

# **7 Biblical Ways God Wants YOU to Encourage Your Pastor**

*by Bill Allison with Dave Garda*

sample with excerpts from  
[www.cadreministries.com/pastorcovenant](http://www.cadreministries.com/pastorcovenant)

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A pastor was making his rounds on a bicycle to visit people when he came upon a little boy trying to sell a lawn mower. *"How much do you want for the mower?"* the pastor asked.

*"I just want enough money to buy a bicycle,"* the little boy responded.

After a moment of consideration, the pastor said, *"Will you trade your mower for my bike?"*

The little boy asked if he could try out the bike first, and, after riding the bike around a little while, said, *"Mister, you've got yourself a deal."*

The pastor took the mower and began to pull the chord to try to start it. He pulled on the rope a few times but got no response from the mower. The pastor looked at the little boy and said, *"I can't get this mower to start."*



The little boy said, *"That's because you have to cuss at it to get it started."*

The pastor said, *"I'm a minister, and I can't cuss. It's been so long since I've been saved, I don't even remember how to cuss."*

The little boy looked at him happily, started to peddle off, and said, *"Just keep pulling that chord. It'll come back to ya."*

**Are pastors really human?** While many view pastors as spiritual superheroes—who always have the answers and never falter or fail—the truth is pastors are painfully human.

Like us, pastors sometimes make unwise—even sinful—decisions. Like us, they sometimes bring problems on themselves. Like us, they love God intensely but are vexingly vulnerable. Like us, they get discouraged from time to time. ***This is precisely why we need to take seriously what the Bible says about our responsibility to support and encourage our pastors.*** When we speak of encouraging your pastor, we mean any and all pastors at your church: senior pastor, associate pastor(s), youth pastor, children's pastor, etc.

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### **Pastors need to be encouraged because they...**

*...are painfully human*

*...are sometimes unwise... even sinful*

*...bring problems on themselves*

*...are vexingly vulnerable*

*...get discouraged*



**In short, they are just like you.**

# 7 Biblical Ways God Wants YOU to Encourage Your Pastor

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## 1. Pray for Your Pastor.

- 1) *I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—*
- 2) *for kings **and all those in authority**, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.*
- 3) *This is good, and pleases God our Savior (1 Timothy 2:1-3, bold mine)*

The Bible teaches us to pray for ALL those in authority. Since the office of pastor/elder is the highest office in the church, God wants us to pray for our pastor. If some of us prayed for our pastors as much as we talked about them or complained about them, our personal spiritual lives and our churches would be off the charts healthy. Wouldn't that be great? So, based on this biblical principle, I challenge you to pray for your pastor specifically and consistently.

**Pray Specifically:** Pray for your pastor by name. Pray that your pastor would flourish in his relationship with God, spouse, kids, unbelievers and the church. Pray for your pastor to be sexually pure, humble and highly effective.

**Pray Consistently:** Pick a “pastoral prayer marker”—and every time you drive past it—lift up a prayer for your pastor. Not long ago, I had the honor of partnering with a pastor in training the elders of the church. I was challenging this group of about 16 men on this very point—to pray for their pastor specifically and consistently. The good-natured pastor who is younger than I but with much less hair, pointed to his bald head and said, “*Every time you pass a bowling alley—remember to pray for me!*” It doesn't matter what pastoral prayer marker you choose—just choose one and start praying consistently!

## **Take a moment to pray for your pastor right now.**

Few things are weaker than talking about prayer. Why not take 30 seconds and pray for your pastor right now?

- Pray for your pastor by name.
- Pray for a flourishing relationship with God, spouse, kids, unbelievers and the church.
- Pray for purity, humility and wisdom.

