



31  
DAYS OF  
PRAYER  
*for my*  
Pastor

# Prayers for Pastors

What are people already praying?  
Listen in as some of our nation's most dedicated leaders  
voice their own prayers for pastors.

*Father, bless your servants, the pastors of your churches. May they continually sense your presence. May each of them feel your proximity as they minister to your people and accomplish your will daily. May they know that their work is entirely in your hands as they love your children, both the committed and the uncommitted.*

—Tom Phillips, Executive Director, Billy Graham Library

*Lord Jesus, I pray for pastors today who are struggling with discouraging circumstances in their own lives. May they, as the psalmist says, find their strength in you and continue to set their hearts on pilgrimage. Make for them springs in their desert place (see Psalm 84:5–7).*

—George O. Wood, General Superintendent,  
The General Council of the Assemblies of God

*Sovereign God, you hold every pastor in your hands. You are his security, his helper, and his hope. Whatever his needs, meet them. Whatever his weaknesses, protect him. Whatever his strengths, restrain him. Whatever his future, release him. I pray in Jesus' name that you will protect him from himself, ignite him by the power of the Spirit, and renew him to believe again ... that he can change the world. In Jesus' name, amen.*

—Ronnie Floyd, Senior Pastor, Cross Church,  
Former President of the Southern Baptist Convention

*Lord Jesus, fill the harvesters in the field with a zealous, overflowing love for you. May you daily renew in them a love for your people and those who might come to know you. Fill them with your Spirit—to speak as you would speak, to serve as you would serve, and to love as you have first loved us. Heavenly Father, give your servants joy in the work that you*

*have prepared for them to do, bestowing riches that only you can give, blessing them with peace that only you can bring.*

—Samuel Rodriguez, President, National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference

*Our loving Father, please enable your shepherds to tend the flock you have entrusted to them with the love of Jesus. May they love you and your people as you love them. May they also love and share with those outside the flock so they may come to know and follow our Great Shepherd, Jesus Christ!*

—Paul Cedar, Chair and CEO,  
Mission America Coalition

*Father God, thank you that you have called, commissioned, and empowered pastors after your own heart. I pray for their protection, provision, and continued anointing upon their ministries.*

—Sam Clements, General Overseer,  
Church of God of Prophecy

*Heavenly Father, encourage pastors in their divine calling. Quiet their hearts from the busyness of “doing” for you, and allow them to rediscover the wonder of “being” with you. It is here, sitting at your feet, that your shepherds will be empowered by the Holy Spirit with strength for today, hope for tomorrow, and joy for the journey.*

—Tim Coalter, North American Presbyter,  
Church of God of Prophecy

*Father, help our pastors to grow so that our churches will grow, and to be healthy so our churches will be healthy. Help them to walk with you today in such a way that they can finish strong later. Thank you for the privilege to love, lead, and feed your people.*

—Mark Dance, Director, Lifeway Pastors

*Father, woo pastors from the carousel of busyness into the beauty of your holy presence. Lift them from the grind of schedules to the glory near your*

*heart, where they may embrace anew the joy of romancing and dancing with you. Hurl them into the harvest, where your love will draw the last, the least, and the lost.*

—Jeff Farmer, President, Pentecostal/Charismatic Churches of North America

*Abba Father, bless your shepherds as they impart life-change. Transform pastors first, as they walk in the light of your Son, your Word, and your people. May your servants have fresh encounters with Jesus, frequent experiences in the Word, and faithful engagement with your people. Allow them to experience the joy of joining their flocks in a life-changing journey with Jesus. I humbly pray in Jesus’ name, amen!*

—Michael Lewis, Senior Pastor, Roswell Street Baptist Church,  
Former Pastor of Pastors, North American Mission Board

*We offer our sincere prayers for pastors who speak God’s Word to us. Empower them to share transformational truths with wisdom, courage, and power. Bless them physically, emotionally, and spiritually.*

—Alton Garrison, Assistant General Superintendent,  
The General Council of the Assemblies of God

*Lord, bless today’s pastor with a soft, empathetic heart that connects with the brokenness in our generation and a resolve of steel that stands firm in the collapsing morality of our day. Please give him supernatural compassion and courage at the same time.*

