

Life-Giving Prayers

by Sandra Higley

for Your Church

Encourage our *pastoral staff* when ministry gets tough. Help them remain faithful with the things You've entrusted to them (2 Cor. 4:1; 1 Cor. 4:1-3).

Teach us to respect and honor our *elders/deacons*. May they give wholehearted attention to prayer and ministry. Keep them devoted to their families and above reproach. May they be gentle, honest, and wise as they carry out their responsibilities (Acts 6:4; 1 Tim. 3:1-2, 5:17; Titus 1:7).

Appoint *worship leaders* who stand in awe before the splendor of Your holiness. Use their praise to defeat the enemy. May they be true worshipers who worship in spirit and in truth. Let them glory only in You, Jesus (2 Chron. 20:21-22; Jn. 4:23-24; Phil. 3:3).

May every *speaker/teacher* correctly handle Your word of truth, admonishing and teaching wisely. Let them speak with faith that springs from relationship with You (2 Tim. 2:15; Col. 1:28; 2 Cor. 4:13).

Let our *youth workers* set examples in speech, life, love, faith, and purity. Cause them to be strong, alive-in-the-Word overcomers. Give them discernment to deal with troubled youth as they teach them Your life-giving principles (1 Tim. 4:12; 1 Jn. 2:14; Prov. 7:7,2).

Thank You for every *behind-the-scenes worker* who is devoted to service. Bless them for their obedience and generosity—may You receive praise as a result! Reward them for serving You humbly and wholeheartedly rather than seeking to be noticed by others (1 Cor. 16:15-16; 2 Cor. 9:12-13; Eph. 6:7).

Increase our number through new converts. Let the gospel be presented to *the lost* among us with power, the Holy Spirit, and deep conviction, not only through the words of the sermon, but also through our lives. Teach us to make the most of every opportunity as we spread everywhere the fragrance of Christ (Acts 2:47; 1 Thess. 1:5; Col. 4:5; 2 Cor. 2:15).

May *the hurting* come to know You as El Roi, the God who sees them. Bind up the brokenhearted. Set the captives free. Replace mourning with Your oil of gladness. Comfort them so they will have a ministry of comfort to others (Gen. 16:13; Is. 61:1-3; 2 Cor. 1:3-4).

This next set of prayers covers more general aspects of church ministry. As you pray through each one, ask the Holy Spirit to guide you to any specific areas He would have you pray about for your own church. Take time to listen to what He may have to say, and then intercede for those specific needs.

Holy Spirit, *lead us* to level ground. Show us ways we grieve, quench, or resist You. We live by You; help us keep in step with You. Reign in us so we experience Your freedom (Ps. 143:10; Eph. 4:30; 1 Thess. 5:19; Acts 7:51; Gal. 5:25; 2 Cor. 3:17).

We eagerly desire the *spiritual gifts* You've given for our common good. Help us understand the various gifts and how they work. May we use what we've received to serve others, administering grace in love and with renewed passion (1 Cor. 12:4-7, 14:1; 1 Pet. 4:10; 2 Tim. 1:6).

We desire to be pure and obedient so our love for each other will be sincere and from the heart. Give us a spirit of *unity* so we glorify You with one heart and voice. Help us accept one another in love (1 Pet. 1:22; Ro. 15:5-7; Col. 3:14).

May we sow generously into our church without reluctance or compulsion. Make grace abound so we have the *finances* we need to do every good work You've assigned us. Make us rich in ways that result in generosity so You will be praised (2 Cor. 9:6-11).

Remind us that sharing with others is a pleasing sacrifice to You. Keep us *outwardly focused* so we don't become self-absorbed. Enable us to extend mercy to people in every kind of need (Heb. 13:16; Phil. 2:4; Jude 22-23).

Help us as we struggle with *sin*. Keep us from the enemy's condemnation. Thank You for doing away with sin on the cross so we are no longer slaves to it. Help us throw off everything that entangles and persevere in the race (Ro. 6:6, 8:1; Heb. 12:1).

Protect and *deliver us from the evil one*. May we be as wise as serpents and as innocent as doves as we deal with him. Show us how to test every spirit. Help us recognize the enemy's schemes so he won't outwit us (Mt. 6:13, 10:16; 1 Jn. 4:1; 2 Cor. 2:11).

Make us a *house of prayer!* We want to pray first, always, and continually with thanks. May each of us recognize that this is Your desire for all, not just a few. Transform us into righteous men and women whose prayers are powerful and effective (Mk. 11:17; 1 Thess. 5:17-18; Ps. 32:6; Jas. 5:16).

Revive us so we burn hot for You. Give us singleness of heart and action that we may always fear You and follow Your precepts. Open our minds to Your Word and set our hearts ablaze within us (Rev. 3:14-16; Jer. 32:39; Ps. 111:10; Lk. 24:32, 45).

—adapted from *A Month of Prayers for Your Church*, © Sandra Higley 2005, Church Prayer Leaders Network: www.prayerleader.com

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