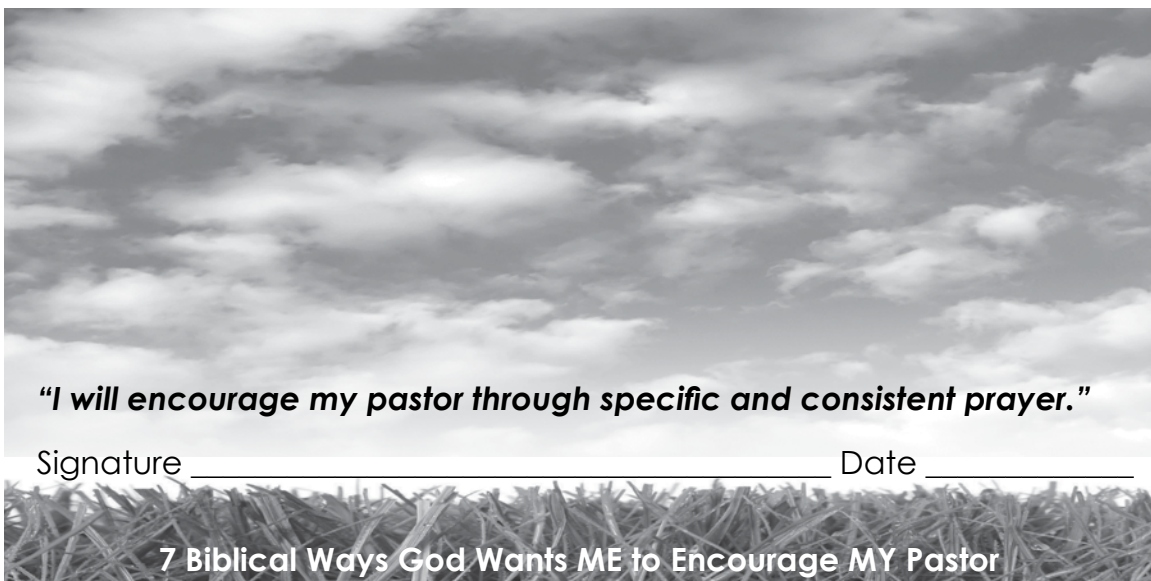
## **What will be your pastoral prayer marker to remind you to pray for your pastor on a consistent basis?**

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*For further exploration or discussion:* Romans 15:30, Colossians 4:2-4, I Thessalonians 5:25

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IMPORTANT NOTE: At the end of each of the seven biblical ways you can support your pastor discussed in this booklet, you will be asked to sign off as a visible manifestation of your commitment to God, your pastor and your church. Please actually take the time to sign and date each commitment. Putting your name on the line can be a powerful experience if you take your biblical responsibility to encourage your pastor seriously.



***“I will encourage my pastor through specific and consistent prayer.”***

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**7 Biblical Ways God Wants ME to Encourage MY Pastor**



# My Covenant with God, One Another and Our Pastor

## 1. I pray specifically and consistently for our pastor.

*I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. (1 Timothy 2:1-2)*

## 2. I give freely of my time, talents and spiritual gifts so that our pastor can direct the affairs of the church—rather than the pastor doing the entire ministry alone.

*The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor... (1 Timothy 5:17)*

## 3. I give cheerfully and liberally to God to provide for the physical and material needs of our pastor's family.

*The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, "Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain," and "The worker deserves his wages." (1 Timothy 5:17-18)*

## 4. I refuse to listen to or spread gossip about our pastor.

*Do not entertain an accusation against an elder unless it is brought by two or three witnesses. (1 Timothy 5:19, bold added. See also Proverbs 17:4)*

## 5. I lovingly and privately correct our pastor when there is sin and offer grace on issues of style and preference.

*If a brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. (Matthew 18:15)*

## 6. I do everything in my power to make sure our pastor flourishes in family relationships (spouse and children).

*If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church? (1 Timothy 3:5)*

## 7. I obey and submit to the leadership and oversight of our pastors/elders.

*Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you. (Hebrews 13:17)*

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Seven Biblical Ways God Wants You to Encourage Your Pastor

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**50%** of pastors feel they are unable to meet the demands of the job.

**90%** feel they were inadequately trained to cope with the demands of ministry.

**33%** have seriously considered leaving the pastorate.

You can make a difference in your pastor's life.

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## **How you can use this tool...**

- SMALL GROUPS
- LEADERSHIP RETREATS
- SUNDAY SCHOOL
- PERSONAL STUDY

**[www.cadreministries.com](http://www.cadreministries.com)**