—William M. Wilson, President,  
Oral Roberts University

*My Heavenly Father, I pray for Pastor \_\_\_\_\_, that today his faith would be strengthened and his eyes and ears would be open to hear your whispers of encouragement and see the depth of your compassion toward him and his family. I pray he will be seized by overwhelming gratitude for the great support of the Spirit and the undergirding of your angels. Please love on him and his deeply today!*

—Ronnie C. Crudup, Sr., Presiding Bishop,  
Fellowship of International Churches

*Dear Father, as you instructed the disciples to distribute the fish and the loaves, so have you charged pastors today to share your nourishing word. May they remember that you are the source to whom they must constantly return if they are to accomplish your purpose for them.*

—Charles E. Blake, Sr., Presiding Bishop,  
Church of God in Christ

*Father God, I pray pastors would have anointed and enriching encounters with you as they study your Word. May you lead them to boldly and vulnerably share from their personal life experiences the transforming power of a deepening relationship with you, so that others will long to live Spirit-empowered lives of faith and hope.*

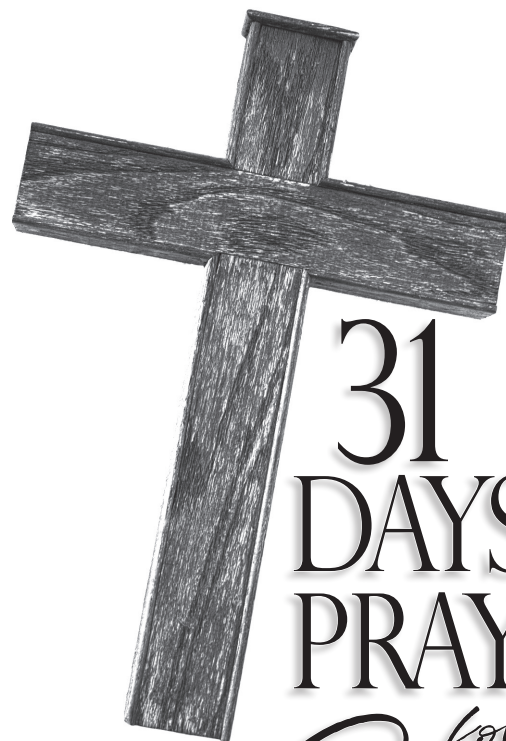
—Kay Horner, Awakening America Alliance  
and The Helper Connection

*Lord Jesus, Bridegroom of the church, thank you for shepherding your shepherds as they care for your flock. Confirm their sense of calling, sustain their commitment to your truth, fill them with your servant-hearted love for those you've entrusted to their care. Protect them from pride, discouragement, and unwise comparisons. Enable them to be shrewd as serpents and harmless as doves as they minister in an increasingly apathetic, antagonistic culture.*

—Todd Sorenson, Vice President, Barna Group  
and men's ministry lay leader

*Thank you, Lord, for not only calling pastors,  
but also for power from you to fill them with hope and strength.*

—Randall Bach, President, Open Bible Churches



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## INTRODUCTION

*I*t's no surprise that our world is headed in the wrong direction. It often seems that the only thing constant is change: the culture is changing, the people are changing, and there's even a growing skepticism of churches and of Christians. We may not always know what to do in the midst of these changes, but we know the one who is never-changing. We know the one who is the same yesterday, today, and forever (see Hebrews 13:8).

As we look to the Lord for direction, we can also call upon Him to raise up and equip faithful leaders for our day. The world needs confident, committed pastors who will champion the name of Jesus and lift the mantle of God and His people. As Jesus-followers, we need wise, humble, Spirit-empowered leaders to help us navigate the complexities of this world. That's why we invite you to be part of praying for your pastor. We hope this resource facilitates a groundswell of Christ's followers who are committed to praying for God's shepherds.

*Day 1*

## WHY TO PRAY FOR MY PASTOR

*W*hy should we take the time or make it a priority to pray for our pastors? Setting aside thirty-one days to pray for our shepherds makes sense for many reasons. Here are just a few:

- As we pray for our pastors, we're joining Jesus as He prays on their behalf. Hebrews tells us that "[Jesus] lives forever to intercede with God on [our] behalf" (Hebrews 7:25). And the book of Romans reminds us that "he is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us" (Romans 8:34). Don't you imagine the Savior's prayer list includes the names of the pastors who are called to complete His mission? Let's join Jesus in praying for our shepherds.
- As we pray for our pastors, we're joining Jesus in His celebrations. In Christ's last moments on earth, He revealed His loving desire for us. Jesus prayed that "My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full" (John 15:11 NASB). Jesus finds joy in our pastors' surrender to His calling and their life of dedication to Him. So let's join Jesus in celebrating our shepherds.

