

# NINE DAYS OF Prayer FOR YOUR Pastor

“And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love for their work’s sake.”

1 THESSALONIANS 5:12-13A



# INTRODUCTION

Dear Friend,

Thank you for joining Love Worth Finding in the 9 Days of Prayer for Your Pastor email challenge.

In the last several years, pastors have faced new and significant challenges. In some cases, church attendance never fully recovered from pandemic lows. Membership attrition coupled with inflation has impacted giving and tightened budgets.

At the same time, changes in culture, such as the LGBTQ+ movement, racial conflict, civil unrest, and increased violence, have introduced new questions and concerns that pastors must wrestle with and address with biblical clarity. National and world events have led to a sense of fear and hopelessness for many; believers have not been immune to the increased rate of anxiety and depression. Pastors are increasingly asked to take on the role of counselor.

It's easy to understand those pastors who feel overwhelmed!

Pastor Adrian Rogers, who founded Love Worth Finding Ministries, had a heart for other pastors and their families. He considered himself a “pastor to pastors” and loved praying with and for pastors.

Let's all commit to pray! For the next nine days, you'll receive a Scripture on which to meditate, a brief suggested prayer for your pastor, and an activity idea to bless your pastor.

Again, thanks for joining us!

## NOTES





# DAY ONE

## TODAY'S FOCUS: TRUST

### Scripture Reflection

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight" (Proverbs 3:5-6).

### Prayer Suggestion

Father, I am so grateful that You are always trustworthy. Please help me to trust You as I pray. Help my pastor to seek Your wisdom in every area of life and decision-making for his family and for our church. (If there are specific areas in which your pastor is facing decisions, make specific requests of the Lord.)

Help the members of our church to be in tune with Your Spirit and to trust Your leadership. Bless our church as we seek to glorify You.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

### Bless Your Pastor

Send a text or an email to your pastor letting him know you appreciate him and are praying for him during Pastor Appreciation Month. Ask if there is anything specific he would like for you to lift up in prayer.

## NOTES





## DAY TWO

### TODAY'S FOCUS: REST AND STRENGTH

#### Scripture Reflection

"And He said to them, 'Come aside by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while.' For there were many coming and going, and they did not even have time to eat" (Mark 6:31).

#### Prayer Suggestion

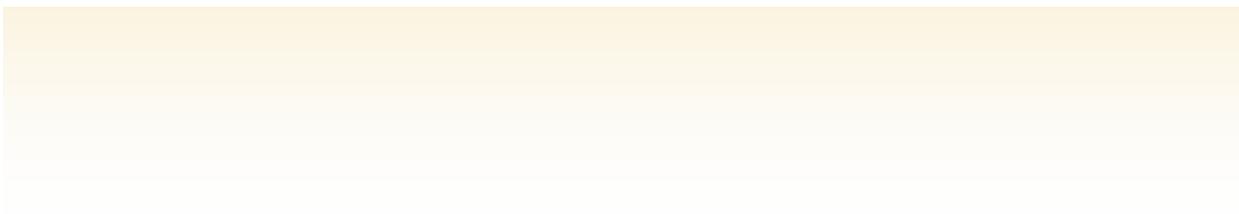
Lord, You know that our pastor is flesh and blood. He faces many of the same problems and struggles the rest of us in the church face, yet he is tasked with living his life at a higher standard. Your Word says in James 3:1 that those who teach "shall receive a stricter judgment." My pastor is under an intense amount of pressure to cast and pursue the vision You've given him for our church and its outreach to our community. Lord, I am asking that You give my Pastor abundant "rest and strength."

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

#### Bless Your Pastor

Help your pastor rest by giving him and his family a day off—or longer. Someone in your congregation may have season athletic team tickets and could give the pastor seats for a game. Maybe someone has a vacation home the pastor and his family could use for a few days.

### NOTES





## DAY THREE

### TODAY'S FOCUS: STRONG MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

#### Scripture Reflection

"A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach; not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous; one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?); not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil" (1 Timothy 3:2-6).

#### Prayer Suggestion

Lord, I thank you for my pastor's family. They pay a price for him to serve You because they are sharing their shepherd with an entire congregation. I ask that You bless my pastor's wife and children.

I pray that my pastor and his family will be granted peace and harmony. Father, you know the desires of their hearts; fulfill them according to your will. May my pastor's family be a blessing to him and may he be a blessing to them. Lord, give my pastor wisdom and knowledge to help him take good care of his loved ones. Irrespective of how tight his schedule is, help him to remember that family is his first ministry.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

#### Bless Your Pastor

When you bless a pastor's wife, you bless him too. Offer to keep the children while she takes some time off. Take her to lunch. Give her a gift card for a pedicure. Celebrate her in some unique way! Do something special and age-appropriate for his children as well to let them know how much you appreciate their father and appreciate them for sharing him.

#### NOTES





## DAY FOUR

### TODAY'S FOCUS: SPIRITUAL WARFARE

#### Scripture Reflection

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil" (Ephesians 6:10-11).

#### Prayer Suggestion

Lord, I intentionally put on my armor and come to You in prayer. Examine my heart and purge me of any sin. I am guarded by salvation, girded with truth, shielded by faith, covered in the righteousness of Christ, at peace because of the Gospel, and wielding the power of your Word.

