

I Am a Church Member: I Will Pray for My Church Leaders

Till Plains 5/8/2021

Text: Hebrews 13:7 Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct.

Point 1 – Pray for the church leaders.

Reference verses: 1 Timothy 3:2-4, 8-10

1. How do Paul's list of qualifications for being a leader show the need for your prayers for them?

"Brethren and sisters, have you forgotten that your prayers should go out, like sharp sickles, with the laborers in the great harvest field? As young men go forth to preach the truth, you should have seasons of prayer for them. Pray that God will connect them with Himself and give them wisdom, grace, and knowledge. Pray that they may be guarded from the snares of Satan and kept pure in thought and holy in heart. I entreat you who fear the Lord to waste no time in unprofitable talk or in needless labor to gratify pride or to indulge the appetite. Let the time thus gained be spent in wrestling with God for your ministers. Hold up their hands as did Aaron and Hur the hands of Moses." – Ellen White, *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 162.

Reference verse: James 3:1

2. After reading this verse by James, how much more important do you see prayer for your leaders?

Point 2 – Pray for their families.

Reference verses: 1 Timothy 3:5, 11-12

3. Why is prayer for the families of your church leaders so critical?

"Nothing can excuse the minister for neglecting the inner circle for the larger circle outside. The spiritual welfare of his family comes first. In the day of final reckoning, God will inquire what he did to win to Christ those whom he took the responsibility of bringing into the world. Great good done for others cannot cancel the debt that he owes to God to care for his own children." – Ellen White, *Gospel Workers*, 204

Point 3 – Pray for their protection.

Reference verses: 1 Timothy 3:7, 13

4. Why do these verses talk more about the need to be protected from the snares of Satan than just merely being safe?

5. How will this fact intensify your prayers for your church leaders?

Point 4 – Pray for their physical, mental and spiritual health.

“The whole system needs the invigorating influence of exercise in the open air. A few hours of manual labor each day would tend to renew the bodily vigor and rest and relax the mind. In this way the general health would be promoted and a greater amount of pastoral labor could be performed.” – Ellen White, *Counsels on Health*, 193.

“...the lack of interest, self-sacrifice, and appreciation of the work on the part of the people has discouraged the ministers.” – Ellen White, *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 257

6. What are some other things you can think of which could affect the physical, mental and spiritual health of your church leaders?

Conclusion:

7. What will you do to ensure your church leaders have the prayer and support they need?