- As we pray for our pastors, we're joining Jesus in His concern.

The apostle Peter faced challenges in his life, just as our own pastors do. One of the most divinely appointed pastors in history struggled with failure and discouragement. And what was Jesus' response? "But I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers" (Luke 22:32 NASB). Peter's challenges, plus Jesus' prayers, became incredible opportunities for expanded ministry. We can't deny that Pentecost was certainly evidence of expanded ministry, birthed out of challenge and opportunity. So let's join Jesus in praying for our pastors, lifting up concerns and asking the Lord to expand and enhance ministry.

- As we pray for our pastors, we strengthen our walk with Jesus.

Praying for our shepherds will have personal benefit because spending time with our Savior deepens closeness with Him. Praying for pastors will strengthen *their* walk with Jesus too. Just as Moses needed Aaron and Hur's support when he grew weary, so our prayers can lift our pastors, bringing encouragement, vision, and support. Finally, praying for our pastors will strengthen our church's ministry. Not everyone can lead worship or work in the church nursery, but every child of God can pray. So let's pray for our pastors! Let's pray often. Let's pray consistently. Let's pray boldly. Let's pray faithfully!

Take the next few moments and join Jesus in prayer.

- » Jesus, when I imagine that I can join you in prayer, my heart feels grateful because \_\_\_\_\_.
- » I want to join you in prayer for my pastor. First, I'm grateful for my pastor because \_\_\_\_\_. I lift up my pastor to you and pray specifically that you would \_\_\_\_\_.

*Day 2*

## HOW TO PRAY FOR MY PASTOR

*A* world where the prince of darkness seeks to steal, kill, and destroy, needs Christ-followers who walk in the light (see John 10:10; 12:35 NASB). For the next thirty-one days, we encourage you to take a journey of walking in the light. During your times of prayer, you will walk in the light of God's Son, God's Word, and God's people (see John 8:12; Matthew 5:14; Psalm 119:105). As you take the journey, you will spend moments in personal prayer, but then you will also pray for your pastor. You'll pray for your pastor to:

- encounter Jesus in fresh, new ways,
- experience Scripture frequently, and
- engage God's people in supportive, practical ways.

Let's have a first encounter with Jesus. As you read these words from the Savior, imagine that He is speaking directly to you. Listen for His compassionate, strong voice. He's thrilled to share these moments with you.

### A FRESH ENCOUNTER WITH JESUS

The darkness of this world is all around you, and I don't want you to be overtaken. So I have a plan. I have a plan for your protection, guidance, and strength. If you'll spend time with me, my Word,



and my people, darkness doesn't have a chance. As you encounter me, I will protect you because I'm the light of the world. Let my Word guide you and light your way. Let my people encourage you and give you strength. Walking in the light is the best place to be because that means we're walking together (see John 8:12; Matthew 5:14; Psalm 119:105).

- » Jesus, when I look at the darkness of this world, I feel especially concerned about \_\_\_\_\_. Lord, I am grateful for your protection, guidance, and strength, particularly because \_\_\_\_\_.
- » Jesus, give us the desire and longing to spend more time with you, your Word, and your people so that darkness doesn't have a chance in our congregation. I ask specifically for protection concerning \_\_\_\_\_, for guidance concerning \_\_\_\_\_, and that you would strengthen us in \_\_\_\_\_.

As you continue this journey of prayer, remember the goal. Your times of prayer can't be focused on changing your pastor or changing your church. These moments with Jesus, His Word, and His people are designed to first develop Christlikeness within you. The destination of your journey is a person, and His name is Jesus. As you spend time focused on getting to know Christ and experiencing more of His love, as you spend time focused on living out His Word, not just reading or hearing it, you'll become more like Him. This journey will change something—and hopefully it's you!

Finally, as you take this journey of prayer, it will also be important to remember this goal: Pastors typically don't need more knowledge or education. They rarely need to hear more

information or rational advice. Instead, pastors need more of their own encounters with Jesus and meaningful times of experiencing Scripture. They also need Jesus-followers who will come alongside them, giving them encouragement, support, and fervent prayer.

