

# Presidential Prayer 2020

Pastor James Foley – Shared Sunday, November 1, 2020

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## INTRODUCTION

Thank you for joining us today! Whether you are her in person or watching via the livestream, you are most welcome. Please have a Bible at the ready and be prepared to take some notes. We have much to cover in a relatively short amount of time.

## SETTING THE STAGE PT. 1

**FYI 1** – For those who may not know, I have been a contributor to the Barre Gazette for some time (i.e., since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic). Some months back they asked if I would be willing to submit copies of my sermon manuscripts for publication on a weekly basis—to which I said “YES!”

**FYI 2** – Typically, my words from this pulpit find their way into the paper in the weeks that follow. However, this morning I want to do something a bit different. Namely, I want to share a message from this pulpit that has already been shared with the broader region (i.e., reversal of the typical order).

**FYI 3** – For those who may not know, a wearying Presidential election cycle is winding to a close. In the days ahead a victor shall be announced (i.e., one way or the other). Whether you will be excited about or reviled by that victor, Christians are under obligation to pray for those in leadership. The following passage—penned by the apostle Paul—makes this exceedingly clear...

### 1 Timothy 2:1–4 (NIV)

1 I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— 2 for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. 3 This is good, and pleases God our Savior, 4 who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

## SETTING THE STAGE PT. 2

Of course, it is one thing to know that we are to pray. It is quite another to know what to pray for...

**Q. How should we pray for those elected to office (e.g., President, Senators, Congress members, etc.)?**

**KEY 1** – This morning I would like to provide an array of A’s to this Q. However, I want to do more than provide A’s—I want to pray! I would call for a prayer meeting, but Christians don’t always love going to prayer meetings. Thus said, here is the format we will utilize this morning (i.e., a different type of Sunday sermon)...

- 1) I Will Provide a Prayer Pt. We Might Use re: the Incoming President and Leaders
- 2) I Will Provide a Bit of Biblical Instruction Based Upon a Passage or a Text (1–2 Minutes)
- 3) We Will Take a Moment to Pray for These Leaders Based Upon Said Point/Passage (1 Minute)

**KEY 2** – Since I have app. 9 points—and each will take no more than 3 minutes—figure about 30 or less.

**KEY 3** – If you find it difficult to pray for the leader of from an opposing party—do some soul-searching...

## POINT 1

**#1 – Pray that they would experience/enjoy an ever-increasing, intimate relationship with God through Christ.**

**QUOTE** – “You have made us for Yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in You” –Augustine.

### **Ephesians 1:17–19 (Ever-Increasing, Emphasis Mine)**

17 I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, **so that you may know him better**. 18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, 19 and his incomparably great power for us who believe.

### **John 15:1, 4–5 (Intimate, Emphasis Mine)**

1 “I am the true vine . . . 4 **Remain** [i.e., **abide**] in me, **as I also remain in you**. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. 5 “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

## POINT 2

**#2 – Pray that their lives would abound with God-honoring fruitfulness, character and virtue.**

### **John 15:8a (Emphasis Mine)**

8 This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much **fruit** . . .

### **Galatians 5:22–23 (Emphasis Mine)**

22 But the **fruit** of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance [i.e., patience], kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

### **Micah 6:8**

8 He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you?  
To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

## POINT 3

**#3 – Pray that they would look to the Lord for ongoing guidance and wisdom.**

### **James 1:5–8**

5 If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. 6 But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. 7 That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. 8 Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.

### **Proverbs 3:5–6**

5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart  
and lean not on your own understanding;  
6 in all your ways submit to him,  
and he will make your paths straight.

## **POINT 4**

**#4 – Pray that they would surround themselves with godly and wise advisors.**

### **1 Corinthians 15:33**

33 Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character."

### **Proverbs 11:14**

14 For lack of guidance a nation falls,  
but victory is won through many advisors.

### **Proverbs 15:22**

22 Plans fail for lack of counsel,  
but with many advisors they succeed.

## **POINT 5**

**#5 – Pray that they would use their office for the benefit of the nation and its citizens (i.e., including the most vulnerable among us)—and not for their own benefit.**

### **Philippians 2:3–5**

3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, 4 not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. 5 In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus [i.e., humility and self-sacrifice for the benefit of others] . . .

### **Proverbs 31:8–9**

8 Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves,  
for the rights of all who are destitute.  
9 Speak up and judge fairly;  
defend the rights of the poor and needy.

## **POINT 6**

**#6 – Pray that they would maximize their time, pursuing necessary priorities (i.e., precious commodity).**

### **Ephesians 5:15–17**

15 Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.

### **Psalms 90:12**

12 Teach us to number our days,  
that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

### **John 9:4**

4 As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work.

## POINT 7

**#7 – Pray that they would do what is right before the Lord—even if it costs them politically (i.e., fear the Lord v. fear man).**

### **Proverbs 29:25**

25 Fear of man will prove to be a snare,  
but whoever trusts in the Lord is kept safe.

### **Psalms 118:8**

8 It is better to take refuge in the Lord  
than to trust in humans.

### **Matthew 10:28**

28 Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

## POINT 8

**#8 – Pray that they and their families would be kept safe and in good health.**

### **Psalms 84:11**

11 For the Lord God is a sun and shield;  
the Lord bestows favor and honor;  
no good thing does he withhold  
from those whose walk is blameless.

### **Psalms 34:7**

7 The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him,  
and he delivers them.

## POINT 9

**#9 – Pray that they would function as effective stewards before God—to whom they will give account.**

### **Hebrews 4:13**

13 Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

### **Luke 12:48 (NKJV)**

48 For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.

## CONCLUSION PT. 1

- 1) Fall Clean-Up Day** – This Saturday, November 14, from 10am–1pm (Looking for Volunteers to Help Out)
- 2) Missionary Guest Speakers** – Very Special Guests to Join us Next Sunday (Love Offering to be Taken)
- 3) OCC Sunday** – Please Pack Your OCC Shoeboxes and Bring them in On Sunday AM, November 22

## CONCLUSION PT. 2

**KEY** – Thank you for taking the time to join us today. Should those of you who have joined us online wish to give, please do so through the giving portal of our church WEBSITE ([www.NewLifeBarre.org](http://www.NewLifeBarre.org)). For those who are present, you may place your donation in the OFFERING BOXES in this Sanctuary.

### **Numbers 6:24–26**

- 24 The Lord bless you  
and keep you;  
25 the Lord make his face shine on you  
and be gracious to you;  
26 the Lord turn his face toward you  
and give you peace.