

James Goll Issues Urgent Call to Pray for Those in Authority

“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” (1 Tim. 2:1-4, NASB).

Prayers for people who are in positions of authority have high priority in the heart of God. We see this in Scripture, such as the one quoted above. You could even say that 1 Timothy 2:1-4 is an apostolic admonition for prayer. When South African pastor and prolific author Andrew Murray read this passage, he wrote in response, in Day 17 of his book *Helps to Intercession*:

“What a faith in the power of prayer! A few feeble and despised Christians are to influence the mighty Roman emperors, and help in securing peace and quietness. Let us believe that prayer is a power that is taken up by God in His rule of the world. Let us pray for our country and its rulers; for all the rulers of the world; for rulers in cities or districts in which we are interested. When God’s people unite in this, they may count upon their prayers effecting in the unseen world more than they know. Let faith hold this fast.”

Murray laid hold of the fact that earthly authority cannot be exercised within the will of God without the steady application of prayer on the part of the people of God.

Jack W. Hayford, respected founding pastor of The Church on the Way in Van Nuys, California, comments in his book *Prayer*

Is Invading the Impossible: “You and I can help decide [whether] ... blessing or cursing ... happen on earth. We will determine whether God’s goodness is released toward specific situations or whether the power of sin and satan is permitted to prevail. Prayer is the determining factor.”

Yes, the prayers that Christians **pray** for those in authority matter; they are essential to the advancement of the kingdom. We cannot afford to leave them up to others. Prayer for leaders must become one of the features of our lives as intercessors.

Many other Scriptures help us understand how to pray for people who are in positions of authority. Let’s look at a few of them:

- “Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king” (1 Peter 2:17, NKJV)
- “Fear the Lord and the king, my son, and do not join with the rebellious, for those two will send sudden destruction upon them, and who knows what calamities they can bring?” (Prov. 24:21-22, NIV)
- “When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; But when a wicked man rules, the people groan” (Prov. 29:2, NKJV).
- “Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves. For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil.
- “Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same; for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil.

- “Therefore it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of wrath, but also for conscience’ sake. For because of this you also pay taxes, for rulers are servants of God, devoting themselves to this very thing. Render to all what is due them: tax to whom tax is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor” (Rom. 13:1-7, NASB)

Why Should We Pray for Those Who Are in Authority?

I see two reasons in 1 Timothy 2:1-4: (1) “so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity,” and (2) so that God can bring those in authority—as well as those under their authority—to Himself (He “desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth”).

I once heard the late international Bible teacher Derek Prince expand on this. He said that it doesn’t matter what plans, systems or programs you devise. If you bypass prayer, you will not have power to carry them out. He compared prayerless intentions to a building that is wired for electricity, but if it’s not connected to a power source nothing will work—even if the wires are in good order and the light fixtures are beautiful.

Our power source is prayer, and we are enjoined in the Bible to pray in particular for “kings and all who are in authority,” for good government and wise leadership. Why? So that we might have peace and order; for the propagation of the gospel; and because God desires all men to be saved.

Another reason we should pray for those who are in authority is simply to be obedient to the will of God. It’s clear that He wants us to pray for those in authority. He also wants us to obey them as far as it is possible to do so. If you “do good,” as Romans 13:1-7 says, you will have no need to be fearful of the authorities.

Praying and Voting

Voting is to prayer as works is to faith. We are to demonstrate our faith by our works or corresponding actions. You can do more than prayer after you've prayed. But you cannot do more than pray until you've prayed. We do not choose between the two as though they are conflicting purposes. No! We pray, get informed and then put feet to our faith—and vote!

Let me close this out with a simple and urgent appeal as voters in the United States of America head to the polls this week for our national elections. Pray that righteousness prevails. Pray and **vote** for those who take a stand for life, who stand with the biblical view of marriage and take a firm stand with Israel. This election is not just about the economy or international affairs—as important as those subjects are. These elections, like few others, are about righteousness ruling in our land.

Pray for righteousness to prevail!

A Heartfelt Prayer for People in Authority

While we each have special prayer assignments, we are all called to pray for people who are in authority (review 1 Timothy 2:1-4 from above). It is God's heart! It is God's Word! It is God's command! Let's tune in to God's heart, praying for leaders and issues that concern them.

Father, in accordance with Your Word, we pause and pray for kings and for those in authority. We bring before You the one who is the president of the United States at this time. We pray that You will raise up godly counsel around the president's life, and we pray that the voices of advisers that are based on an unbiblical framework will be silenced.

We ask You to provide wisdom like that of Solomon, as well as purity, protection and safety. We release the knowledge of God's will with all spiritual wisdom and understanding. We also pray for our governors [name your state governor] and for our members of congress on the national and state levels. We

pray for those in authority in the judicial system, especially the nine Supreme Court justices of the United States (and your nation wherever it may be). We bless them in the name of the Lord of Hosts.

We pray that all of those in authority would realize and recognize their personal inadequacy to fulfill their role and that You would release to them a revelation of dependency upon God. We pray that You would reverse the trends of socialism and humanism in this nation—all trends that deify man rather than God.

Lord, as this nation and different nations go into critical times of elections, we call forth those who are truly appointed by You. Let them rise to the top with favor, as cream rises to the top of the milk. Give them a voice that will be heard. Release favor to righteous men and women and to those who are humble, to those who are wise and have revelatory activity upon their lives; release them into positions of influence and impact and authority.

We pray for priorities to be released, revelation to come of the honor of being a public servant. We pray that there would be reliance upon the Word of God, the will of God and the ways of God as the source of daily strength, wisdom and courage. We pray that there would be a restoration of dignity and honor, trustworthiness and righteousness in the land.

We pray for our spiritual leaders. We pray for our **pastors**, our **apostles**, our **prophets**, our **evangelists** and our teachers. We pray blessings and protection over them. We pray for purity. We pray for the quality of life in their families.

We bless those in authority this day and we declare that this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior who desires all men and women to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. We thank You, in Yeshua's great name. Amen.

Join with me across the nations of the earth in prayer for the national elections of the . What happens in the United States affects the entire world; so let's join together for righteousness to prevail for such a time as this.

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