we pour the blessing of Your consolation over him. Remind him that You have promised never to leave him, never to forsake him and that Your steadfast love is reliable.

Thank you that everything he needs for life and godliness today is available to him through Your divine nature. Bless him now with increased desire to be in union with You and accessing all You offer.

Thank you for these blessings of victory.

We pray in Jesus' name, amen.

Record the guided Scriptures the LORD gives you to pray over your spiritual leaders.

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