Day 3

## WHAT TO PRAY FOR MY PASTOR

*Thirty-One Days of Prayer for My Pastor* is designed to foster a Spirit-empowered faith—a faith that is demonstrable, observable, and only possible with the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. A framework for this kind of spiritual growth has been drawn from a cluster analysis of several Greek and Hebrew words that declare that Christ's followers are to be equipped for works of ministry or service (see Appendix, pages XXX). Therefore, in *31 Days of Prayer for My Pastor*, you'll find specific sections that are designed around four themes. A Spirit-empowered disciple:



- **Loves the Lord** (see Acts 13:2 NASB). You will find seven days of prayer marked L1–L10.
- **Lives the Word** (see Acts 6:4 NASB). You will find seven days of prayer marked W1–W10.
- **Loves people** (see Galatians 5:13 NASB). You will find seven days of prayer marked P1–P10.
- **Lives His mission** (see 2 Corinthians 5:18 NASB). You will find seven days of prayer marked M1–M10.

The ultimate goal of our faith journey is to relate to the person of Jesus as His Spirit enables Great Commission living empowered by Great Commandment love. Our world needs pastors who are living as Spirit-empowered disciples and making disciples who in turn make disciples. Thus, *31 Days of Prayer for My Pastor* rightly focuses on the powerful simplicity of:

- Loving God as your first priority.
- Living His Word because there's power and possibility in experiencing Scripture.
- Loving people by developing a lifestyle of giving first.
- Living His mission, which means building a lasting legacy.

These four themes of Spirit-empowered discipleship are critical to addressing some of the important research findings on the state of pastors, authored by the Barna Group. The research cited in this resource is drawn from *The State of Pastors: How Today's Faith Leaders Are Navigating Life and Leadership in an Age of Complexity*. Additional information on the *State of Pastors* report, along with information on how to purchase, is found in the Appendix, page XX.

After three days of prayer focused on why, how, and what to pray for our pastors, we will turn our attention to pray around specific research topics identified by the Barna Group. Each day, you will have the opportunity to focus on specific:

- celebrations and points of strength that the research identifies, and
- concerns and areas of growth for pastors, which can turn into opportunities for the Lord.

An Experience of Scripture will also be a part of each daily prayer. We've written this resource to guide you in what it looks like and sounds like to actually do the Word—not just hear it (see James 1:22). Your prayer will be an opportunity to live out or experience God's Word. Let's begin by experiencing a few simple but powerful verses.

## AN EXPERIENCE OF SCRIPTURE

*Rejoice with those who rejoice ...*

—ROMANS 12:15 NASB

The Lord is rejoicing in His call, gifting, and leading of your pastor. Pause for a few moments and rejoice with Jesus over your pastor.

- » Jesus, I know you are excited to see how we live out your call to leadership, especially how my pastor \_\_\_\_\_. I am thrilled with you to see my pastor \_\_\_\_\_.
- » Jesus, I am blessed by your gifts for my pastor. I know you must smile to see my pastor living out the gifts you have given.

*Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.*

—GALATIANS 6:2 NASB

Jesus is burdened any time your pastor experiences the heaviness of carrying the burdens of ministry alone. Pause for a moment and join the Lord in a commitment to bear your pastor's burdens.

- » Jesus, I know you must be heavy-hearted when you see all the demands on our lives and families. I, too, am feeling compassion for others in ministry about \_\_\_\_\_.

- » Jesus, let's join together in bearing my pastor's burdens and loving my pastor well.

*I searched for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand in the gap before Me ...*

—EZEKIEL 22:30 NASB

It is with great joy that we have developed the prayer moments in this resource, the Spirit-empowered discipleship framework (in collaboration with others), and the Spirit-empowered outcomes that are included in the Appendix of this resource (see pages XXX–XXX). Our greatest desire is to serve pastors by creating a groundswell of faithful followers who deepen their relationship with the Lord and stand in the gap for our ministry leaders.



