

# How to Pray for Political Leaders

by Frank Erb

It is easy to criticize our government leaders and complain about their decisions. In fact, some of them make it *extremely* easy for us to do this. However, there is a better way. The Bible instructs us to instead *pray* for them.

*1 Timothy 2:1-4 "First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."*

What should we pray? Here are many suggestions based on this passage and other scriptures as well as upon private conversations I have had with many lawmakers.

## 1. Pray for their Salvation

*1 Timothy 2:4 "God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved ..."*

Political leaders, like all people, need the forgiveness of sins and new life that comes through trusting in Jesus Christ. Imagine how much better an elected official leads when he or she becomes a child of God and looks to Him for help!

*Legislator Quote: "All of us who have experienced inviting Christ into our lives know that this is what will put our state back on the right track faster and better than any other action."*

## 2. Pray for their Spiritual Maturity

*1 Timothy 2:4 "... and to come to the knowledge of the truth."*

Salvation is just the beginning. Spiritual maturity happens gradually as they humbly grow in their knowledge and application of God's word in every situation they face.

*Legislator Quote: "The anchor of a Christ-centered Bible study ... has been a blessing to me and my colleagues in this sea of manmade turmoil."*

## 3. Pray for them to have God's Wisdom

*1 Kings 3:9 "Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?"*

Political leaders are regularly called upon to make difficult decisions that affect many people. They cannot do this well without wisdom and discernment from above.

*Legislator Quote: "With past decisions, we knew what to do and we just needed the boldness to do it. Now it is different because we are not even sure what to do."*

## 4. Pray for them to have Courage

*2 Samuel 10:12 "Be strong, and let us show ourselves courageous for the sake of our people and for the cities of our God."*

Political leaders are often called upon to make compromises. Not doing so can cost them their careers. They need God to give them the strength of conviction and courage to do the right thing no matter what the personal result.

*Legislator Quote: "I am not comfortable with this decision, but how can I do otherwise and lose my opportunity to serve in elected office?"*

## 5. Pray for them to have Humility

*Micah 6:8 "He has told you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"*

Political leaders have great power, deal with immense sums of money, work in lavish facilities, and are treated like royalty. This environment naturally produces arrogance and pride. Pray that God will keep them humble before Him as they lead others.

*Legislator Quote: "When I was elected to political office, it was as if I suddenly became smarter, funnier, and better looking."*

## 6. Pray for them to have Strength

*Luke 22:46 "pray that you may not enter into temptation."*

Political leaders regularly encounter many strong temptations, including pride, arrogance, selfish ambition, greed, deceitfulness, hypocrisy, sexual immorality, alcohol and drug abuse, and discouragement. Pray for them to have the strength to resist these traps that threaten to destroy their lives, their families, and their effectiveness as leaders.

*Legislator Quote: "I have never seen or felt temptation as strong as it is here in the Capitol. Every kind of temptation is here and it is destroying people."*

## 7. Pray for their Elections

*Daniel 2:21 "He removes kings and establishes kings"*

Political leaders are constantly preparing for their next election. This is a difficult task, with its own stresses and temptations. Pray for them to campaign honestly, fairly, and decently, and for God to guide the votes depending upon whether they will fulfill His purposes for their office.

*Legislator Quote: "Look at this political mailer about me. I've never seen it, but it makes me sound pretty good doesn't it?!"*

## 8. Pray for Those Reaching out to Them

*Romans 10:14 "How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher?"*

Political leaders are often isolated and insulated from others, and so they have less opportunity for others to reach them with the Good News of Jesus and the Word of God. Pray for God to open doors for preachers, family, friends, or staff to share about the Lord with them.

*Legislator Quote: "Pastor Frank Erb allowed me to keep Jesus first and foremost in my heart and mind while at the State Capitol."*

Sometimes it might feel like praying is a waste of time when there are so many other things we could be doing. Consider this though – man's best efforts to govern well have proven to be far from ideal. To persist in seeking Godless solutions to the immense problems of our day is futile. It is time for us to do it God's way, and seek the assistance and blessings that only He can provide.

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