

Praying For Our Pastors & Leaders

The Pastors and leaders of Sonrise Church have accepted a position of incredible responsibility for which they will be held accountable to God. Providing vision, direction and teaching for a body of people seeking or following Christ in today's world is quite a challenge. Everyone at Sonrise is able to impact the lives of our Pastors, leaders and entire church family through prayer. We encourage you to use these 12 biblical character qualities as prompts for your own prayers over and over. Our Pastors and leaders are in need of a prayer—it can be yours.

1. Abraham's Faith

Abraham was a man of great faith. He heard God's voice call him to action. God said move—and Abraham moved, even though he didn't know where he was going. God told Abraham that he would have a son—even though both he and his wife were nearly a hundred years old. God told him to give his promised son up—and he moved to obey. Read Hebrews 11:8-10 to catch a glimpse of this man.

Pray that our pastors and leaders will have the faith of Abraham and the strength to follow wherever God leads them.

2. Joseph's Integrity

Joseph's rise to power and influence can only be described as phenomenal—and that usually leads to pride. We all know that power tends to corrupt. Joseph is one of the only major leaders in Scripture who didn't fall flat on his face, who didn't cave into temptation and darkness. Joseph saw his leadership as a stewardship for which he would stand accountable to God. He lived with a daily awareness that leaders must possess a moral authority if they're going to lead well. And moral authority comes from a clean conscience before God. Read about Joseph's life in Genesis 37-50.

Pray that our leaders and leaders will maintain integrity at all costs.

3. Moses' Humility

Moses was a man of great humility. You almost wouldn't realize it though. Here is a man who got so angry that he committed murder. Here is a man who stood face to face with the most powerful leader on the earth and made crazy demands about letting God's people go! Here is a man who had the incredible leadership ability to lead over a million people through a desert wasteland to look for a promised land. Here is a man who stood up to opposition within his own ranks and didn't give into pressure to step down. Yet the Bible says this about Moses:

"Now Moses was more humble than any other person on earth." Numbers 12:3

Pray that our pastors and leaders will give God all of the glory for the ministry that takes place.

4. Joshua's Decisiveness

How could you follow a man like Moses? Yet God choose Joshua to do just that and to lead Israel in the promised land.

But Joshua's finest moment was not in battle—it was when he stood in front of his people and cried, *"Choose today whom you will serve...but as for me and my family, we will serve the Lord"* Joshua 24:15

Pray that our pastors and leaders will be a catalyst for bringing people to a decision point.

5. David's Optimism

From the day David put on the leadership mantle, his faith-based optimism motivated him to attempt feats for God that normal leaders wouldn't even consider. David believed so deeply in the power and greatness of God that a giant didn't intimidate him. David marched consistently in the direction God was leading him to go, and he just expected God's grace and power to manifest itself. Read about David's life in the book of 1 Samuel.

Pray our pastors and leaders will see God's power so they can inspire hope and faith, lifting other people into a faith-based optimism.

6. Jonathan's Loyalty

Jonathan was a man of great loyalty. As Saul's son, he was the rightful heir to the throne under his father. But then David came along.

Here is a man who should have been king, but instead remained loyal to his friend David who he knew should be king. Jonathan wasn't interested in looking out for himself and building his own kingdom. Once he knew of God's plan, he stepped aside and remained loyal to his friend. Read about Jonathan's life in 1 Samuel 20

Pray that our pastors and leaders will remember that ministry is not about trying to build their own kingdom, it's about remaining loyal to God's.

7. Solomon's Wisdom

Solomon was a man of great wisdom. When he took over the throne from his father, David, he had an encounter with God. God said to him, "Ask whatever you want, and I'll give it to you." His reply was:

"Give me an understanding mind so that I can govern your people well and know the difference between right and wrong..." 1 Kings 3:9

People look to leaders to provide a course and direction. How are they going to set the appropriate course apart from God's wisdom? Read about Solomon in 1 Samuel.

Pray for our pastors and leaders to receive God's wisdom in both their life and in their leadership.

8. Esther's Courage

This remarkable young woman was thrust into leadership more because of her beauty than her skills. Yet Esther wound up at the crossroads of her people's destiny. She could either risk her life and plead her case before an unstable and powerful king, or she could protect her position and walk away from the crisis at hand. She chose to plead her case... Read about Esther in the book of Esther.

Pray for our pastors and leaders to have the courage to do what God has called them to do.

9. Nehemiah's Endurance

Nehemiah was a man of great endurance. His leadership brought about the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem and the rebuilding of a nation—but it did not come without a price.

Every leader faces opposition and Nehemiah had his fair share of enemies. During the rebuilding process there were many who ridiculed, lied, gossiped and slandered until they brought discouragement to the workers.

But Nehemiah had endurance and didn't let a little ungodliness discourage this great work of God. Read about Nehemiah in the book of Nehemiah.

Pray that our pastors and leaders will have the endurance of Nehemiah and will to continue listening to God.

10. Peter's Initiative

Peter was an action guy. It's true Peter got fearful, and he sank into the seas when he was walking toward Jesus on the water one day, but he was the only disciple who got out of the boat!

It's also true that Peter sometimes made verbal commitments that he couldn't always keep, but sometimes he was the only one of the twelve disciples willing to speak up and call Jesus who he really was.

Peter didn't always do the right thing—but he ignited activity. Read about Peter in the Gospels.

Pray that our pastors and leaders would take initiative, even if it means making mistakes.

11. Barnabas' Encouragement

Barnabas was a man of great encouragement. In fact, that's what his name meant. Barnabas saw the best in people and actively encouraged them. He took action when the church needed money and so he sold some of his land and gave it to the church. The early Christians were persecuted for their faith and Barnabas stepped in and encouraged them to stay true to the Lord. A very dangerous man became a Christian and

when he wanted to meet with the other Christians they were all afraid of him. It took Barnabas to meet Saul and introduce him to the other believers. He put his life on the line and believed in Saul's conversion. Read about Barnabas' life in the book of Acts.

Pray that our pastors and leaders will see the best in people and reach out to come along side and believe in them.

12. Paul's Intensity

The Apostle Paul's intensity for advancing the purposes of Christ in this world was incredible. Look at his life's goal:

"But my life is worth nothing unless I use it for doing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus—the work of telling others the Good News about God's wonderful kindness and love." Acts 20:24 That's intensity.

Paul says in another passage from the Bible, *"I will gladly spend and be completely spent for the sake of the church."* That's intensity! He says, *"For me to live is Christ and to die is gain."* That's intensity! Or the famous words near the end of his life, *"I have fought the good fight. I have finished the course. I have kept the faith."*

Martyred missionary Jim Elliot wrote, *"He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose."* Being a missionary cost him his very life—just like Paul. Read about Paul's life in the book of Acts and the Epistles.

Pray that our pastors and leaders will stay focused on what really matters in this world and to run the most important race in the world with a passion to win it for the glory of the God they love.

Praying For Our Pastors & Leaders

"Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. I always pray for you, and I make my requests with a heart full of joy because you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now. And I am sure that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on that day when Christ Jesus comes back again."

Philippians 1:3-6 (NLT)



Sonrise Church

770 NE Rogahn Street • Hillsboro, Oregon • 97124
503.640.2449 • office@isonrise.com • www.isonrise.com