

## Prayer Focus: Elders/Shepherds

Ask God to make you aware during your time of prayer and fasting, who he is setting apart to lead our church as elders and shepherds.

*Acts 13:2 While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart from me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."*

Pray that God, in answer to our prayer and fasting, will set apart men to be appointed elders whom we will commit to the Lord and in whom we will put our trust.

*Acts 14:23 Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust.*

Pray for men who are full of the Spirit and wisdom

Acts 6:3 Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom

Pray that the men God calls will desire this noble task

1 Timothy 3:1-7 Here is a trustworthy saying: Whoever aspires to be an overseer desires a noble task

Ask God to bless us with leaders who exhibit this kind of character:

1 Peter 5:1-4 To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ's sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed:

2 Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve;

3 not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.

4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

Pray that God blesses us with elders who exhibit this kind of character:

Titus 1:6-9 An elder must be blameless, faithful to his wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient.

7 Since an overseer manages God's household, he must be blameless—not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain.

8 Rather, he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined.

9 He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.

Pray that God blesses us with elders who exhibit this kind of character:

1 Timothy 3:2-7 Now the overseer is to be above reproach, faithful to his wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,

3 not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money.

4 He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full respect.

5 (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?)

6 He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil.

7 He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.

Pray for elders in whom we have confidence and pray that we will have a spirit of submission and cooperation that makes their work a joy and not a burden.

Hebrews 13:17 Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.

Pray that you personally and we as a church will submit to our elders and clothe ourselves with humility as God desires.

1 Peter 5:5 In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble."