

P L E A S E T A K E O N E

HOW TO PRAY FOR OUR LEADERS

*“It is a great privilege, as well as our responsibility,
to pray for our government leaders.”*

— Billy Graham


The **BILLY**
GRAHAM
Library

“I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior.” —1 TIMOTHY 2:1–3, NIV

- **Petition** means to ask. God urges us to ask, and He is pleased when we do.
- **Prayer** is talking to God, anywhere, anytime, in any way.
- **Intercession** is praying for someone else. The Bible tells us that Jesus Christ constantly intercedes for us (see Romans 8:34), so it pleases God when we intercede for someone else—including heads of state and others in authority—because we are doing what Christ does.
- **Thanksgiving** always pleases God, and the Bible specifically tells us to include thanksgiving when talking to God about those in authority.

We are to pray respectfully for leaders. *“Show proper respect to everyone, ... fear God, honor the emperor”* (1 Peter 2:17). We are to pray with the clear understanding that government authority is established by God. *“Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God”* (Romans 13:1). We also pray knowing that God’s Word says, *“The king’s heart is like channels of water in the hand of the Lord; He turns it wherever He wishes”* (Proverbs 21:1, NASB).

You can pray using words and thoughts from Scripture.

-
- Help our president [or any leader at any level] to accept wise counsel. *Proverbs 11:14; 15:22*
 - Teach [name] to trust in You. *Psalms 21:7*
 - Protect [name] from the influence of the evil one. *2 Thessalonians 3:3*
 - Give [name] discretion, foresight, and understanding in making decisions. *1 Chronicles 22:12*
 - Generously answer his/her prayer for wisdom. *James 1:5*
 - Pour out Your Spirit on his/her leadership. *Proverbs 1:23*
 - Deliver [name] from opinions contrary to Your Word. *Psalms 119:105*
 - Protect [name] from harm, and bless and protect his/her family. *Psalms 21:11; Ezra 6:10*
 - Enable [name] to carry out his/her duties with humility toward You and toward others. *1 Peter 5:5*
 - Bless [name] with strength, endurance, and stamina. *1 Chronicles 16:11; Isaiah 40:31*
 - Equip [name] to act according to Your will and to make choices pleasing to You. *Hebrews 13:20–21*
 - Give [name] the courage to do the right thing even when urged to do the wrong thing. *Proverbs 2:11–15*
 - Give [name] a tender heart of compassion toward those he/she leads and serves. *Colossians 3:12*

WHO TO PRAY FOR

Suggestion: Each day, pick one category and pray for one or two individuals in that category.

President _____

Cabinet members _____

Senators _____

Congressional representatives _____

Supreme Court _____

Military leaders _____

Governor _____

State legislators _____

Mayor _____

Police chief, sheriff _____

Others _____



4330 Westmont Drive • Charlotte, NC 28217

704-401-3200 • BillyGrahamLibrary.org

BillyGraham.org/Social • [f](#) [t](#) [w](#)