

What the Bible Says

1 Timothy 2: 1-3

1. v.1 - I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; v. ² - For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. v. ³ - For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour. (cf. Phil.4:6)
2. **Petition** means to ask. God urges us to ask, and He is pleased when we do. (Matthew 21:22)
3. **Prayer** is talking to God, anywhere, anytime, in anyway.
4. **Intercession** is praying for someone else. The Bible tells us that Jesus Christ constantly intercedes for us. (Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:25), so it is pleasing to God when we intercede for someone else – including heads of state and others in authority – because we are doing what Christ does.
5. **Thanksgiving** always pleases God, and the Bible specifically tells us to include thanksgiving when praying for those in authority.
 - a. We are to pray respectfully for leaders, “Honour all men – fear God, Honour the King (1 Peter 2:17)
 - b. We are to pray with the clear understanding that government authority is established by God, “Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that are ordained of God (Romans 13:1)
 - c. We also pray knowing that God’s Word says, “The King’s heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers of water: He turneth it whithersoever He will (Proverbs 21:1)

(2 Chronicles 7:14)

Note – As Christians we’re witnessing – their lives they lived were more important than what they said – “Let your light shine (Matthew 5:14-16; Phil. 2:14-15; 1 Peter 2:9-12).

What to Pray

1. You can pray using words and thoughts from scripture.
2. **Suggestions:**
 - a. **Open the heart** (name of any leader) – to hear and respond to the Gospel message if he/she does not know you (Luke 24:45; Acts 16:14)
 - b. **Help** (name) to accept wise counsel (Proverbs 11:14; 15:22)
 - c. **Teach** (name) to trust in You (Psalms 21:7)
 - d. **Protect** (name) from the influence of the evil one (2 Thess. 3:3)
 - e. **Give** (name) direction, foresight, and understanding in making decisions (1 Chron. 22:12)
 - f. **Deliver** (name) from opinions contrary to Your Word (Psalms 119:105)
 - g. **Guard** (name) from harm, and bless and protect his/her family (Psalms 21:11; Ezra 6:10)
 - h. **Enable** (name) to carry out his/her duties with humility toward You and toward others (1 Peter 5:5)
 - i. **Give** (name) the courage to do the right thing even when urged to do the wrong thing (Proverbs 2:11-15)
 - j. **Grant** (name) a heart of compassion toward those he/she leads and serves (Col. 3:12)

Who to Pray For

1. Suggestions

Each day, pick one or two categories and pray for individuals in those categories.

- a. President
- b. Vice President
- c. Cabinet Members
- d. Senators
- e. Congressional Representatives
- f. Supreme Court
- g. Military Leaders
- h. Governor
- i. State Legislators
- j. Mayor
- k. Police Chief, Sheriff
- l. Others