

HOW TO PRAY FOR OUR LEADERS

“It is a great privilege, as well as our responsibility, to pray for our government leaders.”

—Billy Graham

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WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

“First of all, then, I urge that petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all those who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. This is good, and it pleases God our Savior.”

1 Timothy 2:1–3, HCSB

- **Petition** means to ask. God urges us to ask, and He is pleased when we do.
- **Prayer** is talking to God, anywhere, anytime, in any way.
- **Intercession** is praying for someone else. The Bible tells us that Jesus Christ constantly intercedes for us (see Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:25), so it is pleasing to God when we intercede for someone else—including heads of state and others in authority—because we are doing what Christ does.
- **Thanksgiving** always pleases God, and the Bible specifically tells us to include thanksgiving when praying for those in authority.

We are to pray respectfully for leaders. *“Honor everyone. ... Fear God. Honor the Emperor”* (1 Peter 2:17). We are to pray with the clear understanding that government authority is established by God. *“Everyone must submit to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except from God, and those that exist are instituted by God”* (Romans 13:1). We also pray knowing that God’s Word says, *“A king’s heart is like streams of water in the Lord’s hand: He directs it wherever He chooses”* (Proverbs 21:1).

WHAT TO PRAY

You can pray using words and thoughts from Scripture.

Suggestions:

- **Open the heart** of [name of any leader] to hear and respond to the Gospel message if he/she does not know you. Acts 16:14; Luke 24:45
- **Help** [name] to accept wise counsel. Proverbs 11:14; 15:22
- **Teach** [name] to trust in You. Psalm 21:7
- **Protect** [name] from the influence of the evil one. 2 Thessalonians 3:3
- **Give** [name] discretion, foresight, and understanding in making decisions. 1 Chronicles 22:12
- **Deliver** [name] from opinions contrary to Your Word. Psalm 119:105
- **Guard** [name] from harm, and bless and protect his/her family. Psalm 21:11; Ezra 6:10
- **Enable** [name] to carry out his/her duties with humility toward You and toward others. 1 Peter 5:5
- **Give** [name] the courage to do the right thing even when urged to do the wrong thing. Proverbs 2:11–15
- **Grant** [name] a heart of compassion toward those he/she leads and serves. Colossians 3:12

WHO TO PRAY FOR

Suggestion: Each day, pick one or two categories and pray for individuals in those categories.

President *Donald Trump*

Vice President *Mike Pence*

Cabinet members

Senators

Congressional Representative

Supreme Court

Military leaders

Governor

State legislators

Mayor

Police chief, sheriff

Others

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