

## Prayer Focus: “KINGS AND ALL WHO ARE IN AUTHORITY...”

*“I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.”*  
(1 Timothy 2:1-4)

**Our nation is making** unprecedented changes in the very structure and function of our government’s role in our lives. Issues facing our legislature will potentially change the fabric of this nation for generations to come. Therefore, it is vital that we pray for all those elected to make these monumental decisions, as well as spiritual authorities.

**Heart Preparation:** Ask God to awaken and stir our hearts to pray. (Rom 12:12; Col 4:2-4; 2 Thes 3:1-2; Eph. 6:18-20; 1 Pet 4:7; Ezra 1:1, r5) Ask forgiveness for our sin of apathy and prayerlessness for our nation’s leaders. (1 Sam. 12:23-25) Thank Him for those He has placed in leadership over us. Phil. 4:6

**We must pray from a right heart.** Ask God to purify our attitudes toward leaders. We are living in an age, when like the righteous Lot, our hearts are vexed as we see and hear of their lawless deeds. Criticism chills the heart and hinders prayer. Ask the Lord to deliver us from the temptation to criticize or judge and turn the anguish of our hearts into intercession at His throne. (2 Pet. 2:7-10; Ex. 22:28; James 4:11-12; Eccles.10:20; 1 Cor. 4:5; Prov 11:11)

### HIS TRUTH CONCERNING AUTHORITIES:

- 1. All rulers are appointed by God** and subject to His will. (Rom. 13:1-4; Daniel 4:17; Job 12:19; Prov 8:16)
- 2. God is sovereign ruler over the leader’s heart.** Acknowledge God’s sovereignty and thank Him that He is able to move the hearts of leaders today, as He moved in the kings in the Bible. (Prov 21:1; Ps 33:13-15; Ezra 1:1-2)
- 3. Wicked rulers are a sign of God’s judgment** upon a nation that turned from following Him. (1 Sam. 12:14-16; Isaiah 19:1-4; Joel 2:17; Prov. 28:12; 12:24; Isa. 26:9)

### SPECIFIC PRAYER REQUESTS:

- 1. Pray for the well-being of our leaders** and especially their families. Christians in office are particularly requesting the Church to cover them and their families in prayer. (Dan 11:1; Ex 17:8-17; Ezra 6:10)
- 2. Pray for God’s standard** for leaders: godliness, integrity, justice, industriousness, Biblical guidance, and capability. Pray those elected will choose to walk in God’s ways and withstand pressures that assail them to compromise or retreat. (Ex. 18:16, 21-22)
- 3. Pray for godly counsel** to surround those who must make decisions. (Prov. 29:12; Prov. 25:19; Ps. 1:1; Jer. 23:18,22; Isa. 11:1-5)
- 4. Pray that God will reveal** all unrighteousness in leaders that they may be brought to repentance. (Job 34:16-30; Luke 12:2; Jer. 23:24)
- 5. Pray that God will change hearts** or remove those that are godless, carnal and disobedient to Him. Always pray for salvation. (Job 12:19; Prov. 29:16; Ps. 37:10)

### APPLICATION:

**Meditation upon the verses** given above will provide direction for many fruitful prayer times. Pray through the insights the Lord gives you, making confession, repentance, praise and worship as the Spirit directs you.

**Meditate upon** the life and prayers of Daniel. He was a godly man living in a pagan nation which did not recognize God or His sovereignty over the affairs of men. Yet he consistently prayed for and encouraged those in authority over him. Daniel lived to see several kings acknowledge God and serve His purposes in Israel’s history. (Prov. 3:5)

*“Blessed is the nation  
whose God is the LORD... ”  
(Ps. 33:12)*

## **PRAYING FOR SPIRITUAL LEADERS**

We are to discern and judge between good and evil, truth and error but God's Word makes it clear that we are not to criticize or judge one another (Matt. 7:1-2, 24; James 4:11-12; Gal. 6:1; Matthew 18:15-17, 2 Cor. 13:1). We must be especially careful when the person we believe has gone astray is a leader. The LORD is very protective of those He has placed in authority and warns us against touching His anointed ones. (Ps. 105:14-15)

### **Examples of Those Who Did Not Follow God's Way**

- Miriam: Numbers 12:9-10
- Korah, Abiram, Dathan: Numbers 16
- Michal: 1 Sam. 18, 19
- Youths who despised Elijah: 2 Kings 2:23-24

**Example of Someone Who Followed God's Heart:** Even though Saul wanted to kill David for no reason, hunted him and persecuted him for years, David was careful never to harm Saul and was repentant even for cutting off a piece of his robe. David loved Saul and mourned for him.

**Prayer for a Leader who may be wrong:** Make certain we know all the facts correctly and we are not reaching conclusions from hearsay or presumption. Satan would love to snare us into wrongly criticizing a leader. Do not take up the offense of another. (See Jeremiah 23, Deut. 13:1-18)

“Lord, there are things I do not agree with or understand, and if my concern for this leader is valid, I trust You to work in them and to lead them into what You know is truth.” ~Joy Dawson “Intimate Friendship with God Through Understanding the Fear of the LORD.”

### **Specific Areas for Prayer:**

1. Make sure we know all the facts correctly and we are not reaching conclusions from hearsay or presumption. Satan would love to snare us into wrongly criticizing a leader.
2. Invite the Holy Spirit to touch our hearts with His love toward that leader and thank Him that He will. I Peter 4:8; Rom. 5:5
3. Thank God for any blessings that we have received from that leader and acknowledge blessings that have come through him to others. Phil. 4:6
4. Pray that God will meet his deepest needs and reveal to him what is truth, and motivate him to walk in it. Continue to pray this in faith.
5. Do not share your concern with another unless prompted to do so by the Holy Spirit and unless we know the other person's heart is deeply prepared as our own to pray for this leader. Then together, intercede for this leader.
6. If over a period of time there is no sign of change in the leader, pray that God will reveal the need to those people who have spiritual authority over this person to discern the problem and deal with it according to Biblical principles. 1 Tim. 5:24; Luke 8:17; 2 Tim. 2:24-26
7. Commit the leader into God's hands and ask Him to do something to bring maximum glory to His name in the situation, and believe that He will.

### **Additional Scriptures for Meditation and Prayer:**

1 John 1:7; 1 Cor. 4:5; Isa. 54:17; Luke 8:17; 1 Tim 5:24; Jeremiah 23