

Day 6 - Praying for our Church and Ministry Leaders

by Bernadette Love

11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: 13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

Ephesians 4:11-13

To further the work of the kingdom, God put in place leaders of the church. He called apostles, bishops, prophets, evangelists, elders, pastors, deacons, and teachers...all with the same job, to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ, but each job distinctively different. And though each one is different, neither is of less importance than the other.

Accepting the call of God to minister to the body of Christ is not an undertaking to be taken lightly. In fact, I believe that, while being a rewarding job, it can also be one of the hardest jobs known to mankind. Church leaders are oftentimes called to minister to people who really don't want to be ministered to. The job can be long, hard and thankless. Pastors and leaders have the burden to pray for the souls of people who are hell bound and determined to go to hell...and yet, they press on.

While the world sleeps, true leaders are kept awake at night laboring on their knees in prayer. They must study to bring the Word of God to the church. They are often up until the wee hours of the morning wrestling over the souls of their sheep. They cry for the lost when most of the church is enjoying a night of movies and popcorn. The job of a leader is not easy.

The church has the responsibility to keep our leaders before God. We must pray for their wisdom and protection. We must pray for their provision and their well being, their health and their finances. We must pray to keep a hedge of protection around them. If the devil can single out lay people to harass, who pray one day and fall off the prayer wagon the next, how much more will he harass the men and women of God who are committed to the work of the Kingdom of God?

Let us pray...

Father, in the name of Jesus, we ask that you forgive us for our sins. Cleanse us from all unrighteousness as we bow before your throne. We praise you, oh God, for who you are. We magnify your name and give you all honor and glory.

Father, we lift up the apostles, bishops, prophets, pastors, evangelists, elders, deacons and teachers who have been called by you and are operating in your name.

We ask Father that you help them to remain faithful to the call that you have placed on their lives. Strengthen them Father to remain faithful to the church, to their families but most of all to you, Lord.

Father, grant them the quiet time that they need to study your Word and to prepare themselves for the work of the Kingdom. Lord, give them wisdom as they seek your face and diligently lay down their lives for the kingdom.

Father, bless them with good health and rest. Send each of them the help that they need to do your work. Surround them with people who truly care about their well being and who understand the calling on their lives.

Father, meet the needs and provide provisions that they may take care of their individual responsibilities and thereby not be consumed with worry. Keep a hedge of protection around them, Father, and deliver them from the hands of the evil one.

These things we ask in the name of Jesus...Amen.