



*Praying for Your Pastor: How Your Prayer Support Is Their Life Support*

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In his latest book, Eddie Byun outlines a specific way to pray for those in leadership in our churches by introducing the acronym **PRAYERS**:

**Protection, Rest, Anointing, Yielded Heart, Effectiveness in Ministry, Righteousness and Integrity, Strong Marriages and Families.**

## Pastors Need Prayers Too!

Although fifteen years have passed, I still remember that Sunday as if it were yesterday. I was the guest speaker for a church, and at first there was nothing particularly unusual about the church service or its people that caught my attention. The ushers in red vests were guiding people to their seats, the praise team had just finished their final sound check, and friends were giving hugs to each other as they caught up on the past week. But after the opening praise and speaker introduction, I looked up at the congregation and saw something I had never seen during a Sunday service before – a row of people in the back of the sanctuary with arms lifted up. It was their prayer team, and they were interceding for me!

While I had received prayer plenty of times from churches before, I had never seen prayer teams lifting up their hands to pray for me throughout the entirety of my sermon. It was one of the most encouraging things I had ever experienced. This gesture of support was surprising because forty minutes is a long time to hold up your hands! It was so encouraging that it made me want to keep on preaching, but then they might have ended up praying for me to end my sermon instead!

Their hands lifted in prayer reminded me of how Moses also lifted up his hands as he prayed for Joshua and the Israelite army in their fight against the Amalekites in Exodus 17. As long as Moses' arms were lifted, Israel would be winning, but when his arms got tired and he lowered them, they would be losing. So as Moses became tired, Aaron would lift up one of Moses' arms and Hur would support the other until the victory was complete. That was a picture of the power of intercessory prayer, especially for those who are on the frontline of spiritual battle. It was a picture of how we are to intercede for the spiritual leaders in our lives.

This is something I hope more pastors can experience as a result of this book. We all know it's important to pray for our spiritual leaders, but we want our motivation to pray to be grounded in God's Word for us.

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I often tell my congregation, "Your prayer support is my life support." Someone who has been rescued from drowning or is recovering from a serious injury like a gunshot wound may need to be put on life support for a period of time. The injured person doesn't have the strength to keep going by himself, so he needs the help of something outside of himself in order to allow his body to rest and to be strengthened to health again. In many ways, the pastor is under a wide range of attacks from the enemy. The attacks may come in various forms, such as gossip, criticism, slander, sickness, or even threats. There are days when your

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# BOOK EXCERPT

*"Pastors are in desperate need of their congregation's intercessory prayer, and there is a direct correlation between the strength, blessing, and protection of the pastor and the prayers of the church."*

—Eddie Byun, author of  
*Praying for Your Pastor*

pastor feels emotionally burned out, physically exhausted, and spiritually weak. She feels she just can't go on. These experiences are far too common and come far too frequently. These are the times when pastors need the life support of our prayers to keep them going. You may not know the struggles your pastors face today, but you can know that your prayers will make a difference in their lives.

— Adapted from the introduction, *"Why Pastors Need Intercessory Prayer"*