

Pray for Our Elders!

Terry Gibson, Wayne Rackley, Doyle Carter, Mark Scott, Bill Stanley, Steve Stanley and Kevin Ward were chosen by the Holy Spirit to serve over us in a leadership role. The Holy Spirit chose them because we chose them, and the Spirit of God dwells in us.

In my estimation, this is the greatest honor God bestows upon a person in this world today. Serving as a leader in the body of Christ is serving in an eternal body. It is having a leadership role in eternity. Can you think of any honor greater than this?

In 1st Timothy 5:13 we are instructed to “*esteem*” our leaders highly for their work’s sake, and in Hebrews 13:17 we are instructed to “*obey*” them and make their work more pleasant.

I would like to suggest that we pray for our leaders. Let me give you eight reasons we should pray for our elders.

ONE: Pray for them for their **SACRIFICE** to serve us. Jesus and most of the N.T. leaders carried the marks of their leadership on their bodies (Galatians 6:17)... People die upon crosses, and our leaders are out front carrying theirs.

TWO: Pray for them for their **LONELINESS**. We are not saying that it is lonely at the top because spiritual leadership doesn’t work that way. Elders are servants of everyone else. It is lonely at the back of the line every time.

THREE: Pray for their **FATIGUE**. Jesus never had a moment to himself. Spiritual leadership saps your energy and eats up your free time. It might take years off your life. Christian leadership is for the most mature among us.

FOUR: Pray for them because of the **CRITICISM** they endure. Look at Jesus in the book of John. He was accused of being illegitimate. His own family accused him of being out of his mind. He was even accused of being possessed by Satan. Elders early learn that people tackle the one who carries the ball.

FIVE: REJECTION—Jesus had to stand-alone for us. On the cross his loyalty to God’s will caused his rejection by his own people and ultimately his own Father. Leaders have to stand the same kind of rejection in order to be loyal some times.

SIX: Consider **THE PRESSURE & PERPLEXITY** of the apostle Paul who says, “*I have been in labor and hardship, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. Apart from such external things, there is the daily pressure on me of concern for all the churches. Who is weak without my being weak? Who is led into sin without my intense concern?*” (2 Cor. 11:27-29). The problems and concerns of every member become the burdens for a Christ like shepherd of the church. No wonder the qualifications are so demanding. Let’s pray for them.

SEVEN: Pray **FOR THE COST** elders are forced to pay. Wives and children of elders will also have to pay a higher cost. When Jesus was dying on the cross...Mary looked on feeling a mother’s pain.

EIGHT: Pray for their **COMMITMENT TO JESUS AND HIS CHURCH**. For their commitment to you!

Let’s pray daily for Terry, Wayne, Doyle, Mark, Bill, Steve, and Kevin! Thank you God for our leaders!

...Milt