

**Introduction:**

- *““Look,” they told him, “you are now old, and your sons are not like you. Give us a king to judge us like all the other nations have.” (1 Samuel 8:5, NLT)*
- *“And pray for every political leader and representative, so that we would be able to live tranquil, undisturbed lives, as we worship the awe-inspiring God with pure hearts.” (1 Timothy 2:2, TPT)*

**I. Who Is In Authority?**

- A. What constitutes those in authority over me? Who are they?
1. Family
    - a) Husbands
    - b) Parents
  2. Governing leaders of nations, states, cities and municipalities.
  3. Overseers of churches - they could be apostle, prophet, pastor, evangelist, teacher.
  4. Employer - Business
  5. Demons - Eph 2:2; 1 Cor 15:24; Eph 1:21; Col 1:16 *“For everything, absolutely everything, above and below, visible and invisible, rank after rank after rank of angels—everything got started in him and finds its purpose in him.” (Colossians 1:16, The Message), 1 Peter 3:22.*
- B. Authority - ἐξουσία - “This word denotes first the “ability” to perform an action. 2. It then means the “right,” “authority,” “permission” conferred by a higher court: a. the possibility granted by government; b. the right in various social relationships, e.g., that of parents, masters, or owners.” It is more of an inward reference and not to actual power. Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. (1985). *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament* (p. 238). Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans.
1. Authority has to do both with the ability to perform an action and the right to perform that action. IE. A parent has the authority over their child. They have both the ability and the right to perform an action.
  2. The NT concept rests on three foundations. First, the power indicated is the power to decide. Second, this decision takes place in ordered relationships, all of which reflect God’s lordship. Third, as a divinely given authority to act. Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. (1985). *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament* (p. 239). Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans. All authority is therefore seen to come from God.
  3. Therefore what we begin to see is that all authority has been delegated by God.
    - a) Some authorities are great!
    - b) Some authorities are ok.
    - c) Some authorities are demonically destructive.
    - d) All authority is from God.
      - (1) *“He controls the course of world events; he removes kings and sets up other kings. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the scholars.” (Daniel 2:21, NLT)*
      - (2) *“Your Majesty, you are the greatest of kings. The God of heaven has given you sovereignty, power, strength, and honor. He has made you the ruler over all the inhabited world and has put even the wild animals and birds under your control. You are the head of gold.” (Daniel 2:37-38, NLT)*

- (3) *"For this has been decreed by the messengers; it is commanded by the holy ones, so that everyone may know that the Most High rules over the kingdoms of the world. He gives them to anyone he chooses— even to the lowliest of people."* (Daniel 4:17, NLT)
- (4) *"Then Jesus said, "You would have no power over me at all unless it were given to you from above. So the one who handed me over to you has the greater sin."* (John 19:11, NLT)
- (5) *"For the Lord's sake, submit to all human authority—whether the king as head of state, or official He has appointed."* (1 Peter 2:13, NLT)
- C. When Israel asked for a king they were asking to be ruled by a man rather than by God. "We want to be ruled by the fallen rather than by our Good Creator." "We want to be ruled by a lesser authority than we would from the ultimate authority."
1. Which would you choose? Why?
  2. We desire that which make our lives easiest and most helpful. God is good, gracious, righteous, kind. I want to be ruled by that!
  3. Therefore I want a ruler who will be like God. Good, gracious, righteous, kind, etc.

## II. Why Pray For Those In Authority Over Me?

- A. Their authority comes from God. They did not get there by accident but rather by divine appointment.
- B. It brings security and order. I want my existence to be satisfying. Four things humanity desires. *"And pray for every political leader and representative, so that we would be able to live tranquil, undisturbed lives, as we worship the awe-inspiring God with pure hearts."* (1 Timothy 2:2, TPT)
1. Peaceful - all peace comes from God. Hebrew understanding.
  2. Quiet - still, quiet, tranquil.
  3. Godliness - this is rooted in God alone. It is therefore a life lived with an eye on God.
  4. Reverence - "to shrink back from" recognizing, beauty, majesty, etc.
- C. Because I am asked to submit, that mean what above comes down. Therefore it motivates me to pray. *"Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God."* (Romans 13:1, NLT)
- D. God steers the heart of the king. I want to see his heart steered in righteousness towards God. *"The king's heart is like a stream of water directed by the Lord; he guides it wherever he pleases."* (Proverbs 21:1, NLT)
- E. I am invited by God into the process/partnering with His activity in the earth through leaders.
1. I Tim 2:2 Pray for those in authority.
  2. Mt 6:10 When we pray we agree for the will of God to come into the earth.

## III. How/what Should I Pray For Those In Authority?

- A. That leaders would be born again and lead holy lives.
- B. That leaders would live submitted to God. From fathers to presidents. Pastors to mayors.
- C. That leaders hear the voice of God and not the father of lies. Surround them with good people.
- D. That leaders would lead with wisdom. 2 Chron 1:10

- E. That leaders have a genuine love for the people they lead.
- F. That leaders be surrounded with a hedge of protection... spirit, soul, and body.
- G. That leaders not fall into temptation. Live above greed, deception, and foolishness.
- H. That leaders lead with kindness and generosity.
- I. Bind the accuser. Job 1:6; Rev 12:10 Accusation always divide.
- J. Bind sickness and disease.
- K. Bind stress and fear. Look at Davids life and you will see his stress and fear.

**Conclusion:**

- If you have to be under authority, you want it to be good!
- Therefore pray.
- Following is a hand out you can use to pray for leaders.