## STRATEGIC WAYS TO USE THIS RESOURCE

- **Church-Wide Pastor Prayer Emphasis:**  
Plan a month-long gift that engages your congregation in focused prayer for your pastor. Pastor appreciation is widely celebrated in the month of October, so it could be the perfect time for a church-wide prayer emphasis. An entire month of daily, focused prayer for your pastor would be a phenomenal gift!
- **Launch a Pastor Prayer Team:**  
Imagine the difference prevailing prayer can make as a team from your church supports your pastor(s) with daily prayer.

A small church, with just seven intercessors, can pray for their pastor one day a week. A larger church might have a team of thirty-one prayer warriors, each praying one day a month.

Utilize *31 Days of Prayer for My Pastor* to launch this ministry and visit [greatcommandment.net](http://greatcommandment.net) for other prayer team resources, posters, and promotional materials.

## APPENDIX 1

### ABOUT THE GREAT COMMANDMENT NETWORK

**The Great Commandment Network** is an international collaborative network of strategic kingdom leaders from the faith community, marketplace, education, and caregiving fields who prioritize the powerful simplicity of the words of Jesus to love God, love others, and see others become His followers (Matthew 22:37–40, Matthew 28:19–20).

THE GREAT COMMANDMENT NETWORK IS SERVED THROUGH THE FOLLOWING:

**Relationship Press** – This team collaborates, supports, and joins together with churches, denominational partners, and professional associates to develop, print, and produce resources that facilitate ongoing Great Commandment ministry.

**The Center for Relational Leadership** – Their mission is to teach, train, and mentor both ministry and corporate leaders in Great Commandment principles, seeking to equip leaders with relational skills so they might lead as Jesus led.

**The Galatians 6:6 Retreat Ministry** – This ministry offers a unique two-day retreat for ministers and their spouses for personal renewal and for reestablishing and affirming ministry and family priorities.

**The Center for Relational Care (CRC)** – The CRC provides therapy and support to relationships in crisis through an accelerated process of growth and healing, including Relational Care Intensives for couples, families, and singles.



For more information on how you, your church, ministry, denomination, or movement can be served by the Great Commandment Network write or call:

**Great Commandment Network**

**2511 South Lakeline Blvd.**

**Cedar Park, Texas 78613**

**#800-881-8008**

Or visit our website: [www.GreatCommandment.net](http://www.GreatCommandment.net)

## APPENDIX 2

### A SPIRIT-EMPOWERED FAITH

*Expresses Itself in Great Commission Living  
Empowered by Great Commandment Love*



**begins with the end in mind:  
The Great Commission calls us  
to make disciples.**

*"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:19–20)*

The ultimate goal of our faith journey is to relate to the person of Jesus, because it is our relational connection to Jesus that will produce Christ-likeness and spiritual growth. This relational perspective of discipleship is required if we hope to have a faith that is marked by the Spirit's power.

Models of discipleship that are based solely upon what we *know* and what we *do* are incomplete, lacking the empowerment of a life of loving and living intimately with Jesus. **A Spirit-empowered faith is relational and impossible to realize apart from a special work of the Spirit.** For example, the Spirit-empowered outcome of "listening to and hearing God" implies relationship—it is both relational in focus and requires the Holy Spirit's power to live.



**begins at the right place:  
The Great Commandment calls us to  
start with loving God and loving others.**

*"'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."*

(Matthew 22:37–40)

Relevant discipleship does not begin with doctrines or teaching, parables or stewardship—but with loving the Lord with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength and then loving the people closest to you. Since Matthew 22:37–40 gives us the first and greatest commandment, **a Spirit-empowered faith starts where the Great Commandment tells us to start: A disciple must first learn to deeply love the Lord and to express His love to the “nearest ones”—his or her family, church, and community (and in that order).**



**embraces a relational process of Christlikeness.**

**Scripture reminds us that there are three sources of light for our journey: Jesus, His Word, and His people. The process of discipleship (or becoming more like Jesus) occurs as we relate intimately with each source of light.**

*“Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you.” (John 12:35)*

Spirit-empowered discipleship will require a lifestyle of:

- Fresh encounters with Jesus (John 8:12)
- Frequent experiences of Scripture (Psalm 119:105)
- Faithful engagement with God’s people (Matthew 5:14)



**can be defined with observable outcomes using a biblical framework.**

**The metrics for measuring Spirit-empowered faith or the growth of a disciple come from Scripture and are organized/framed around four distinct dimensions of a disciple who serves.**

***And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.***

(Ephesians 4:11–12)

