



QA: How Can I Pray for Corrupt Leaders? by [John T Polk II](#)

All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.

QUESTION: "How can I pray for corrupt leaders of countries?"

ANSWER: Because we are commanded to.

Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. (**1 Timothy 2:1-2**)

1. Communicate With God in the following ways:

"Supplications" = pleas with "please." This form presents our problem(s) as a request, humbly submitting our needs, begging, if you please. Just as Jesus did: And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and prayed, saying,

"Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done." (**Luke 22:41-42**)

"Prayers" = stating our heart's concerns. These may be in the form of "supplication" or "intercession," like Jesus (**Luke 22:45**), or direct heart-felt sentiments like the church of Christ made for Peter in prison (**Acts 12:4**) and Paul requested of the Colossians (**Colossians 4:2-4**).

"Intercessions" = offering on behalf of someone else. Just like Elijah did (**1 Kings 19:10, 14**) but was refused. This is what the Holy Spirit does for our prayers (**Romans 8:27**) and Jesus does for our sins (**Romans 8:34**).

"Giving of thanks" = with every form of expression to God.

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. (**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**)

2. "For All Men" which includes "kings and all who are in authority." *Prayer for the oppressive Egyptian Pharaoh would not show approval of nor ask agreement with all his decisions against God's People then.*

For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth." (**Romans 9:17**, quoting **Exodus 9:16**)

God had His purpose in this Pharaoh:

- (1) to show His power over the might and religious beliefs of the Egyptians, and
- (2) to convince the Israelites to follow Moses.

There must be respect, then, for the Lord's use of the "civil authority" to maintain order among the godless! Hence,

My son, fear the LORD and the king; Do not associate with those given to change. (**Proverbs 24:21**)

Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.
(1 Peter 2:17)

We do not want to be classified with...

These dreamers [who] defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of dignitaries. Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!" (**Jude 1:8-9**)

Respect is for God who gives the office its authority, regardless of the use (or misuse) of that office by the official! But it's up to God to control or remove the person from that office.

3. "That we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence" or that God will control despots, tyrants, dictators, or megalomaniacs so as to allow Christians to work righteousness and serve God as He demands.

Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men. (**Titus 3:1-2**)

Let us never forget, however, our obligation to also preach and teach those in authority what God's Word should mean to them.

Then Pilate said to Him, "Are You not speaking to me? Do You not know that I have power to crucify You, and power to release You?"

Jesus answered, "You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above. Therefore the one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin." (**John 19:10-11**)

LET US ALWAYS PRAY FOR GOVERNMENT LEADERS TO ACCOMPLISH WHAT GOD INTENDS — THAT HIS WILL IS DONE!

--- *jtpII, February 27, 2022*