Father, You promise in Your Word to help those who shepherd Your people. I lift up my pastor today, knowing that the enemy wants to distract him from his calling, minimize his influence, destroy his family, and devour his flock. I bring my pastor before you and ask you to protect him physically, spiritually, and emotionally. Protect his family. Protect the church you have called him to. Keep him grounded in your truth and encourage him with Your presence.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

#### Bless Your Pastor

It may be old fashioned, but nothing says I care like a hand-written card or note delivered by the postal service or directly to your pastor's office. Tell your pastor at least two reasons why you're glad he's your pastor!

### NOTES





## DAY FIVE

### TODAY'S FOCUS: EFFECTIVE INTERCESSION

#### Scripture Reflection

“For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God” (Ephesians 3:14-19).

#### Prayer Suggestion

Lord, I lift up my pastor the way Paul prayed for the Ephesians. May he focus on Your unfailing purpose for him. Paul prayed that the Ephesians might know they are a part of Your eternal purpose and I want that knowledge for my pastor. May he know Your unfading provision according to the riches of Your glory. I ask that he would recognize Your unrivaled presence in him so that he comprehends the full extent of Your love. May he see Your unlimited possibilities through him, understanding that You are able to “do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us” (Ephesians 3:20). And may his life result in unceasing praise to You...to “glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen” (Ephesians 3:21).

#### Bless Your Pastor

Ask your pastor if he receives Love Worth Finding's monthly pastor email. We want to connect him with no-cost resources aimed at encouraging him in his work. If he is agreeable, he can sign up using this link: [www.lwf.org/pastor-church-resources](http://www.lwf.org/pastor-church-resources)

#### NOTES





## DAY SIX

### TODAY'S FOCUS: DISCIPLESHIP

#### Scripture Reflection

"You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also" (2 Timothy 2:1-2).

#### Prayer Suggestion

Lord, I pray that you would help my pastor to be strengthened by the grace of Jesus. Help him to be faithful in making disciples in his home and in our church. Bless him with discernment and wisdom regarding the selection and training of both the staff and lay leadership in our church.

Help him not only to train but to be wise in understanding any need for discipline within our church and to adhere to biblical standards in all church relationships.

Open my eyes to see how I can support and encourage my pastor while at the same time respecting his position of leadership.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

#### Bless Your Pastor

Offer to help your pastor in a practical way. If you are handy, offer to fix something at his home. If you enjoy being with children, offer to babysit so your pastor and his wife can enjoy an evening out. If you have a green thumb, offer a few hours of gardening or landscaping service.

### NOTES





## DAY SEVEN

### TODAY'S FOCUS: SPIRITUAL ENCOURAGEMENT

#### Scripture Reflection

“For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established—that is, that I may be encouraged together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me” (Romans 1:11-12).

#### Prayer Suggestion

Heavenly Father, I lift up my pastor to you. I ask that You give him the strength he needs to run the race you have set before him. Help him to lean on You when he is weary and trust You in the midst of trials and hardships.

Lord, cover him with Your powerful right hand and give Your grace to him to stand and fight every strategy of the enemy. I pray for an increase in my pastor's physical strength. Please protect him and give him Your spiritual encouragement as he continues, as Paul told Timothy in 1 Timothy 6:12, to “fight the good fight of faith.”

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

#### Bless Your Pastor

Read this article, [Five Ways You Can Encourage Others](#), based on a message from Pastor Adrian Rogers. Use it as inspiration to focus on ways to encourage not only your pastor but others in your church.

### NOTES





## DAY EIGHT

### TODAY'S FOCUS: CALM IN THE STORM

#### Scripture Reflection

"You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You. Trust in the LORD forever, for in YAH, the LORD, is everlasting strength" (Isaiah 26:3-4).

#### Prayer Suggestion

Lord Jesus Christ, with love and compassion, I pray for my pastor and his strength during each season of his life and ministry. Lord, I pray that you would lead him with Your Holy Spirit to proclaim the Gospel. I pray that You will guide him in his ministry of the Word, giving him the ability to reach out to others through teaching, preaching, and pastoring. May he be armed by Your power so he can stand strong against Satan and his attacks.

Lord, Your Holy Spirit is the only source of his strength. Give him the patience to endure through challenging circumstances. May he seek Your wisdom to teach with accuracy and authority, effectively building up the body of Christ until we all come into unity in our belief in You. And Lord, during all the storms he will endure, grant my pastor, as Your Word says in Philippians 4:7, "peace...which surpasses all understanding."

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

#### Bless Your Pastor

Love Worth Finding has resources (most at no cost) aimed at helping people find peace during the storms of life. Share this link [www.lwf.org/storms-of-life](http://www.lwf.org/storms-of-life) with your pastor. There may be a Bible study, an audio or video message, a sermon article, a Scripture writing plan, or an email challenge your pastor would like to use for himself or for your congregation.

#### NOTES





## DAY NINE

### TODAY'S FOCUS: CHRISTIAN LOVE

#### Scripture Reflection

“As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love. These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you” (John 15:9-12).

#### Prayer Suggestion

Dear Father, I thank you that, though we live “in the world” with all of its disharmony, You place us intentionally in Your family, which is created to share Your love. Bless my pastor with a church family whose members show genuine love for one another. Where there is contention, remove it; where there are hurts, heal them; where there is disagreement, make us one heart and one mind under the leadership of our pastor. Help us to abide in the love of Christ and love one another with the love of Christ. And let our church’s Christ-like love be seen by the world.

In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

#### Bless Your Pastor

Ask your pastor or his wife when you can bring a meal to the family. Don’t forget the universal language for love: flowers. Take a small container of fresh flowers, or a garden plant, to make the evening special.

### NOTES