A relational framework for organizing Spirit-Empowered Discipleship Outcomes draws from a cluster analysis of several Greek (*diakoneo*, *leitourgeo*, *douleuo*) and Hebrew words (*'abad*, *Sharat*), which elaborate on the Ephesians 4:12 declaration that Christ’s followers are to be equipped for works of ministry or service. Therefore, the 40 Spirit-Empowered Faith Outcomes have been identified and organized around:

- Serving/loving the Lord – While they were **ministering** to the Lord and fasting (Acts 13:2 NASB).<sup>1</sup>
- Serving/loving the Word – But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the **ministry** of the word (Acts 6:4 NASB).<sup>2</sup>
- Serving/loving people – Through love **serve** one another (Galatians 5:13 NASB).<sup>3</sup>
- Serving/loving His mission – Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the **ministry** of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18 NASB).<sup>4</sup>

1 Ferguson, David L. *Great Commandment Principle*. Cedar Park, Texas: Relationship Press, 2013.

2 Ferguson, David L. *Relational Foundations*. Cedar Park, Texas: Relationship Press, 2004.

3 Ferguson, David L. *Relational Discipleship*. Cedar Park, Texas: Relationship Press, 2005.

4 “Spirit Empowered Outcomes,” [www.empowered21.com](http://empowered21.com), Empowered 21 Global Council, <http://empowered21.com/discipleship-materials/>.



## APPENDIX 3



### A SPIRIT-EMPOWERED DISCIPLE LOVES THE LORD THROUGH

#### **L1. Practicing thanksgiving in all things**

*Enter into His gates with thanksgiving (Ps. 100:4). In everything give thanks (1 Th. 5:18). As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing (2 Cor. 6:10).*

#### **L2. Listening to and hearing God for direction and discernment**

*"Speak, LORD, for Your servant hears" (1 Sam. 3:8–9). Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word (Lk. 10:38–42). And the LORD said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing ... ?" (Gen. 18:17). But as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things ... (1 Jn. 2:27).*

#### **L3. Experiencing God as He really is through deepened intimacy with Him**

*"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength" (Deut. 6:4–5). Therefore the LORD will wait, that He may be gracious to you; and therefore He will be exalted, that He may have mercy on you. For the LORD is a God of justice ... (Is. 30:18). See also John 14:9.*

#### **L4. Rejoicing regularly in my identity as "His Beloved"**

*And his banner over me was love (Song of Sol. 2:4). To the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved (Eph. 1:6). For so He gives His beloved sleep (Ps. 127:2).*

#### **L5. Living with a passionate longing for purity and to please Him in all things**

*Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? ... He who has clean hands and a pure heart (Ps. 24:3–4). Beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God (2 Cor. 7:1). "I always do those things that please Him" (Jn. 8:29). "Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him" (Job 13:15).*

**L6. Consistent practice of self-denial, fasting, and solitude rest**

*He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men" (Mt. 16:23). "But you, when you fast ..." (Mt. 6:17). "Be still, and know that I am God" (Ps. 46:10).*

**L7. Entering often into Spirit-led praise and worship**

*Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me (Ps. 103:1). Serve the LORD with fear (Ps. 2:11). I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth (Mt. 11:25).*

**L8. Disciplined, bold, and believing prayer**

*Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit (Eph. 6:18). "Call to Me, and I will answer you" (Jer. 33:3). If we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him (1 Jn. 5:14–15).*

**L9. Yielding to the Spirit's fullness as life in the Spirit brings supernatural intimacy with the Lord, manifestation of divine gifts, and witness of the fruit of the Spirit**

*For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit (1 Cor. 12:13). "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you" (Acts 1:8). But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all (1 Cor. 12:7). See also 1 Pet. 4:10 and Rom. 12:6.*

**L10. Practicing the presence of the Lord, yielding to the Spirit's work of Christlikeness**

*But we all, with unveiled face, ... are being transformed into the same from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord (2 Cor. 3:18). As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul after You, O God (Ps. 42:1).*

**A SPIRIT-EMPOWERED DISCIPLE LOVES THE WORD THROUGH****W1. Frequently being led by the Spirit into deeper love for the One who wrote the Word**

*"You shall love the Lord your God ... 'You shall love neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets" (Mt. 22:37–40). And I will delight myself in Your commandments, which I love. (Ps. 119:47). "The fear of the LORD is clean ... More to be desired are they than gold ... sweeter also than honey" (Ps. 19:9–10).*

**W2. Being a "living epistle" in reverence and awe as His Word becomes real in my life, vocation, and calling**

*You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men (2 Cor. 3:2). And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us (Jn. 1:14). Husbands, love your wives ... cleanse her with the washing of water by the word (Eph. 5:25–26). See also Tit. 2:5. And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men (Col. 3:23).*

**W3. Yielding to the Scripture's protective cautions and transforming power to bring life change in me**

*Through Your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way (Ps. 119:104). "Let it be to me according to your word" (Lk. 1:38). How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word (Ps. 119:9). See also Col. 3:16–17.*

**W4. Humbly and vulnerably sharing of the Spirit's transforming work through the Word**

*I will speak of your testimonies also before kings, and will not be ashamed (Ps. 119:46). Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season (2 Tim. 4:2).*

**W5. Meditating consistently on more and more of the Word hidden in the heart**

*Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You (Ps. 119:11). Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer (Ps. 19:14).*

**W6. Encountering Jesus in the Word for deepened transformation in Christlikeness**

*But we all, with unveiled face, ... are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord (2 Cor. 3:18). If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you (Jn. 15:7). See also Lk. 24:32, Ps. 119:136, and 2 Cor. 1:20.*

**W7. A life explained as one of “experiencing Scripture”**

*But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel (Acts 2:16). This is my comfort in my affliction, for Your word has given me life (Ps. 119:50). My soul breaks with longing for Your judgements at all times (Ps. 119:20).*

**W8. Living “naturally supernatural” in all of life as His Spirit makes the written Word (logos) the living Word (rhema)**

*So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word (rhema) of God (Rom. 10:17). Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path (Ps. 119:105).*

**W9. Living abundantly “in the present” as His Word brings healing to hurt and anger, guilt, fear, and condemnation—which are heart hindrances to life abundant**

*“The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy” (Jn. 10:10). I will run the course of Your commandments, for You shall enlarge my heart (Ps. 119:32). “And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (Jn. 8:32). Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage (Gal. 5:1).*

**W10. Implicit, unwavering trust that His Word will never fail**

*“The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever” (Is. 40:8). “So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void” (Is. 55:11).*



**A SPIRIT-EMPOWERED DISCIPLE  
LOVES PEOPLE THROUGH**

**P1. Living a Spirit-led life of doing good in all of life: relationships and vocation, community and calling**

*Who went about doing good ... (Acts 10:38). “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven” (Mt. 5:16). “But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil” (Lk. 6:35). See also Rom. 15:2.*

**P2. “Startling people” with loving initiatives to “give first”**

*“Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom” (Lk. 6:38). Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do” (Lk. 23:34). See also Lk. 23:43 and Jn. 19:27.*

**P3. Discerning the relational needs of others with a heart to give of His love**

*Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it might impart grace to the hearers (Eph. 4:29). And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus (Phil. 4:19). See also Lk. 6:30.*

**P4. Seeing people as needing BOTH redemption from sin AND intimacy in relationships, addressing both human fallen-ness and aloneness**

*But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Rom. 5:8). And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house" (Lk. 19:5). See also Mk. 8:24 and Gen. 2:18.*

**P5. Ministering His life and love to our nearest ones at home and with family as well as faithful engagement in His body, the church**

*Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered (1 Pet. 3:7). See also 1 Pet. 3:1 and Ps. 127:3.*

**P6. Expressing the fruit of the Spirit as a lifestyle and identity**

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control (Gal. 5:22–23). A man's stomach shall be satisfied from the fruit of his mouth; From the produce of his lips he shall be filled (Prov. 18:20).*

**P7. Expecting and demonstrating the supernatural as His spiritual gifts are made manifest and His grace is at work by His Spirit**

*In mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God, so that from Jerusalem and round about to Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ (Rom. 15:19). "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also" (Jn. 14:12). See also 1 Cor. 14:1.*

**P8. Taking courageous initiative as a peacemaker, reconciling relationships along life's journey**

*Be at peace among yourselves (1 Th. 5:13). For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation (Eph. 2:14). Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed (Jas. 5:16).*

**P9. Demonstrating His love to an ever growing network of "others" as He continues to challenge us to love "beyond our comfort"**

*He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him (1 Jn. 2:4). If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? (1 Jn. 4:20).*

**P10. Humbly acknowledging to the Lord, ourselves, and others that it is Jesus in and through us who is loving others at their point of need**

*"Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls" (Mt. 11:29). "If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet" (Jn. 13:14).*



## A SPIRIT-EMPOWERED DISCIPLE LOVES HIS MISSION THROUGH

**M1. Imparting the gospel and one's very life in daily activities and relationships, vocation and community**

*So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us (1 Th. 2:8–9). See also Eph. 6:19.*

**M2. Expressing and extending the kingdom of God as compassion, justice, love, and forgiveness are shared**

*"I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, because for this purpose I have been sent" (Lk. 4:43). "As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world" (Jn. 17:18). Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me by Your generous Spirit. Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners shall be converted to You (Ps. 51:12–13). See also Mic. 6:8.*

**M3. Championing Jesus as the only hope of eternal life and abundant living**

*"Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come so that they may have life, and that they have it more abundantly" (Jn. 10:10). See also Acts 4:12 and Jn. 14:6.*

**M4. Yielding to the Spirit's role to convict others as He chooses, resisting expressions of condemnation**

*"And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment" (Jn. 16:8). Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us (Rom. 8:34). See also Rom. 8:1.*

**M5. Ministering His life and love to the "least of these"**

*"Then He will answer them saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me'" (Mt. 25:45). Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world (Jas. 1:27).*

**M6. Bearing witness of a confident peace and expectant hope in God's lordship in all things**

*Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace always in every way. The Lord be with you all (2 Thess. 3:16). And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful (Col. 3:15). See also Rom. 8:28 and Ps. 146:5.*

**M7. Faithfully sharing of time, talent, gifts, and resources in furthering His mission**

*Of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God (Col. 1:25). "For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required" (Lk. 12:48). See also 1 Cor. 4:1–2.*

**M8. Attentive listening to others' story, vulnerably sharing of our story, and a sensitive witness of Jesus' story as life's ultimate hope; developing your story of prodigal, preoccupied and pain-filled living; listening for others' story and sharing Jesus' story**

*But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear (1 Pet. 3:15). "For this my son was dead and is alive again" (Luke 15:24). See also Mk. 5:21–42 and Jn. 9:1–35.*

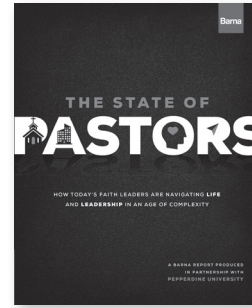
**M9. Pouring our life into others, making disciples who in turn make disciples of others**

*"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Mt. 28:19–20). See also 2 Tim. 2:2.*

**M10. Living submissively within His body, the Church, as instruction and encouragement; reproof and correction are graciously received by faithful disciples**

*Submitting to one another in the fear of God (Eph. 5:21). Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted (Gal. 6:1). See also Gal. 6:2.*

## APPENDIX 4



### *How Are Spiritual Leaders Doing Today?*

In the not-too-distant past, a career in church ministry might have appealed to any leader who sought recognition and respect. Today, however, Christian ministers are as likely to be ignored by the broader culture as they are to be admired.

Despite daunting challenges, called and committed pastors are essential to lead God's people. The shrinking, increasingly marginalized Christian

community needs wise, humble shepherds to guide them through the wilderness ahead. So how are these leaders doing?

*The State of Pastors* contains the findings of a comprehensive, whole-life assessment of US pastors, commissioned by Pepperdine University. The research examines church leaders' perceptions of:

- Their own mental, physical, financial, emotional and spiritual well-being
- The health of their relationships with family and church members
- Their ministry's overall health and effectiveness
- How they are received as a leader by their local community
- Their support system, including mentors, friends and fellow ministers
- How well their skills, gifts and calling align with their pastoral responsibilities
- And much more

The challenges of pastoring in the twenty-first century are significant. Yet based on these findings, Barna researchers believe many of today's pastors are prepared to be adaptive leaders: ready to be changed by the Spirit in order to bring the unchanging gospel to people in need of good news. *The State of Pastors* reveals where church leaders are most in need of healing and encouragement, and offers hopeful counsel for pastors (and those who love them) who are seeking greater health as they continue to answer God's call.